

TIMELINES

NEWSLETTER OF THE OZAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This month's newsletter contains Installment #1 of the guest article written by local Town of Saukville residents Paul and Elvira Brunquell who know the importance of documenting and preserving our local history. This information is a written "recollection" and research by the Brunquell's and recorded by Elvira Brunquell with the help of grandson, Zach Brunquell and neighbors/friends listed at the end of their article about the development of Highway W along the river in Saukville, WI. We thank Paul and Elvira for their love of history and for sharing their efforts in preserving local history with all of us...! Installment #1 ... see the spring newsletter for #2.



ALONG THE RIVER (Written by: Paul and Elvira Brunquell—2020)

Installment #1

Some time ago, while we were sitting at the kitchen table talking to some of our sons, someone asked how exactly the development on Highway W took place. That was just enough to get my husband and myself to think, if we don't do something about writing this down, it will be lost to history as we are now the oldest residents on the road. This story is based on a collection of information following the history of Highway W and the people that have called this piece of road home throughout the years. Most of this information was recalled by my husband, Paul Brunquell, who has lived here his whole life. (Paul is referred to as "Opa" in this article.) Anything that he could not recall we found by researching, whether that meant talking to neighbors or digging up old records. Writing this was a collaborative effort between the people who make this story what it is.

This stretch of road was all forest before 1833. The Potawatomi Indians used the river for travel and the land for hunting. In 1832, the government blazed a trail from Saukville heading North. In 1848 this piece of land was set off and became part of the town of Saukville. Before this the land was part of Washington County. In around 1929 a concrete road was laid, this was known as Highway 57. When the freeway went through in 1963, this little piece of paradise was renamed Highway W.

Coming down from the North you get to Mink Ranch Road. The brick house on the corner of Mink Ranch Road and W was built by Opa's Uncle, James Coleman. He was married to Gertrude Brunquell, Opa's Aunt, who was a piano teacher. This piece of land started as a farm run by James who later continued to farm while also taking on the role of president of the Saukville Cannery. They canned peas and corn, which was common in those days. Sometime later Gertrude developed cancer and moved down to her brother's farm where Opa's Mother took care of her until she passed. Uncle James stayed on the farm until he passed. After that the farm was sold to FX Schneider, who ran a business in Saukville that manufactured and sold electric fences called Northern Signal.

The first property South of Mink Ranch Road was owned by Henry Ehlers. His farm stretched from Mink Ranch Road south to the Knepprath home and to the east it extended to where the bridge is now. Henry Ehlers also owned the land across what was then 57 up to the river where people used to come up from Milwaukee and have picnics down by the river. Mr. Ehlers got smart about this and started charging the people a \$1.00 for their spot. Eventually this piece of land was sold to the county as a park and around 1959 it was given the name it still has today, Ehlers Park. At the South end of the farm is a brick house built by Henry Ehlers' son, Harvey. Harvey served in World War II and after being sent home for injuries he sustained during the war he had a metal plate put in his head. After that he suffered from depression and died in 1979. Harvey was 59 years old when he died. His wife Harriet stayed living in the house with their son and daughter, Glen and Romyne.



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IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Support the Ozaukee County Historical Society by RENEWING your membership for 2021 today. You can find the renewal form on the outside of this newsletter. At the same time, please consider an extra tax-deductible donation to assist the society in maintaining the properties and collections in our care. Remember renewal benefits include a quarterly newsletter, free research entry at the archives and free admission to Ozaukee County Pioneer Village and scheduled events.

MESSAGE ... FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear OCHS Friends,

"Out with the Old ~ In with the New"

Out with the Old and in with the New... is not a phrase that is usually associated with preserving history. At the OCHS, we value the "old" treasures and are excited when we discover aged artifacts and information uncovering pieces of our valuable Ozaukee history.

This past year has been a bit unusual and "out with the old and in with the new" is fine by me... 2020 has been a challenge for the OCHS as well. We missed having events and quarterly meetings. We missed you! Thank you to everyone who has helped to keep us running strong in this very difficult time. From countless donated "socially distanced" hours of volunteers to generous donations, we continue to maintain our properties and collections and still manage to do physically distanced research requests and all things historically related as best we can.

Welcome! In January 2021, we welcome new Board Member, Debbie Krueger from Grafton. Debbie who already is a member of the OCHS is also on the Board of the Grafton Historical Society. Debbie is involved in quite a few volunteer organizations and activities. Debbie's most recent major historical accomplishment in Ozaukee County is authoring the new Grafton history book published by Arcadia Publishing. We welcome her to the OCHS Board!

Please note the event schedule listed in the newsletter. Mark your calendars. Of course, this is tentative and could very well change depending upon the CDC health guidelines and situation at the time of the event, but we are optimistically planning ahead for our 2021 event season.

Please consider becoming a member of the OCHS or remember to send in your renewal! Your support keeps the OCHS alive. Our events are our big fundraisers to support our various properties including Stony Hill School, Ozaukee County Pioneer Village and the Hazel Wirth Archives Research Center. Without our events and school tour programs, we rely on our memberships, your donations and grants to fund the society. Along with other non-profits, this has been a challenging year for the OCHS. Please check out Don Borgwardt's (OCHS Treasurer) article on how your giving impacts the OCHS and you! You can find the renewal form on the outside of this newsletter.

