

DEBUTING SPRING 2020!

PARLORS & LIVING ROOMS: THE EXPRESSION OF HOME

Driftless Historium will unveil an all-new exhibit exploring the history and customs of Southwestern Dane County living rooms through time, using artifacts, anecdotes and case studies from our community. We'll take you back, with four recreated rooms spanning the era of the Mount Horeb area's earliest immigrants to a groovy 1960s time warp-and beyond! Stay tuned for more information on an opening date and related programming.



The Jacobson family parlor, Town of Perry, c. 1876

"This is beautiful. It's just like heaven."

--a Norwegian relative referring to Jacobson's parlor

In anticipation of our new exhibit, here is a sneak peak into one period of the parlor in the Mount Horeb Area.

The parlor had been incorporated into many middle-class homes across the nation by 1876, but among the rural Norwegian emigrants, such formal spaces were few and far between. In Norwegian-dominated Perry township, the Jacobson home had the most refined one that many had ever seen.

The Jacobsons were definitely of the upper class. The patriarch, Abraham Jacobson, was the pastor at the Perry, Springdale, and East Blue Mounds Norwegian Lutheran churches, the most prestigious position somebody in the community could have held at the time. In their parsonage parlor, they received many guests and felt the need to create the idealized American parlor.

Abraham Jacobson was twelve when he immigrated with his

family from Telemark, Norway, to America. While his parents mimicked their life in Norway by farming on a small homestead in Iowa, Abraham was drawn to American ways. As a young man, Abraham worked at a hotel in Wisconsin, entered Illinois State University, and later studied at Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Abraham became a pastor and accepted his position at Perry, Springdale and East Blue Mounds in 1869.

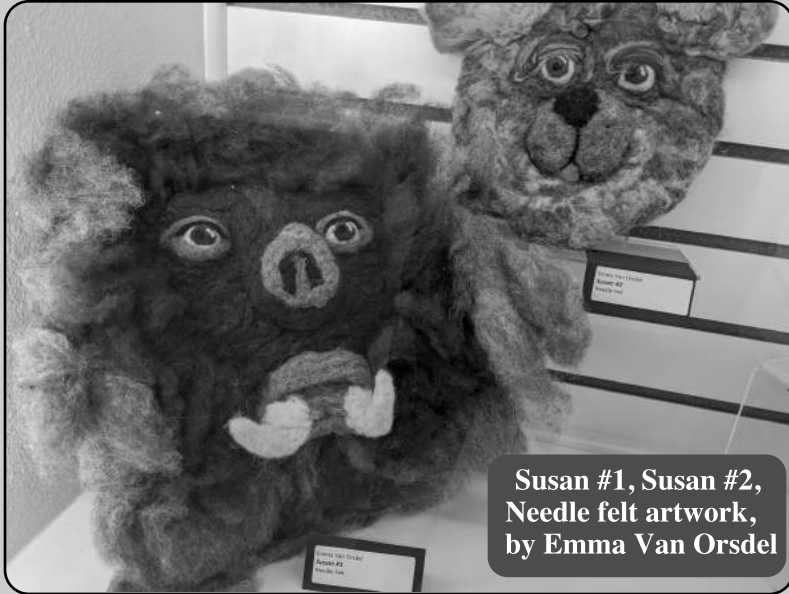
Abraham and his wife, Nicoline, had few

possessions when they moved to the Perry parsonage just outside Daleyville. Within a few years they had transformed the small home into one of the most well-appointed residences of the area, including the parlor pictured here. The Jacobsons purchased the village's first organ, kept an up-to-date library and ordered Victorian parlor furniture from a Norwegian merchant in Milwaukee. Abraham and Nicoline even traveled to the 1876 World's Fair in Philadelphia with the O.B. Dahle family (founders of Daleyville) where they undoubtedly saw the latest example of not only American but also European parlor décor.