We have guest authors in this newsletters. Local Saukville residents, Paul and Elvira Brunnquell share life along the river on Hwy W in Saukville. The Brunnquell's have a long history in Ozaukee County and a love for preserving history. Part II of their story will be published in the spring newsletter.

OCHS Archivist Nina Look, along with husband Fred Derr and avid researcher Pat Ross did an interesting study on Octagon Barns in 2012. This information is shared in this newsletter. A list of additional resources at the Archives will be included in the spring newsletter.

Until next time...!

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Event: WWII—Becky Miller

Event: Flag Day-Keri Eichner

Event: Tractor Show-Allen Buchholz

Event: Bluegrass-Mary Ann Velnetske

Event: Harry Potter at the Village-Keri Eichner

Event: Autumn at the Village-Mary Ann Velnetske

Event: Haunted Village-Keri Eichner

Event: Women/History Luncheon-Mary Ann Velnetske

SEE 2021 EVENT SCHEDULE ON PAGE 10

Website: www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us

Facebook Page: [@OCHS1960](https://www.facebook.com/OzaukeeCountyHistoricalSociety)

Archives Phone Number: 262-377-4510) Please call ahead—physical distancing-limited capacity.

OPEN: (Tuesdays 9:00 am—3:00 pm)

Continued from page 1...

In 1963 Henry Ehlers sold the farm to Gene Fransee (Photo 3) who owned a tree nursery in Milwaukee. The first thing Mr. Fransee did was to plant a large field of ginseng. In 1978 the well known gangster, Augie Palmisano, was killed in Milwaukee and the rumor grew that the body was buried in Mr. Fransees' field. Needless to say it did not take long for the FBI and what seemed like the entire police force to show up and dig up the entire field of ginseng. No body was ever found and the event was listed as a Dig Hoax. After his entire farm had been dug up, Fransee thought it would be a good time to plant his tree nursery. In 1988 Gene's son John and his wife Penny built a log house on the South end of the property line where they still live today.

As mentioned before, (Photo 4) Glen Ehlers was still living in the house his dad had built on the Ehlers farm. He lived there until 2016 when he sold it to Anthony and Emily Regress, who live there now. Heading south the next place was owned by Henry Kneprath until he passed away in 2019. Moving along, the next house is owned by Diane Wieting and following that is the house owned by Gerald and Bonnie Gieokas. The last place before the swamp is owned by Mary and Paul Lemke who are relatives of John Oehlhofen who built the house. If you were to have gone back to the woods behind the Oehlhofen house, there used to stand a cottage built by two maiden school teachers, Kay and Norma Oehlhofen. They would come up to the cottage every summer when they were on break from teaching in Milwaukee. They used the cottage until their brother came up from Texas and built them a home in 1984. In later years they moved to Texas for retirement and sold the place to the Clays. Mr. Clay died in 2019 and his wife continues to live there. Just on the south edge of the woods is a home that is now owned by Richard and Linda Kamm.

What would eventually become the Brunnquell Homestead started on the North property line of Kamms. As noted before, all the land along the river at that time was forest and was lived on by the Potawatomi Indians. They had come from the North but after an onslaught by the Iroquois Indian Tribe in 1700 they moved to the land on the West shore of Lake Michigan. This is where they stayed until 1833 when they seceded to the government. Other tribes that roamed the area were the Sacs, Sauks, Ousakies, and the Chippewas. Ozaukee County got its name from the Sacs, Sauks and Ousakies.

(Photo 5) There were numerous owners after this but for one reason or another they always lost the farm. In April of 1900, Charles Koss sold the farm to John Nickel who owned it until he died in 1911. In Nickel's will the farm was supposed to be sold by his executors, Herman Koss and Richard Wessenburg for \$3300. They in turn sold it to Christian Keller and his wife Sophia. At that time there were 96 acres more or less and in his will it was stated that if Christian died it went to his wife free and clear. We have a letter from Mrs. George Freitag of Grafton in 1966 that tells us the house was 131 years old when she came to live with her great grandparents when she was two years old. They built a barn in 1878 and an addition was added in 1888. Mr. Keller had died and his wife wanted to sell. At this time Helmuth Brunnquell, Opa's Uncle, an actuary at Northwestern Life Insurance in Milwaukee was looking for a farm for his two brothers who were hired men in Illinois. He had the finances and bought the farm in 1913 for \$4000.00. Herbert Brunnquell, Opa's dad, and his brother Wolfram took over running the farm. There was a group of cousins who came out to the farm on a regular basis to help and receive a meal since this was the depression and there was no work in Milwaukee. The cousins decided since the sun was so beautiful coming over the big hill on the farm it should be called Sunny Hill Farm. In 1929, Wolfram, who read a lot of Shakespeare, changed the name to Launfal Farm after an English Lord. In 1950 the farm was sold to Herbert and Helen Brunnquell and two acres were sold off to Wolfram. At this time, the name was changed to Century Acres which has remained ever since. This was also the prefix that was used for the registered cattle. The family was well known in the county for their registered cattle which they showed at the County Fair where they had about 20 animals every year. Opa and his sister Elizabeth were helpers at this event.



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

Herbert and Helen Brunnquell had three children: Gertrude, Paul and Elizabeth. Uncle Wolf lived with them as well but when he started feuding with Helen, their family moved to what is now Schmidt's property on the South property line: formally owned by August Baskin. They lived there 4 or 5 years during World War Two. The rent was \$30.00 a month. While this was happening, Wolfram built the house where Kamms live now; he lived there for many years until he had to go to a nursing home. By this time Paul and I were married and Paul's mother and father asked us to take over the management and sale of Wolframs house. The first family we rented the house to was the Don Schilling family. They were a family from Milwaukee that had 10 kids so we gave them the house rent free for two months if they wanted to clean it up and paint. They were happy to do this and as we were busy with the farm and family and did not have time to clean it up after Wolfram left. They lived there for 5 years until they decided to move back to Milwaukee. The house changed hands a few times after that, the first of which being the John Jackson family: they had 4 kids. When they moved they sold it to Larry and Sue Dean who had 3 kids. When he got transferred to work at the Space Center in Florida they sold it to Richard and Linda Kamm who live there currently.

Paul's sister Gertrude married Harold Bloecher in June of 1955. Paul and I got married in May of 1957 and lived here at the farm with Paul's parents before they decided to build a house next door. It was a house that they bought from a company that sent you the whole house cut to size like a puzzle which you then put together. Paul and I, Earl Paape, my dad, my brother, and Pete Hahn, a neighbor from across the river, put it up and Paul's folks moved in just before Christmas. In 1960 Herbert and Helen sold Trudi and Harold a half acre of land to the north of them for \$1.00 to build a house on. This is the brick house two doors north of us now owned by their daughter Amy, and is now rented out. In 1967 we tore down the stone house on our property because it was falling apart since at the time it was 202 years old. The house we built to replace the stone house is the one that we have been living in since, although it has been added onto over the years. In 2001, our son David and his wife Robin bought five acres on the hill to the north so they could build a new house. Up until then they had been living in Grandma and Grandpa's house which was torn down in 2018 so Bill Opitz and his wife Sue could build a new house.



The next place south of our farm is owned today by Peter and Anne Schmidt but was originally owned by August Baskin. August had 4 children, three girls and one son. August ran a rendering plant with three employees, one of which got close with his daughter and she had a baby which prompted August to fire this employee. One night the worker came back to the farm and shot August and the newborn child before committing suicide. This occurred in the spring of 1939 and yet the plant kept running for another couple years until it closed in 1941. The house was sold to Betty Lubahn who bought it from the Baskins who were the original owners. Charnise Excavation bought the plant in 1950 and sometime down the road Tom Albinger bought the business from Charnise. Tom built a new house on this piece of property and lives there today. The first building to the East of Tom's house is the old rendering plant which was repaired for Tom's business. A second building was built which is used by Forevergreen Landscaping. The house after Betty Lubahn bought it from the Baskins was remodeled into two flats and was then sold to Norm and Sally Olley. In 1976, Peter and Ann Schmidt bought the house from the Olleys. Peter lived in the lower flat from 1976-1983. He rented the upper flat to Ken and Karen Smith. Peter brought his brother here to live with him for 2 years and then a friend, Bob Deppish, for two years. Peter then moved to Milwaukee where he and Ann got married in November of 1983. Peter and Ann rented out both units from 1983 to 1988 when they remodeled it into a single family residence. From records we have the Baskens originally built the house in 1905.



Moving along to the south, the next place is owned by Roger and Nancy Boll. Roger and Nancy bought it from Kings in 1977. The Kings had bought their lot and the land north of them from George Jacoby. The Jacoby farm went just south of what used to be owned by the Kings and is now owned by Shawn and Margaret Techtman who are friends of Mrs. King's children. The Kings were divorced and Eilene King owned the vacant lot across the street.

The next property was owned by August Wiltgen. The barn that is still there we once used to store machinery. Doctor Siedl from Grafton bought the farm from August Wiltgen. Next to this are Ron and Laura Kamm Gilson who bought the property from Doctor Siedl. Again south from there and set back from the road are Steven and Debra Golic.

Installment #2 to follow in the spring newsletter...

The Clausing Octagon Barns of Ozaukee County - An In-Depth Study

By: Fred Derr & Nina Jo Look Ph.D (Archivist, Ozaukee County Historical Society) April 2012

A vanishing symbol of our Ozaukee County landscape is the old barn set amongst a collection of sheds and pens and of course, the farm house. In early life on the farm the barn was the central focus, not the house. Some farm families actually got running water in the barn before getting indoor plumbing.

Ozaukee County's most famous barns are the octagonal shaped barns built by the Clausing family. As you drive around the county you will see old Clausing barns as well as reproductions of the unique architectural style. This style has inspired the architecture of a church, school house, drive-in restaurant, hospital and nature center.

The research for this study started with a personal touch, that is, an interview with two descendants of the early Clausing settlers. Ray Clausing and his sister Janice Clausing Hill live and work in Ozaukee County and have vivid memories of milking cows in their grandfather's octagon barn.

History of Octagon Buildings in Wisconsin

So why are there so many octagon buildings in Wisconsin? In the 1850s a man by the name of Orson Fowler became interested in the octagon shape and wrote a book entitled, A Home for All. In the book he praised the advantages of octagonal buildings. Mr. Fowler visited Wisconsin in the 1850s but most of the octagon barns were not built until the 1880s and later. It is surmised that he influenced those structures that later became popular in Wisconsin.

Because of its shape it was thought to be more resilient to strong winds which made it popular in this area with robust winds off Lake Michigan. The largest single grouping of octagonal barns in Wisconsin was in a narrow band on the east side of Ozaukee County. Nowhere else were there so many barns of this unusual shape.