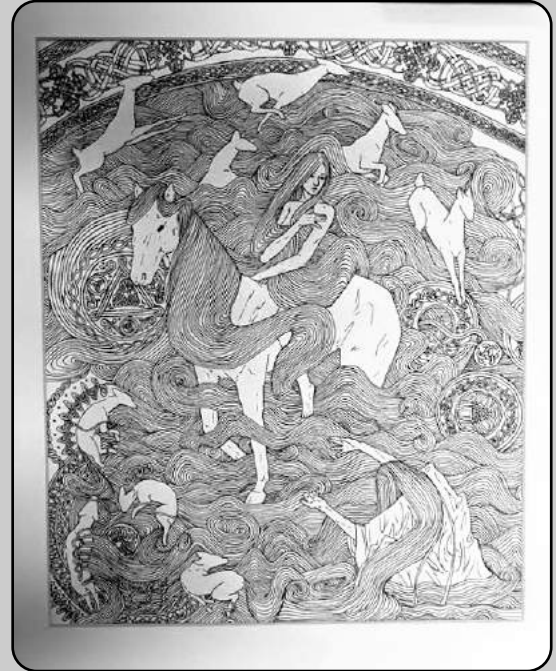
Even when the Jacobson family decided to leave the parsonage to move back to Abraham's parents' farm in Iowa, they immediately expanded the simple log farmhouse to include a parlor for the furniture and other possessions they brought with them from Wisconsin.

Their parlor's grandiosity is further emphasized by their having a picture taken of it, a rare interior shot from travelling Norwegian-American photographer, Andreas Dahl's photographic catalog.

MOUNT HOREB HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW & SALE



Susan #1, Susan #2,
Needle felt artwork,
by Emma Van Orsdel



Oisín and Niamh, pen, by Marin Danz Orsdel

The Driftless Historium is proud to host the 2020 Mount Horeb High School Art Show & Sale. Dozens of works of art in a variety of mediums, all by Mount Horeb High School students, are viewable daily through Saturday, March 14 in the Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Education Room. Stop by Monday through Friday, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The MHHS Art Show & Sale is hosted by National Art Honor Society students, under the mentorship of Anna King and Dana Showers, but participation is open to any high school student—they do not have to be involved in art class or clubs. In the past, this annual show has featured around 100 participants and over 150 pieces of artwork. After the work is collected, NHS students help mat and label the work, and also install the show.

The show is judged (usually by local artists) in categories such as paintings, drawings, ceramics, sculpture, metals, etc. There are awards for first, second and third place, as well as honorable mention, in each category, as well as a "best in show." There will also be a "community vote" ballot box (and, remember to stop by, because YOUR VOTE COUNTS!). Awards will be verified and "winning" pieces labeled accordingly the night before the closing reception.



Please note: Some of the pieces are for sale. Interested parties can reserve their choices on a first-come-first-serve basis, and sales can be completed during student-hosted hours.

"WITHIN THE DRIFTLESS" BRINGS ARTIST KATHY HOFMANN HOME

Within the Driftless," a special exhibition spotlighting rural Mount Horeb-based artist Kathy Hofmann, opened Saturday, February 15 at the Driftless Historium. The fine arts gallery show features new acrylic paintings by Hofmann, as well as a photographic study by local photographer Ron Lutz II.

Wisconsin native Kathy Hofmann has spent the past decade in the Driftless area painting local rural landscapes. Hofmann's quiet, intimate paintings recall the work of the Barbizon painters and Luminist style of the Hudson River School. As with those painters, Hofmann reveres and finds inspiration in the land. Her desire to document this unique region is spurred by both a reverence for the land, and an awareness of inevitability of human impact and natural processes—she knows the landscape can and will change.

A series of photographs by Ron Lutz II add even more depth to the exhibit. With a background in museum and gallery work (including time in the Exhibits Department of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History), Lutz travelled with Kathy for weeks across the countryside of



"Holstein," Acrylic on Board, 2019. Kathy Hofmann



Photography by Ron Lutz II

southwestern Dane County, documenting her artistic journey as she sought out and captured the Driftless vistas, views and animal inhabitants that would be featured, in spirit or substance, in her paintings.

"Within the Driftless" is, then, both an homage to our natural surroundings, and an insightful look at the artistic birthing process of this homage.

Kathy Hofmann holds an MFA in Painting from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her work is exclusively represented by Milwaukee's Tory Folliard Gallery. All "Within the Driftless" works will be available for sale, with a portion of proceeds donated to the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society. For more information, call 608-437-6486 or email mthorebhistory@mhtc.net.