In the 1860s and 1870s dairy farming began to replace wheat farming and with that change there was a need for a barn of larger size and different shape to house the animals and store their feed. Because of this change from wheat to dairy farming, the octagonal barns became more popular from the 1880s to 1920s. It was at about this time that agricultural colleges began promoting this design directly to farmers and students as they taught progressive farming methods.

Octagon Barn Construction

It was believed that the octagon shape was a better utilization of space, more efficient, labor-saving in design and cheaper to build since it required less building materials. Ray Clausing explains that the square footage of the eight-sided barn design is determined by the length of the side walls.

A fieldstone foundation was most often used, typically with cut limestone corners. The floor was constructed of various materials, such as fieldstone, poured concrete or wood. The roof rafters were joined near the top by an octagonal timber ring. The plates upon which the rafters rest were joined to make a continuous ring, thus converting the lateral thrusts of the roof into vertical loads upon the outside walls making a self-supporting roof. This simplified construction, lacking an elaborate truss system for the arched roof, was seen as an advantage as it left more storage room in the middle of the barn.

The octagon barns usually had a cupola on the top to let in light and to help with ventilation. Ray recalls the somewhat dangerous task of climbing up to the cupola to repair the glass panes. The barns built after the 1880s often had a silo erected in the center ring or against one side wall. In 1949 Ray and Janice's family were proud to purchase a Harvestore silo. This glass-fused steel tank model was one of the first to be built in the area.

The Clausing Family and the Ozaukee County Octagon Barns

The Frederick Clausing family came to America from Saxony in 1846 and settled in what was then Washington County (an 1853 split formed Washington and Ozaukee Counties) on land in the wooded area along Lake Michigan. He and his wife Dorothea brought with them their four sons and two daughters. After arriving in Wisconsin they had one more daughter.

An important reason why the octagon barns were popular in Ozaukee County is because the community was blessed with Frederick's two grandsons, Ernst and Theodore. Ernst, a carpenter, first got the idea for the octagonal shaped barn from a picture in an agricultural magazine in 1885 possibly a reference to Orson Fowler's book. He and his brother Theodore built one round barn and then built ten octagon barns. Ernst and Theodore were cousins of Ray Clausing and Janice Clausing Hill's great grandfather William.

The following is an in-depth study of each Clausing barn starting with the most southern in the Town of Mequon (now City of Mequon) through the most northern in the Town of Grafton. They are not in order of construction since exact dates are not always known. In addition, one barn described was not built by the Clausing brothers.

Town of Mequon Barns

The **William Clausing** "Maple Knoll Farm" was originally painted white and was on the east side of Port Washington Road at the site of the current Mequon Pavilions shopping center. If today you stood in the parking lot of the ACE Hardware store and looked east you would be looking at the spot where the 1890 Clausing octagon barn had stood. William was a cousin to Ernst and Theodore. He passed the farm on to his son Louis and Louis passed it on to his son Ray and Ray's wife Irene. Their children, Janice, Ray, Jr. and June grew up on this beautiful farm.

The William Clausing barn is 64 feet across with walls that are 17 feet high. It is 26 feet on each of the eight sides. The hay mow is 40 feet from the floor to the ventilation cupola. The foundation walls are fieldstone and more than two feet thick. Ray said

that the barn housed 28 head of dairy cattle plus several pens for young stock. The cow barn walls were white washed.

Ray and Janice have fond memories of working with their father and grandfather as they milked cows in this barn. Like most of the other Clausing farmers they worked the fields with a Case tractor that was purchased at their cousin's hardware store (Clausing and Liebau) in downtown Grafton.

This extraordinary barn was dismantled and moved to the Old World Wisconsin Historic Site in Eagle in 1978 and now serves as the site's restaurant and conference space. In the summer of 2010 a severe wind storm caused extensive damage to the grounds and buildings of Old World Wisconsin. Ray said that when he heard the news about the terrible storm he feared that the Clausing barn and especially the cupola would have perished. He was relieved to see only minimal damage to the cupola but disappointed to find that the weather vane (in the shape of a cow) made by his grandfather had blown off and could not be found. Since that area of the Old World Wisconsin grounds received the most destruction, it seems that one of the purported advantages of this type of barn are true in that it can withstand strong winds.

Ernst and Theodore's cousin **John Clausing** had a barn built for him on Freistadt Road north of the Milwaukee River on his "Riverdale Stock Farm". It was in sections 13 and 24 and the date of construction is unknown. The barn was eventually torn down.

The brothers built a barn for their neighbor, **Leonard Maul**, on the west side of Port Washington Road between Glen Oaks and Highland Roads in Mequon. It was in ruins in 1950 and later blew down in a tornado.

Another octagon barn was built in 1897 for **Henry Kiekhaefer** for a cost of about \$1,000. Henry was Ray and Janice Clausing's great great grandfather. His farm was named "Lake View Farm" and was at the southwest corner of Highland Road and Lake Shore Drive east of the present-day I-43 in Mequon. The barn was painted grey and was the largest barn measuring 72 feet across and 32 feet on a side. It had a cow weathervane and eventually had two silos added to the outside of the barn. Henry's grandson Elmer Carl Kiekhaefer grew up on this farm and was the founder of Mercury Marine which started in Cedarburg.

When the Sisters of Notre Dame purchased the property they stated that they had no interest in preserving the farm buildings. However, in 1983 this Clausing barn was designated as a Mequon Landmark. The barn collapsed and was dismantled sometime after 1983. The farmhouse was taken down around 2004 when Concordia University Wisconsin expanded and developed the bluff restoration project.

Ernst and Theodore built their last and one of their largest (70 feet in diameter and 29 feet on the side) octagon barns in 1898 for their cousin **Julius Clausing**. It was on the original Gust Clausing farm which had become known as "Gusanna Farm", named after his parents Gust and Anna. It was located on the east side of Port Washington Road south side of Bonniwell Road. It was later owned by Gust and Anna's grandsons Arnold and Roland Clausing. They experimented with mow-drying of hay by blowing air through it. Roland tore the barn down in 1976.

They built an octagon barn for **Frederick Timpel** in 1889. The Timpel family was related to the Clausings by marriage. The farm was located on the northwest corner of Port Washington and Bonniwell Roads at what is now 13669 North Port Washington Road. In the early days the house served as the Bartel Post Office. The barn was painted red and there was a granary on the hay barn floor with three windows. In 1983 it gained the designation as a Mequon Landmark. Gary Chapman was the owner when it burned down in February 1993.

The octagon barn that Ernst and Theodore built for their brother **Henry Clausing** was later sold to their distant relatives the Koopman family. It was built in 1898, at the southwest corner of Pioneer and Port Washington Roads in Mequon. It had six small paned windows for light besides the cupola. Unfortunately, it burned down in 1954 as a result of a threshing machine fire. It was later replaced by a hooped-roof barn which today appears to be part of a vacant farm that is for sale.

The first octagonal-shaped barn that the brothers built was for their cousin **Frank Vocke** in 1888. This 64 foot wide barn is on Pioneer Road in Mequon and was designated as a Mequon Landmark in 1983. The five-sided corner posts are a unique construction feature. Originally there was a horse weathervane on the window-less cupola. It has a Dutch door, white-washed beams in the cattle barn, two fan lights above the open hay mow barn, and bins built in with chutes down to the cattle barn floor. The farmhouse and barn have been very nicely restored and remain as a private residence that does not accept unannounced visitors.

The first barn that Ernst and Theodore Clausing built was round and was painted red. It was for their brother **Richard Clausing** who farmed on Pioneer Road west of Port Washington Road, next door to the Vocke farm. It had nine four-paned windows and four doors. After Richard it was owned by their sister Bertha Clausing Benz and her family. It was later torn down.

Town of Grafton Barns

The octagonal-shaped red barn that Ernst and Theodore built in 1895 was 60 feet in diameter. It was built for **Theodore Clausing** on Highway C and Lakefield Roads in the Town of Grafton. It was farmed by the Clausing family for about ten years and then was sold to Julius Tetzlaff. William Tetzlaff started farming in 1920 and attached a milk house and silo to the barn. It has remained in the Tetzlaff family and has been a llama, alpaca and emu farm. The farm is named "Octagon Farms" and is a private farm that does not accept unannounced visitors.

The most northern barn was built in the Town of Grafton on the west side of Lakeshore Road south of Ulao Road across Highway C. The farm was on both sides of the road. It was built for **E. Edward Clausing** and was possibly one of the last Clausing barn projects. Unfortunately the structure collapsed.

One barn has been admired by drivers for years. This barn is beautifully maintained in Washington County's Town of Jackson. It is on the north side of Western Road just west of the railroad tracks. It is said to have been the farm of **Lester Hardt's** father who

purchased it during World War I. It is quite possible that this barn was built by the Clausing brothers.

One Ozaukee County octagon barn was not a Clausing barn. It was built at a cost of \$1,500 by Julius Schnukel in 1896 on the **William Haeuser** farm and was painted red. It straddled a property line near 11656 North Port Washington Road in Mequon. The North Shore Cinema is now at the original barn site. The horse weather vane had been blown off and it was in disrepair in 1982 when the Mequon Landmarks Commission considered moving it to a lot behind City Hall for the purpose of a community center. Unfortunately, the cost of moving it was considered prohibitive. However, in 1986 the barn was moved to the Children's Area of the Milwaukee County Zoo and today serves as a working dairy barn.

Why did the construction of the Clausing octagon barns end around 1900? Several reasons have been given. One reason was the standardization of the construction industry. Another possibility is that the mechanization of American agriculture was more suited to a rectangular barn design. The octagon barns may no longer be the standard but the shape will continue to be an influence on Ozaukee County architecture. The Clausing barns remain as reminders of the past and are indeed Ozaukee County treasures.

This study was conducted by Ozaukee County Historical Society Volunteers Fred Derr, Nina Look and Pat Ross. Consultation with Ray Clausing, Janice Clausing Hill and Theodore Clausing was invaluable.

THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS ~ You make great things happen!

Additions to our Historic Collections (for Village)

Marcia Schoeder – Artifacts

Chris Bettridge – Artifacts

Monetary Donations and Grants Received

Don & Pat Engelbert – Train Station Project

Wisconsin Historical Society – Mini-Grant Program

Margie Bahr – Train Station Project

Wm & Sally Kupkovits- Pioneer Village

Wisconsin Antique Power Reunion – General

Chris & Mary Ann Velnetske – Train Station Project

Carolyn Helms – Train Station Project

Marjorie Palleon – Pioneer Village

Antiquarian Society of WI – Train Station Project Grant

Antiquarian Society of WI – Archives Computer Upgrade Grant

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State of Wisconsin Covid -19 Cultural Organization Grant

Time & Talents

Tom Van Groll – Transom Windows Train Station Project

Allen Buchholz- Freight Ramp for Train Station Project

Jane Butz- Design and Installation of Train Station Exhibit

Computer Equipment:

Christ Alone Lutheran School-Mequon/Thiensville

Memorials

Emeline Johnson – Richard Schaefer Memorial

(We do our best to include everyone on our list of donors.