A Closer Look:

Women of Healthcare in Mount Horeb Area History

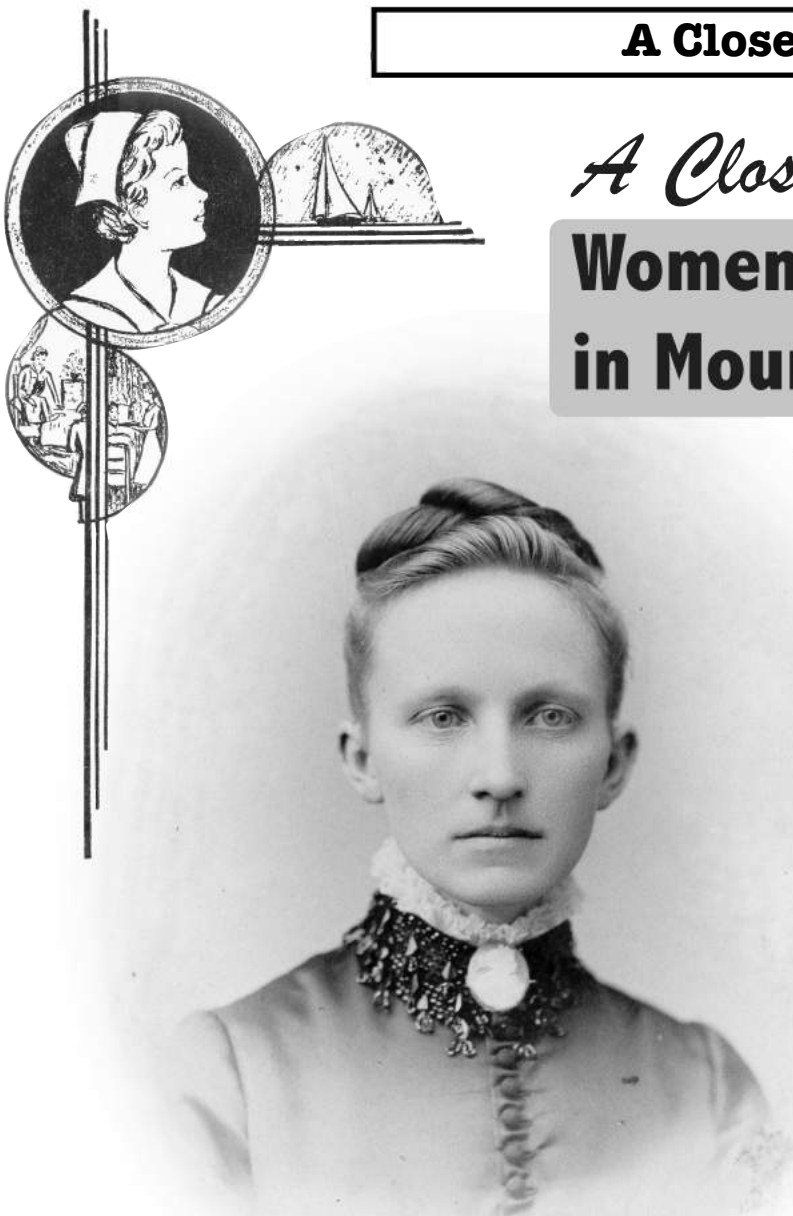
By Arlo Paust

When conducting research for our stupendous permanent exhibit at the Driftless Historium, we came across many stories that there was not space to tell. One of these had to do with the first hospital in Mount Horeb, owned and operated by Miss Annie Swiggum, and upon further research, I discovered there was also a female doctor and many unacknowledged midwives in the area.

National statistics for the history of female doctors, shows that there has been a steady increase in their numbers since the 1960s. At the start of that decade, women made up 6% of all practitioners. It would seem this percentage would have been a steady increase from all prior decades, but if we dig back further, this is an entirely inaccurate assumption. The same percentage was also true in 1910, before the numbers of women in medicine experienced a sharp decline. Apparently the medical industry felt threatened by women, and claimed they were incapable of conducting quality medical practice. New medical school regulations around the turn of the century closed many of the female focused institutions and placed quotas on the number of women allowed into medical colleges. Most schools allowed only 5% of the students to be women in 1917.

Medicine truly had been a women's field through antiquity, with mothers often knowing how best to take care of their children. Legendary and helpful women of the woods (who later become synonymous with witches) were actually wise healers that provided medical care for communities. The birthing of babies was nearly 100% conducted by women who would voluntarily be midwives for their family and neighbors.