If you feel your name has been omitted, please call

262-377-4510 and leave a message. We will contact you.)

By: Mary Ann Velnetske

Additions to our Historic Collections (for Archives)

Patrick Pretty – Printed materials

Duman Family – Printed materials

Bob & Marge Wiskerchen-Clothing, Certificates and photos

Rick Reimer – Family Photos

Dennis Skalstad – Photos Ozaukee Cty Civil War Soldiers

Diane Moore – 1st ticket sold/photos of Rivoli Theater 1936

Charles Lubner – Rivoli Movie projector

RECENT RESEARCH TOPICS

Vetter/Schuernert Families Cedarburg Mayor Quentin Schenk

Fredrick Schutte Residence Mary Weiss Sturm Families

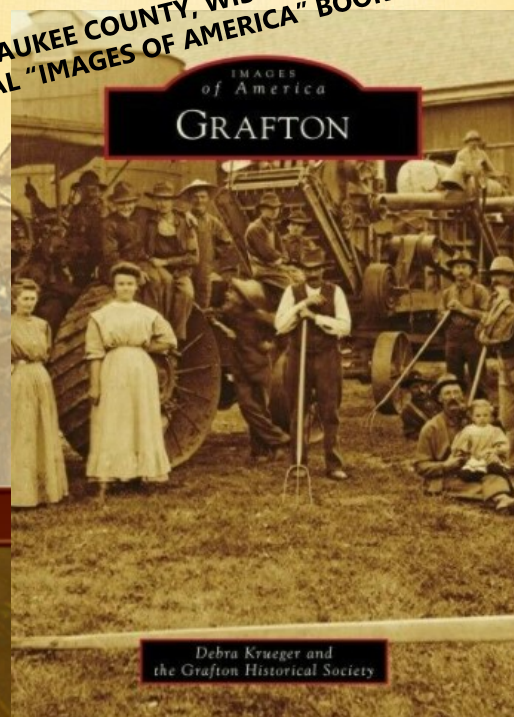
Gottfried Bruss Residence Cemeterians Organization

Wm. Roebken Residence Katharina Cemetery

The Green Bay House Louis and Lena Uhlig Kasten Families

Virmond Park Schanen, Dietz & Weiland Families

**GRAFTON, OZAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
NEW HISTORICAL "IMAGES OF AMERICA" BOOK**



Our friends at the [Grafton Historical Society](#) have published a new book "Images of America" Grafton... by Debra Krueger and the Grafton Historical Society. [This new book which came out in November thru Arcadia Publishing is available now. Go to \[www.graftonareahistory.org\]\(http://www.graftonareahistory.org\) or call Debra Krueger at 262-375-4954 for more information on how to purchase a copy.](#) We congratulate them on an exceptional book with over 125 historical photographs!

HAPPY 60th ANNIVERSARY—OZAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Written by: Mary Ann Velnetske

My, how time flies! In May 1960, the Ozaukee County Historical Society became Incorporated. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on March 14, 1960. At that time, Adlai S. Horn was president. Other board members included: Mrs. Arnold (Jeanette) Barr, Joseph Biever, Ray Blank, Mrs. William Eccles, Arnold Groth, Joseph C. Hamus, Mrs. James McCray, Herbert Peters, Mary Savage, Ambrose Wester and John J. Hurth. The topics of the day were recording the Articles of Incorporation, adopting the society's bylaws, reminding the board of the 75th Flag Day Observation in Waubeka and discussing the advisability of the society acquiring and restoring Turner Hall in the City of Cedarburg.

Best place to find information... check our website for updates on:

- Events
- Quarterly Meetings
- School Tours
- Historical Classes
- Weekends at the Village (May-Oct)
- Archives/Research
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Make a Donation
- Become a Member



HAUNTED VILLAGE

History with an Eerie Twist



The first ever Haunted Village was a wonderfully eerie success! Thank you to coordinator, Keri Eichner and the many actors and volunteers who made our first evening event among the ghosts and goblins a fun, family-friendly event filled with spooky historical stories, figures and haunted houses! Luminary lit paths led visitors to stops throughout the village where costumed actors shared spooky stories of local history from "Haunted Wisconsin" and several other local history books. Participants learned the real meaning of the child's song, "Ring Around the Rosie", what happens if you see and hear the Horse of Death and what it means when a bell rings in the graveyard.

A huge thank you to... coordinator Keri and husband Bob Eichner, the "Haunt" actors and many volunteers, Art Oasis for the Luminaries, 4-H clubs for carving pumpkins, and all those behind the scenes who helped with props, lighting and transforming Pioneer Village into a Haunted Village. Thank to our sponsors: Cedarburg Overhead Door, Big Joe's Gas & Convenience Store, Neuen's Fredonia Lumber, Witte's Vegetable Farm and Ozaukee Ace Hardware.

HAUNTED VILLAGE 2020 OZAUKEE COUNTY PIONEER VILLAGE

Photos: Matt Miller/Sam Arendt



All Aboard!