This all changed in Europe, America, and in the Mount Horeb area, where the families with close ties to Europe saw themselves in a "New World." In the 19th century, formal medicine had been tarnished by poorly trained doctors from medical schools who handed out certificates to anybody who could pay the fees. Most got into the practice simply for the money. Thanks to increased regulations, the medical profession became a less shady business and doctors were generally trusted by the turn of the century. Professional obstetricians campaigned for the elimination of midwives, calling them "hopelessly dirty, ignorant, and incompetent relics of a barbaric past."



Miss Annie L. Swiggum, ca 1888; owner and manager of Mount Horeb's first hospital

A Closer Look



Dr N.C. Evans, possibly at graduation in 1884.

There were permanent doctors in Mount Horeb and its surroundings, the longest practicing and most established of the doctors here being Dr. Nels C. Evans, whose Norwegian father had been the founder of the small “village” of Forward in Perry township. However, this article is for the ladies.

A “lady doctor” in the area was Mrs. Harriett Arland Anderson. It seemed she worked out of her home near Pine Bluff, rather than having an office or pharmacy, and focused on obstetrics. Harriett was born 1839 in Leicestershire, England to Thomas and Ann Arland, and emigrated to the United States at the age of seven in 1846, settling in Cross Plains Township. After her well-to-do parents died, she decided to attend the Women’s Medical College in Chicago, from which she graduated in 1882 (two years before Dr. Evans) at the age of 43. It can be presumed she was practicing as a midwife long before becoming professionally trained. She married her husband, a recently widowed Irish man named Matthew Anderson,

the March before her graduation in Chicago. Matthew Anderson was a Cross Plains politician and has a wikipedia page for his position as a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly and State Senate in the 1870s. He was also concerned about health, introducing and securing the passage of a bill to prevent the adulteration of foods.

Harriett Anderson was a member of the Wisconsin State and Central Wisconsin Medical Societies, to whom she submitted articles on “Cerebral Congestion in Infancy and Childhood,” and “Acute Pleurisy.” She had also studied “Metorrhagia,” and “Purpura Hemorrhagica.” She and Matthew left their large farm in their later years and were living in Mount Horeb where she continued to practice medicine from at least 1905 up to their deaths: his in 1910 at age 88 and hers in 1911 at age 72.

Dr. Anderson may have been one of the doctors who used the facilities of the first hospital in town, opened in December of 1904, and owned by a nurse named Miss Annie L. Swiggum. The Mt Horeb Times published an article its opening week: “Mt. Horeb has reason to feel proud of the new hospital erected by Miss Annie Swiggum, who

herself is a practical and experienced nurse. The building is commodious in size and well arranged, the owner being assisted by the local physicians in planning the structure with a view to make it convenient and up to date in every respect. It has two wards, a dressing room, operating room, toilet rooms, and rooms for eight beds all on the second floor, on the first floor being a reception room and living rooms for owner and helpers. Dr. Evans has equipped the operating room with the most up to date operating paraphernalia including operating table at



No photo of Harriet Anderson has been found, but this is her husband, Matthew.



St. Olaf Hospital, built for Nurse Annie Swiggum in 1904

A Closer Look



Mrs. Amelia Iverson,
Mount Horeb midwife

a cost of \$100. There are many cases waiting the completion of the hospital; work of saving life and eliminating suffering will soon begin." The public appreciated the hospital and, to establish it as a commodious facility, more than seventeen donors provided food, bedding, furniture, books, and dishes.

Drs. Cutler, Buckner, A.S. Thompson, and the aforementioned Evans, (who had the role of naming the hospital "St. Olaf," for the first patient there), all used the services of Miss Swiggum for their patients' care. Annie Swiggum was 47 years old at its opening and, aside from a desire to limit her house calls, there was a need for her to take care of her own ageing parents who were then in their late 70s. The hospital was a four-square style building built upon one of the lots her brother and local general store owner, Syver L. Swiggum, was selling on Main Street at the western edge of Mount Horeb. The building was at a high location with plenty of fresh air and sunlight to be taken in with views of the Blue Mounds and a screened in porch on the second level. As the tuberculosis epidemic prevailed, a common prescription for good health was fresh air and sunlight.

Annie L. Swiggum, (not to be confused with the three other women with the name Anne Swiggum living in the Mount Horeb area at the time), was well known for her skills in tending to the sick. In the village newspapers, long before 1904, she was frequently mentioned for this prowess and even travelled to different states to nurse people to health. She was born in the Town of Blue Mounds in 1856, the second oldest in the family of recent immigrants, Lars and Synneva Swiggum, from Hafslo, Sogn og Fjordane, Norway.

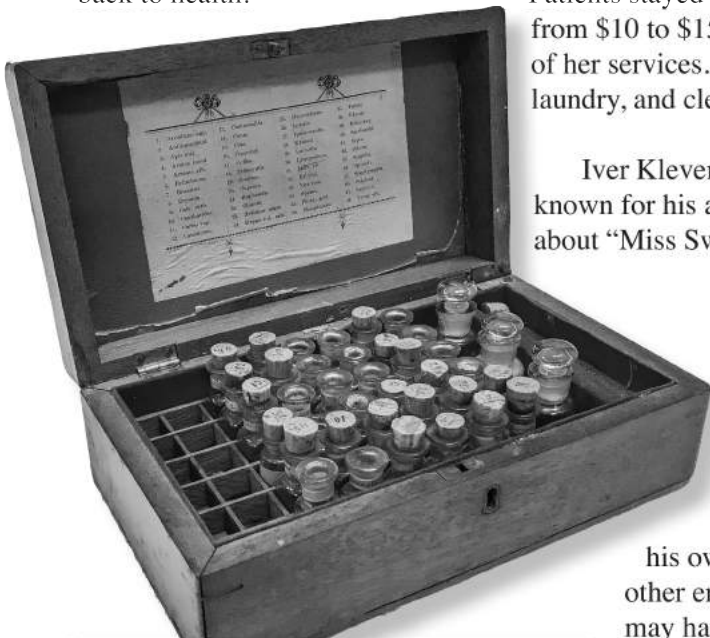
The open embrace of the hospital in Mount Horeb represented a cultural shift in medical care. Previously, hospitals were reserved for urban centers as institutions for people who were poor or without family. Private homes had been where the births, deaths, and sicknesses were tended, but now all these events were beginning to take place in hospitals. The legacy of nurses and women as primary caregivers in families survived, though, and the fact that Annie owned this hospital and looked after other doctors' patients shows an often overlooked transitional period in the history of medical institutions. A doctor did not have the time to tend to patients with extended care, as they were constantly needed for house calls. The St. Olaf hospital most importantly provided an able caretaker who could be counted on to help them back to health.

Patients stayed there sometimes for months at a time and Miss Swiggum charged from \$10 to \$15 for each week of care, and accepted farm produce for payment of her services. She courageously cared for all the patients, cooked, baked, did laundry, and cleaned without any help.

Iver Kleven, a local carpenter and namesake of Klevenville, who was also known for his articles in Norwegian-language newspapers, wrote a short passage about "Miss Swiggum" in his journal :

Miss Swiggum a business woman
with mothers and sisters you could overcome
to build a hospital for the sick
our strikes suffered will have comfort (hygge)
To do well for the suffering and weak
A profoundly worthy cause

The St. Olaf hospital remained open until Dr. Buckner opened his own facility in the old Onun B. Dahle Victorian brick home on the other end of Main Street in January of 1922. Annie, getting up in years, may have felt she no longer had the energy to continue nursing. Almost four years later, she died, two days after Christmas, 1925, aged 68. She never married, nor had children, and she seemed to be a modest, humble woman, suggested by the lack of grandeur surrounding her death.



Wooden box of medicines once owned
by Clara Lust, Springdale Township

A Closer Look

However, Annie Swiggum's story changed over time. As her hospital was the first in Mount Horeb, it has been mentioned in nearly every publication and exhibit compiled about the village. With each succeeding report, the recollection of her input into the hospital dwindled. It was assumed that she was part of the standard female nurse answering to male doctor hierarchy.

All of this brings to mind a riddle I once encountered and found difficult to solve:

A man and his son are badly injured in a car crash, are sent to the emergency room, and then the son needs to be operated upon. However, the doctor says, "I cannot operate on him. He is my son." The question is then, "Who is the doctor?"

It seriously took me an embarrassing amount of time to figure out the doctor was simply a woman, the son's mother. It was such a foreign concept that I first guessed the doctor to be one of the son's gay dads rather than a woman. This goes to show how deeply ingrained the stereotypes of our culture are and how impossible it seemed for a woman to be a doctor not so very long ago.

This knowledge gleaned from local women in medicine can help us remember that the course of history is not always what we expect. After these two known female figures in the Mount Horeb area's medical history—Nurse Annie Swiggum and Dr. Harriet Anderson—other women may have taken on the roles left vacant, but most of their stories are not yet known. Early censuses did not usually indicate female professions, but the Historium archives reveal some bits and pieces on the subject.

In the collection is a beautiful wooden box of medicines once owned by a single German-American woman, Clara Lust, of Springdale Township. A photo of another woman, Mrs. Amelia Iverson, explains that she worked as a midwife.



Mrs. Caroline "Lina" Waage, midwife and farmer, with her son, Clarence, 1898

From my own familial records, I know that during the late teens and twenties, a Mount Horeb single mother and divorcée, Mrs. Josina Johnson, worked as a "practical nurse" and midwife. She trained in Chicago, but followed in the footsteps of her mother, Mrs. Caroline "Lina" Waage, who was a midwife for her rural neighbors in York Township, Green County.

Similar to St. Olaf Hospital, nearby Dodgeville's first hospital was also opened by a woman, a nun, Sister Mary Benedict, in 1914. She was considerably helped by Miss Sophia Benson of Perry Township, who had graduated from the nursing course of the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital in Chicago.

The full range of female medical practitioners and nurses in the area may never be known, especially since delivering babies was not considered a profession, but simply something people did for one another. If anybody knows of further historic women of healthcare in Mount Horeb, let us know! ●



Mrs. Josina Johnson, at work as a midwife and practical nurse, 1920s



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OMISSION: Charles Bauer and Charles Beckwith (Madison) responded to our call for support and signed a pledge that will result in a decade of operational assistance.

As a result, we were pleased to offer them naming rights to the "Back to the Land" exhibit in the Historium's main gallery. Their generosity was inadvertently absent from our November 2019 newsletter listing of "2018 Gifts", "Major Gifts and Sponsorships \$20,000+."

We apologize for this oversight.

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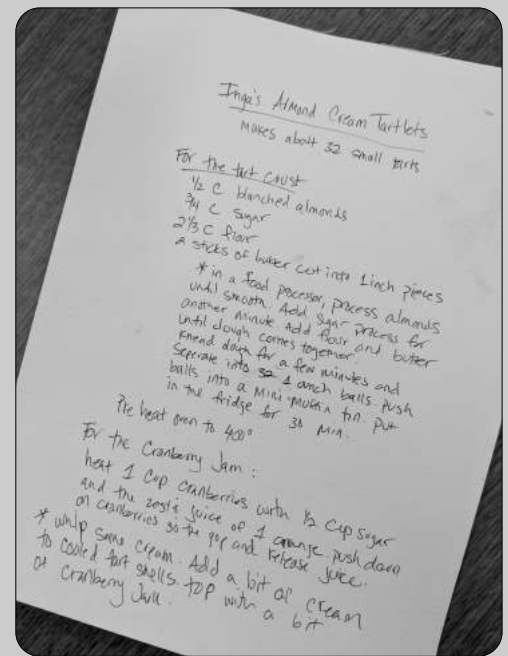
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HOLIDAY COOKING WITH INGA EVENT A SUCCESS!



Inga Orth, 4th generation dairy farmer and host of the popular PBS Television program, "Around The Farm Table," brought her trademark charm, wit and love of locally-sourced, farm fresh recipes to the Driftless Historium, Saturday, November 16.

With seating limited to 25, "Holiday Cooking with Inga" quickly sold out. While she worked on a batch of tartlets, with the help of business partner, show producer and father, Rick, Inga regaled the crowd with entertaining anecdotes about her meandering path back to rural life after failing out of cosmetology school, and her passionate advocacy for the American small farmer.

Couldn't make it? You're in luck! Inga left her recipe behind--I hope she doesn't mind we're sharing it!

THIS JUST IN: Inga returns to Mount Horeb, November 21, 2020! Ticket sales will open in September.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MEET LEO AND MARY HULL



If we could bottle the dependability, work ethic and spirit of community of husband-wife Super Team Mary Jane and Leo Hull, we'd have a valuable commodity, indeed! Mary is a regular fixture behind-the-scenes at the Driftless Historium, where she diligently toils away three mornings every week on data entry and organization projects that make our archives collection ever more accessible for staff, volunteers and the public. And we aren't the only ones who recognize Mary's value—with her always-willing attitude, attention to detail and background in administration, Mary has served in Mount Horeb's nonprofit scene for years. Husband Leo is one of our front desk "once-a-weekers," those fabulous souls who help us keep costs down and the museum doors open every day by providing free and capable frontline service. Stop by some day soon, and there's a good chance it's Leo's handsome face that will greet you. Thank you, Mary and Leo, for being you!

Write your own "job description" of what you do here at the Society.

Leo: I man the front desk, sell gift shop items, and take admissions.

Mary: Currently I am cataloguing our collection of photographs into our Past Perfect computer program. This program allows for searching past history through photos - by name, topic, date, etc.

How long have you volunteered for the Society?

Mary: In 2005 I began as a front desk volunteer. About five years ago I began doing data entry.

What is your favorite part of volunteering?

Leo: Gets me out of the house, meeting people.

Mary: I feel I am contributing a very useful service to the Mount Horeb community. I am learning its history and appreciate how the community comes together to make our village great. The museum has a wonderful staff to work with.

Who or what got you interested?

Leo: Always liked history, a chance to contribute within my limited physical abilities.

Mary: A friend asked me to volunteer to work the front desk. Then the need arose for someone to enter data into computer. Since I was retired and had lots of computer experience, I volunteered. Working here is a wonderful relief from a hectic business world.

Tell us about your family.

Leo and Mary: We had three children, one here in town, one in Oregon, and one recently passed away in Indiana. Total of four grandchildren.

Tell us about your education and vocational background.

Leo: High School - USAF language school (Russian) - various college courses - 40 years working in office machine / computer maintenance

Mary: My employment has mostly been in the insurance industry beginning as an underwriter for American Family. In 2003 I retired as company secretary/manager for Dodgeville Mutual Insurance Company. Also have experience in Real Estate and Building Trades.

Why is the Mount Horeb area the best place on earth?

Leo: Mt Horeb offers the small town advantages - safe streets, quiet living - with Madison's city attractions within easy reach

Mary: We love it here! I have been involved with Mound Vue Garden Club and Hands All Around Quiet Club. As I knew no one upon moving to Mount Horeb, these clubs made me feel welcome and I now have many friends.



100 South Second Street
 Mount Horeb, WI 53572
 mthorebhistory.org
 (608) 437-6486

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

Board of Directors

John Kuse-President
 John Swartz-Vice President
 Karla Ott-Secretary
 William Thousand-Treasurer

Marlyn Grinde (Honorary)
 Shirley Martin
 Peter Riphahn
 David Schmidt
 Emily Togstad
 Lee Underwood

Operations

Destinee Udelhoven-Director
 Johnna Boyse-Curator

Driftless Historium
Museum & Research Center
Open 10am-4pm Daily

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK

EXHIBITS & ART INSTALLATIONS

Special Exhibits Gallery

Feb 16 – Mar 30

“Within the Driftless,” Paintings by Kathy Hofmann
 with Photos by Ron Lutz II

Spring 2020 (opening date TBA)

“Parlors & Living Rooms: The Expression of Home”

Community Room

Jan 20 – Mar 14

Mount Horeb High School Art Show & Sale

Mar 15 – Apr 18

Mount Horeb Area Arts Association
 Member Showcase

Apr 19 – May 31

Photography by Melissa Roelli

OTHER ARTISTS & INSTALLATIONS PENDING



EVENTS

THIRD THURSDAYS

Mar 19, Apr 16, May 21, June 18
 FREE Admission for Dane Co residents,
 Open until 8pm

Sat, Mar 14

MHHS Art Show Closing Reception

Thurs, Mar 19

“WI in Watercolor: Life & Art of Paul Seifert”

Mon, Apr 6

4th Annual “Flavor of the Year” Ice Cream Tasting

Sat, Apr 25

Roelli Artist Reception

Thurs, May 21

“Wisconsin Votes: A History”
 by Dr. Robert Booth Fowler

Sat, June 6 & Sun, June 7

3rd Annual Native Art Marketplace

*Watch for Expanded Line-up of Music,
 History, Crafts and More!*

All events take place at the Historium and are FREE,
 unless otherwise noted. Additional programming
 TBD; check Facebook & website or call
 608-437-6486 for the latest event info.