Cedarburg Train Station Exhibit Now Open
at the Cedarburg History Museum
Written by: Mary Ann Velnetske

The Ozaukee County Historical Society and the Cedarburg History Museum have teamed up to present an exhibit about the Cedarburg Train Station. The exhibit captures the history and importance of the railroad during the early beginnings of rail traffic in Ozaukee County and travels through the importance of the railroad in developing commerce and manufacturing in the community. The passenger trains rolled through Cedarburg from 1870 through 1950 and made it possible for social development.

Archivist, Jane Butz, designed the exhibit as a stroll through the history of the railroad and the Cedarburg Train Station. It includes pictorial storyboards of the railroads being built, the expansion of the rail connections and the story of Oscar Langhenreich, a Milwaukee Road Agent and Telegraph Operator. The exhibit showcases some of the wonderful railroad artifacts of the Cedarburg Train Station, such as the telegraph equipment, railroad lanterns and uniforms.

The exhibit can be viewed at the Cedarburg History Museum, Friday and Saturday

CEDARBURG TRAIN STATION EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY AT CEDARBURG HISTORY MUSEUM

Exhibit by: OCHS Archivist Jane



**OCTAGON
BARN STUDY
PGS. 5-7**

**CULTURAL ORGANIZATION GRANT**

The Ozaukee County Historical Society has been awarded a grant as part of the State of Wisconsin "COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grant Program." We were notified in October that we were awarded the amount of \$8813. Thank you to Board Member Mary Ann Velnetske who continually seeks out grant opportunities to supplement OCHS lost revenues from canceled events during our 2020 season. Information from the Governor's Office is as follows: Governor Tony Evers announced that COVID-19 Cultural Organization Grants have been awarded to 385 cultural organizations across Wisconsin and the Ozaukee Historical Society is one of these recipients. "Just like small businesses, cultural organizations have taken a major financial hit," said DOA Secretary Joel Brennan. "We're all in this together. We hope that these funds will make it possible for us to be able to enjoy the museums, theaters, and music from these organizations once it is safe to do so again." Administered by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), the COVID-19 Cultural Organizations Grant program provides grants to nonprofit organizations whose primary missions are to produce, present, or exhibit cultural disciplines. Grant awards can be used to cover pandemic-related impacts such as lost revenue etc.

WE ARE WISCONSIN & WE ARE RESILIENT!

Proud Grant Recipient



**COVID-19 Cultural
Organization
Grant Program**



GOVERNOR
TONY EVERS



The Ozaukee County Historical Society is a tax exempt organization as described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
All contributions are tax deductible as permitted by this code.

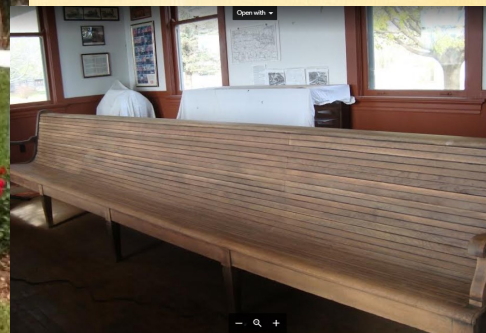
THANK YOU MASTER GARDENERS

Master Gardener Volunteers donate many hours over the season to maintain the flower beds and grounds at Ozaukee County Pioneer Village. It takes many people working together to keep the village ready for visitors. Left to right: Kris Edwards, Gary Horn, Cathy Cabelka & Kathy Saiia Volunteer Tricia Hallam is not pictured on this date. Thank you to Cathy Cabelka who heads up and coordinates the group at the Village. Cathy is stepping down as the coordinator after this year.



See Below:

Train Station Benches
are just one small piece
of the overall
Train Station Re-Do Project
At Ozaukee County
Pioneer Village



Déjà vu All Over Again!

Written by: Don Borgwardt (OCHS, Treasurer)

Let's all hope that 2021 isn't like, as Yogi Berra famously said, "Déjà vu all over again!" 2020 has definitely been a stressful year dealing with a worldwide pandemic. At times, it seemed like everything was standing still and many felt the experience was like the movie "Groundhog Day," where everyday was the same as the day before. Even though the year is almost over, there is still time before the end of the year to make charitable gifts to your favorite charities/ We hope that the Ozaukee County Historical Society (OCHS) is right up there at the top!!! Here are some ideas to maximize your giving impact and potentially minimize your 2020 tax bill as you help the Ozaukee County Historical Society through your financial support:

1. Give where needed...

If you want the simplest choice, consider making a non-designated gift to where it is most needed. OCHS offers a wide variety of ways that you can make a difference. Your gifts will support historical educational programs, such as those developed and directed specifically for school children, or help to maintain and preserve the vast OCHS library and archives of the history and people who lived and worked to build Ozaukee County through the past 170+ years. Or, your gift could help to maintain the variety of structures the historical society owns and maintains, from the historic Inter-urban Depot that serves as the OCHS headquarters and archive center, to the many historic structures in the OCHS Pioneer Village. Your onetime or ongoing gifts will help the Ozaukee County Historical Society to continue to make available and maintain our historic Pioneer Village, a collection of over 26 buildings, including log cabins, half timber structures, barns and houses from the 1860s to the 1930s. Included is the historic Cedarburg Railroad Station, which is currently undergoing a restoration to its original significance and glory as one of many of the prominent structures in the history of Ozaukee County.

~SAVE THE DATE~

TENTATIVE EVENT SCHEDULE 2021

WWII LIVING HISTORY EVENT	MAY 15
FLAG DAY CELEBRATION	JUNE 13
NEW JUNE EVENT—TBD	TBD
WI ANTIQUE POWER REUNION	JULY 17-18
HARRY POTTER AT THE VILLAGE	JULY 31
BLUEGRASS AT THE VILLAGE	AUG 08
AUTUMN AT THE VILLAGE	OCT 03
WOMEN IN HISTORY LUNCHEON	TBD
HAUNTED VILLAGE	OCT 23

(Note: Many of the dates are tentative and subject to change...)

~ HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US ~

AT THE
OZAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY, HEALTHY 2021!



Website

www.ochs.co.ozaukee.wi.us

2. Give someone else's money too

Hundreds of companies across the country match or partially match employee contributions to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations such as the Ozaukee County Historical Society. That effectively could double your donation without you giving another cent! Just contact your employer to see if they will match your donations and find out how it works. Some employers even match contributions made by their retired workers, so it makes sense to check.

3. "Double" your tax break

Did you know you can probably double your tax break by donating appreciated assets such as stock or real estate to OCHS? For a good part of 2020, the stock market has been booming! If you have stock that has grown in value, you can donate shares of stock to OCHS and should receive a charitable deduction for the current value as well as eliminate capital gains tax on the appreciation. Another option would be to consider making a gift of real estate and you'll receive a charitable deduction for the current value as well as eliminate capital gains tax.

4. Make a gift that will last forever

Consider making a legacy gift to create an endowment that will continue to ensure that the history of Ozaukee County is provided for in the future. Your gift could allow OCHS to maintain one or more of the historic structures in Pioneer Village or the historic Interurban Depot. Or, your gift could provide the funds to move and restore an historically significant building that would enhance the educational experience of the collection at Pioneer Village. Your legacy gift could provide an ongoing educational experience for generations to come.

5. Changes for 2020*

Under the CARES Act, which started an array of initiatives to address the corona virus, the IRS has tweaked its eligibility requirements -- expanding the pool of tax filers who can claim the charitable deduction as well as the cash value limit and donation timeframe for tax year 2020. What is the charitable tax deduction? The IRS allows you to reduce the amount of your income that's taxed when you spend on certain activities such as making a charitable donation. In the past, charitable deductions were available only to filers who itemized their deductions -- that is, those who opted out of the standard deduction (a flat \$12,400 for single filers and \$24,800 for married filing jointly) by documenting all their eligible expenses.

Until recently, most people who itemized could deduct approximately 60% of their adjusted gross income for donations made to a qualified charity. Simply put, a single filer making \$100,000 in income could deduct \$60,000 in qualified charitable donations from that amount, and calculate his or her taxes on the remaining \$40,000 of income -- which would significantly reduce his or her tax burden. What's changing from tax year 2019 to tax year 2020? Standard deduction-takers now qualify. The CARES Act included a provision to expand access to the tax benefits of charitable donations. Section 2014 of the Act changed the rules so that eligible individuals who do not itemize deductions can now deduct \$300 in charitable donations from their adjusted gross income. That's a nice little bump for taxpayers who want to keep things simple, and it's brand new for tax year 2020. Note that if you don't itemize on your return, you can't carry forward into subsequent years a donation that exceeds \$300, nor can you claim donations made before 2020. For itemizers, the upper limit has increased. If you are itemizing on your return, the IRS has increased the limit for charitable tax deductions from 60% to 100% of your AGI. And, the timeframe has also expanded. For itemizers, contributions above that 100% threshold may be carried over into the next tax year. Arguably, there's never been a better time to give to charity.

6. Remember the deadline. Your gifts to OCHS must be completed by midnight on December 31, 2020, in order to receive a charitable deduction for the 2020 tax year. Keep in mind that gifts of stocks or other securities may take one to two weeks to process before year-end. Remember our history is important. Properly maintaining the genealogical records and significant structures from the hardworking pioneers who built and lived in Ozaukee County is a legacy that everyone should want to ensure is available for generations to come. Please consider making a gift, large or small, to support the Ozaukee County Historical Society.

Please note: Nothing in the above information is intended as legal or tax advice. OCHS recommends that you consult with your personal tax adviser for the latest regulations and tax laws regarding charitable deductions.

*Excerpts edited from: <https://www.cnet.com/personal-finance/end-of-the-year-charitable-donations-tax-deductions-eligibility-and-everything-else-you-need-to-know/>

**RENEW YOUR 2021 MEMBERSHIP
SUPPORT LOCAL HISTORY!**

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

~2021 Membership Application ~

Membership ~ January 1 thru December 31, 2021

Sign me up! I'm ready to be a part of history!
Enclosed please find my: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Membership

☐ Individual \$20 ☐ Husband/Wife/Family \$40 (incl children under 18)
☐ Individual Lifetime \$225 ☐ Husband/Wife Lifetime \$350

Name: _____ Spouse: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Number of Children (under 18): _____
Email: _____ (Your email and phone number will never be shared.)

☐ 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
☐ Acquisitions & Collections Maintenance
☐ Stony Hill School Upkeep
☐ Ozaukee County Pioneer Village Upkeep
☐ General: Where Needed Most

☐ Interurban Depot Preservation Fund
☐ Memorial: In Memory of: _____
☐ Celebration: In Honor of: _____
☐ Sponsorship of an Event: _____
☐ Other: _____



Ozaukee County Historical Society
N57 W6406 Center Street
P.O. Box 206
Cedarburg, WI 53012-0206
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED