A Publication of the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society

2014 Marks 75th Anniversary of Cave Discovery

When Ebenezer Brigham settled at the base of the Blue Mounds in 1828 he came because of buried treasure. Lead mining had its rise in the southern part of Wisconsin after 1826, but did not become big business near the mounds until Brigham's arrival. Although he sunk many mine shafts in the fields south of Blue Mounds, Brigham never experienced the even greater treasure that lay buried beneath the surface of his vast property.



Logo attributed to Cave of the **Mounds National Natural Landmark** www.caveofthemounds.com

digger hired to drill the blasting holes, set a charge of 1,600 pounds of dynamite in three holes and the plunger on the charge box activated. After the blast, which threw 5,000 tons of lime out on the quarry floor, a strange thing happened: There were two gaping holes in the quarry face.

Brigham and the workers climbed over the rocks and peered into the cavities.

After Ebenezer's death in 1862 his land holdings passed through the ownership of several heirs, with a chunk of land at the base of the mounds finally going to his great-nephew, Charles I. Brigham. Charles plowed the surrounding fields and grazed his cattle on the oak savanna plots that dotted the land. Brigham was a successful and experimental farmer who also operated an apiary and a dairy that bottled milk for delivery.



Ebenezer Brigham

In 1939, just south of the Charles Brigham farm, a new and improved highway (U.S. 18-151) was under construction that was necessary to handle the increased automobile traffic through Southwestern Dane County. A quarry was leased on Charles' farm to supply crushed limestone needed for the road's construction. At 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 4, 1939 Lance Dodge, a well



Charles Brigham

"When we got close enough," Brigham said, "we could hear the noise of falling rocks which sounded like breaking glass," which the group later discovered was the sound of falling stalactites and crystal cave onyx. Brigham's and the quarry workers' immediate reactions were to wait and enter the cavities in three days. Curiosity soon overtook the men and flashlights were procured. The Brighams recognized the unusual beauty of the discovery and as soon as possible locked the entrances and took precautions to protect

this natural wonder from vandals and souvenir seekers. One evening found a family member sleeping in his car with a loaded rifle. Family diary entries record a nervous sense of what had happened -- it was evident that their lives were changed forever.

Continued on page 2

Mrs. Besiravius choist 3, J. can't come krause L'Vas 1939 Frie. allam. Lowa badge bearloof front warreg into a linestone cousern, Ctr. comes up baying your forleins is made: It is 37 x 15 x 4/4- Everyou crossy to give until- Stalactites and stalage miles of limestone lovely-liso excited

modern o sumapped P. coson on supplied - not over on a part 1939 Sien, 80°. Cloredy- no police come no C dr. tokes his place in the car with his refla! to tal peoploiter comor Enlis the cases. E says it is marieslan like a calieral so shall callin Cachedral Coverin". apple tuyen consi-

Soon after discovery of Cave of the Mounds (then referred to as Brigham's Cave) many sought permission to open the cave as a show place. Brigham chose two acquaintances, Carl Brechler, an assistant cashier at the State Bank of Mount Horeb, and Fred Hanneman, music director of Mt. Horeb High School. According to Brechler's daughter, Shirley Martin, "Local people thought they were making a big mistake in this venture." The Brechlers' home life went from banker's hours to 24/7.

Although the cave was discovered in August 1939, it was not opened to the public until May 30, 1940. The reason was the massive amount of work that had to be done. While doing their day jobs Brechler and Hanneman had to manage and participate in

the removal of tons of rock, the building of wooden steps and walkways, and the installation of electric lights. A small entrance building was also erected. The stone building that still serves as an entrance was not constructed until 1941.

For the first 10 years, according to Shirley, "every amount of money made from the operation of the cave went back into the operation." In 1940 Alonzo Pond, a geologist, was hired to develop the site into a public venue and he also served as a guide.

In the first 27 weeks that the cave was open more than

58,000 visitors were escorted through its passageways. "I remember the day that the line of people was out on the quarry floor and up the hill, ladies in dresses and men in suits," Shirley recalled. By July 1952, the millionth visitor had toured the underground wonder.

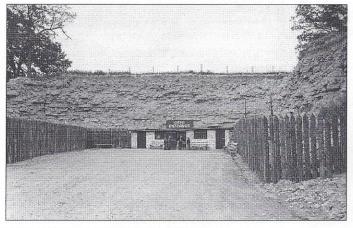
All hands were on deck in those beginning days and years. Miners were hired from the nearby Platteville area to clear new passageways. Even young Shirley, who recalled, "By the time I was in eighth grade I was working at the cave. First job I remember was at a pop (soda) counter. Pop was in a cooler filled with water and ice. There were also ice cream bars and Popsicles." Shirley's additional tasks were washing showcase windows, dusting

souvenirs, replacing merchandise, sweeping floors, emptying ash trays, cleaning up stinky chewed cigars and cleaning the outdoor pit toilets.

The cave has always had guides and Shirley served in this capacity as well. "On the days when we had thousands," she remembered, "it was done with stations. One guide would give a beginning lecture to several hundred people and then lead them on to guides who were stationed at important points in the cave. You would be at that spot for several hours at a time."



Pete Brechler (right) with two miners from the Platteville area clear the cave of debris to open up new passages and rooms during development



Cave of the Mounds entrance c. 1940



Crowds wait to enter the cave during its opening days, 1940

During the winter months when the cave was closed, money from its Wishing Well was taken out for cleaning. As Shirley recalls, "first all the coins were boiled on the stove, then laid out on cookie sheets and dried in the oven. This was known as hot money. Next they were spread out on newspaper on the dining room table. When cooled we separated pennies, nickels, dimes, etc. The local bank would not take the corroded money. So it was all put into bags, wax-sealed and put on the local train and sent to the Chicago Reserve Bank." The money collected was given to charities.

On Oct. 31, 1973, Brechler and Hanneman retired as managers. They were followed by Edwin and Elizabeth Rooney and Anne Bednarek. After



Cave tour guides inside the entrance building, 1945

Anne's marriage to Tom Bandow, the pair took on management.

The Cave of the Mounds, which Logo attributed to www.caveofthemounds.com

changed local tourism forever, was officially designated a National Natural Landmark on July 30, 1988. Today the cave is still under the ownership of Brigham heirs. Joe Klimczak and Ann Wescott manage the tourist attraction and have added various children's programs that take place above and below the ground. Hours have been extended as well with year-round operations. People are as interested in the cave today as they were 75 years ago, with nearly 100,000 visitors annually touring its underground passageways.

Leaving a Legacy

The board of directors was recently saddened to hear of the loss of one of the organization's long-time members and volunteers, Beverly Brager. In 2006, because of her fondness for the Historical Society and the region of her



birth, Beverly listed the Society in her will. Beverly knew the costs involved with running the Society's day-to-day functions and programs and asked about these on more than one occasion. Beverly was aware of the countless resources it takes to preserve the items she, her close relatives and friends had gifted to the Museum and Archives and she wanted these artifacts preserved for future generations.

With the construction and opening of the new Southwestern Dane County Heritage Center will come an even greater need for people like Beverly. The Center will require staffing and maintenance; there will be increased utility bills, programming expenses, furnishings, and exhibits that change frequently. The Historical Society will also require an endowment that will allow the board and its committees to focus on the programs, educational activities, preservation and exhibits that your Historical Society is famous for.

There are several ways that you can ensure the Society's continued growth when doing your estate planning. Consider gifts of stocks, bonds, savings, real estate and personal property. For years Historical Society volunteers have offered auctions or professionally run in-home estate sales of personal property gifted to the Society. This is a quick and simple way for families to settle estates without the bother of cleaning out the house.

Like Beverly, you can leave a lasting legacy for future generations. Please consider the Historical Society when doing your estate planning. It is as simple as talking to your attorney.

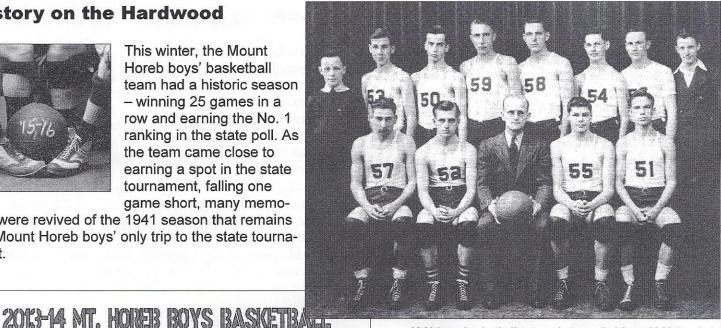
If you have any questions contact Bill Thousand, the Society's accountant, or Darlene Nowak, Finance Committee.

History on the Hardwood



This winter, the Mount Horeb boys' basketball team had a historic season - winning 25 games in a row and earning the No. 1 ranking in the state poll. As the team came close to earning a spot in the state tournament, falling one game short, many memo-

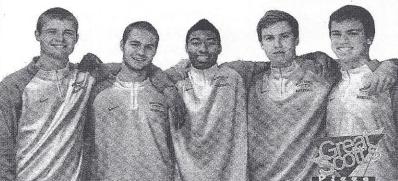
ries were revived of the 1941 season that remains the Mount Horeb boys' only trip to the state tournament.



1941 boys basketball team; photo copied from 1941 Berebok Boosting our collections now will help ensure

a more thorough display when the time comes.

The Society is interested in all aspects of sports in Southwest Dane County during the course of our community's history. That could be a program from the 1996 girls state tournament that featured an historic appear-



FRI. NOV. 22	@ DODGEVILLE			
TUE, DEC. 3	PORTAGE			
SAT. DEC. 7	FORT ATKINSON	-		
FRI. DEC. 13	BARABOO	-		
TUE DEC 47	1 CRAIC	1		

@ DeFORES

FRI. DEC. 27 SAT. DEC. 28 @ WINONA @ MARSHALL FRI. JAN. 3 TUE, JAN, 7 SAUK PRAIRIE FRI. JAN. 10 @ REEDSBURG BEAVER DAM TUE. JAN. 14

@ WAUNAKEE THU. JAN. 16 SAT. JAN. 18 @ PLATTEVILLE TUE, JAN. 21 REEDSBURG SAT. JAN. 25 BADGER CHLG. THU. JAN. 30 WAUNAKEE

TUE. FEB. 11 @ BARABOO FRI. FEB. 14 THU. FEB. 20 SAUK PRAIS TUE. FEB. 25

2013-14 Boys Basketball team was featured on a Great Scott's Pizza magnet

It's long been the approach of the Historical Society that history isn't just in the black-and-white past or the objects of earlier centuries. It's happening around us, just like it did with the boys' basketball team. That's why items from fans, players and families from this season would be a welcome addition. to our collection.

But it's not just objects from this season of boys' basketball that would make excellent additions to the Society's collections. When the Southwestern Dane County Heritage Center opens, sports displays are among the plans for the new facility.



1917 Boys Basketball team wore shorts with belts

ance by the Mount Horeb girls. It could be objects from the school's immensely successful track and gymnastic teams. There are also recreational and club sports that have kept residents busy playing baseball, ski jumping or tug of war.

MAER

T HORIS



1909 Mt. Horeb High School basketball girls clowning around for their team picture

1917 Mt. Horeb High School girls basketball team members were covered head to toe in the uniform fashion-of-the-day

But to honor the successful boys' team this season, here's a peek at many of the basketball photos in the Society archives. When people remember that today's team is tomorrow's history, everybody wins.

AT HORE

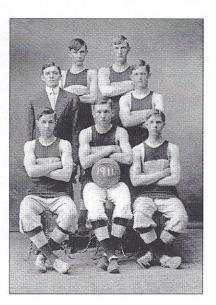
in HORIN



1996 girls basketball team went to the state tournament; copied from photo from MHHS yearbook

1911
Mt. Horeb
High
School
boys
basketball
team wore
knickers

c. 1930
Mt. Horeb
High
School
boys
basketball
team sat
for a formal photo
in their
warm-ups



Four Interactive Maps On MHAHS Website Beginning In April

The first map, the *Area Schools Map*, will show an aerial view of Southwestern Dane county with icons locating all 42 of our rural schools, past and present. Click on an icon and you will see a beautiful new photo of schools that are still with us, a historic photo of the school, the school's common name, district number, township location and other details. As the summer goes on short histories will be added to each school.

The extensive project has been produced by three, hard-working volunteers. The information gathering and coordination was done by John Pare. Photographs were taken and digitized by Brynn Bruijn. The data and photos were then put on a computerized cartography program by Doug Norgord of Geographic Techniques.



Before the *Area Schools Map* is available to the public, the MHAHS will host two private screenings for the current owners of the buildings. These folks kindly gave their permission to have their building photographed for this project. We were so pleased to have 100 percent participation. A public reception for everyone interested in seeing the map and hearing how it was done, will be held at the District No. 1 School House on Sunday, May 18 at 1:00 p.m.



The second map is an equally extensive survey. The Cheese Factories Map locates 114 factories in Southwestern Dane county. The map data was researched this winter by Merel Black who put in long hours combing through a variety of sources. Merel is a retired database manager for the University of Wisconsin and brought a great deal of expertise to this project.

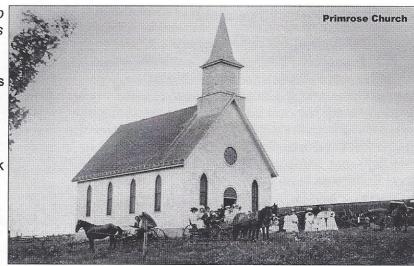
By clicking on an icon on the aerial map, you will be

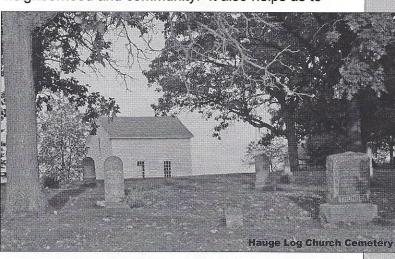
taken to a cheese factory page. You can also browse the list on the MHAHS website and choose a cheese factory by township and name. Merel produced a page for each of the cheese factories, with the name(s) and location, current and historic photos, a plat map showing its location and lots of information about the factory – everything from who were the cheesemakers to the type of cheese they made. The cartography will once again be computerized by Doug Norgord. The *Cheese Factory Map* will be rolled out in June at – what else – a cheese and wine tasting. Watch your local newspaper or the MHAHS *Facebook* for the date and time.

The third and fourth maps were also done by Merel Black. (We're convinced she hasn't slept all winter.) The *Churches Map* locates all the religious institutions, past and present, in Southwestern Dane county. The *Cemeteries Map* locates all the cemeteries. Once again we have Doug Norgord to thank for the computerized cartography. These two maps will be released in July at a cemetery walk and reception at an adjacent church. The date, time and place to be announced. Please watch your local newspaper or the MHAHS *Facebook* page for details.

The Churches Map and the Cemeteries Map are similar in format to the Cheese Factories Map. After clicking on an icon on the aerial map, you will see a page of information with current and historic photographs of churches or cemeteries. In addition, each page of the Churches Map has a "link" to the church's web site, if one exists. Each page of the Cemeteries Map has a link to a church with which it is (or was) affiliated, as well as a link to the international web site Find-A-Grave. In the near future, the Archives is producing a master list of all burials in our geographic area that will be available for genealogists.

All four maps are not only amazingly complete but also show the close relationship between all of these institutions. The social fabric of a rural community and surrounding small towns were based on their local school, church and, in our dairy area, the cheese factory. These maps help us see how often these organizations were built close together, giving otherwise isolated farms a sense of neighborhood and community. It also helps us to

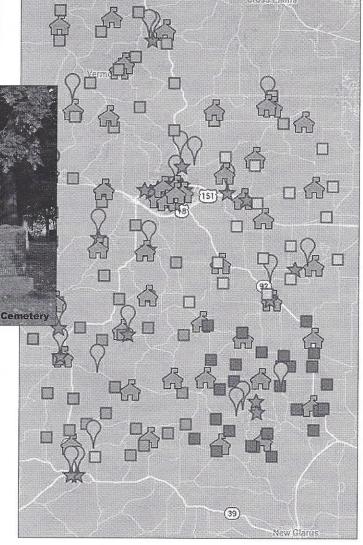




see how quickly the Driftless Area has changed.

We hope everyone enjoys using the maps as much as we have enjoyed putting them together. Any and all comments and additional information will be welcome via the MHAHS Facebook page.

And these are just a few of the projects that are ongoing at the Society's Archives. Come and join us! To volunteer contact Caitlin Besadny or Shan Thomas at mthorebarchives@mhtc.net or 608-437-6486.



Facsimile of interactive map

[14]

Artifacts Displayed at Meriter Hospital Open House

An unusual but interesting request came from the Meriter Hospital in Madison, where Mt. Horeb resident Kathy Hanna works. The final step of the renovations to both women's inpatient and outpatient units, the Center for Perinatal Care including a new high-tech ultrasound room, was near completion. Kathy was in on the planning for an open house to be held in January 2014.

She came to the Historical Society prior to the holidays with a request to put together displays of objects from different eras of the history of caring for expectant mothers-anything that related to pregnancy and birthing.

Museum Director Laurie Boyden, with the help of Brian Bigler, searched the Society's collections finding an astonishing amount and assortment of equipment, instruments and devices that had a connection to the requested subject. Some of which were quite shocking and strange and some that were not much different from those used today.

Laurie, Kathy and her husband, Jeff, transported and set up the artifact displays in two of the brand new examining rooms. Open house guests were invited to tour the facility and most everyone stopped in to view the fascinating look back at early medical equipment. Appreciation for the exhibit was heard throughout the night.

Many of the artifacts chosen for the exhibits came from two early area doctors. Dr. Marriott Morrison's medical equipment used in his West Main Street practice dated between the late 1900s-1959. Dr. Homer Buckner came in 1918 and then opened a 22-bed hospital at 408 East Main St. from 1922 until 1940.

Items in the exhibit donated by Elmer and Norma Baker whos triplet girls were born at Madison General Hospital (now Meriter) in 1955 were a can opener and photo of the girls with stacks of milk cans, a photo with Dr. Carter and a milk pasteurizer. Other objects included an unusual "Sanitary Doll" used for nursing school students to teach





Top photo of exhibit displaying 1880-1920 artifacts, middle displaying 1930-1960 and below display of crib from Mt. Horeb Hospital with "Sanitary Doll"

pediatric clinical skills, an ether can with mask, sterilizers, nurses uniforms, baby scales, baby bottles and a hospital crib.

The Meriter staff was thrilled with the exhibit and graciously donated \$500 to the Historical Society in appreciation.



Past Times - April 2014

Museum Tours Go On Throughout the Year

Despite the weather and off-season for the museum, tours are still scheduled throughout the winter months. A variety of groups toured recently with each one having a unique reason for their visit.

The PALS (Play Activity Learning and Service) home school students visited in November. The students ranged in age from 4 to 11. Their curriculum was launching off into history classes. They all found a great deal of interest and inspiration from the local history of Southwestern Dane County.

Early in February the staff from the Cave of the Mounds visited the museum. They were especially interested in the "Natural Wonders" exhibit currently in the Centennial Gallery. The cave's one of the area's most prominent natural wonders and has a significant part in the exhibit. The group was looking ahead to its upcoming 75th anniversary of the discovery of the local landmark and how it was displayed in the exhibit with the many enlarged historical photographs and archival materials.

Residents from the Sterling House of Middleton were finally able to visit on a sunny day later in February after several cancellation dates due to weather. The group came by the recommendation of a former Mt. Horeb resident, Anita Hanneman Gurda, who left the area after marrying in 1943 and now resides at the Sterling House. Their special



Sterling House of Middleton visits the museum in February; Anita Hanneman Gurda (seated on left)

interests were to see the china painting pieces housed in the museum collections that were created by Anita's mother Hazel Hanneman and the "Natural Wonders" exhibit. Fred Hanneman, Anita's father, was an early music director at the high school and was later involved in the development of the Cave of the Mounds. On the way out of town, the group drove by Anita's childhood home on East Main Street. capping off an enjoyable day of history and reminiscing.

2014 Museum Volunteer Sign-up Open to All Interested

The Mt. Horeb Area Museum will be opening on Friday, May 2, 2014. We are looking forward to another great year of visitors and welcoming back past and new volunteers to help make their visit to the museum and the history of Southwestern Dane County a memorable experience.

The sign-up meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday**, **April 23 at 10 a.m.** Volunteer scheduled time will remain the same, a few hours once a month on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday from May until December. Once again, we hope to be 100 percent open this season so we'd like to fill as many spots as possible.

If unfortunately you are unable to make it, give me a call at 437-8901 and let me pencil you in. If your time is limited and you still want to help out, substitutes are always needed to fill in when something comes up for a scheduled volunteer, so please do sign up.

We are always in need of additional volunteers!

Get the word out about the sign-up meeting to anyone interested in volunteering and have them join us on April 23. If they are unable to attend have them contact me for information.

We appreciate the time you set aside to help us out throughout the year. See you soon!!

Laurie Boyden Mount Horeb Area Museum, Director and Volunteer Coordinator 608-437-6486 or 437-8901 (home) mthorebmuseum@mhtc.net

News from the Archives

Please Welcome Caitlin Besadny, the New Photograph Curator

Caitlin joins the MHAHS staff with great skills and enthusiasm. She is a 2012 Anthropology and Museum Studies grad from Beloit College and has been volunteering with us, nearly full time since last September.

We are fortunate to be able to utilize her computer expertise and unending patience to complete the cataloging of the MHAHS Archives' 15,000 photographic images. Caitlin will finish this project sometime before she is 50 – she hopes. It will be an outstanding resource for researchers in Southwestern Dane County and beyond.

Please Join Friends on the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society *Facebook* Page

https://www.facebook.com/mthorebhistory

The Society opened a *Facebook* account two years ago and since that time changes have made *Facebook* more interactive.

You can now post photos to the page and see what friends have to say. Don't know who the man third from the left is in that family group? Put it up on the Society's Facebook page and see if someone can't give you a clue. Wonder when a photo was taken? Put it on the Facebook page and one of the Society's Archivists may be able to tell you.

Historic photos from the Society's collection will also go on regularly with fun facts or as mystery photos. Keep in touch and see the past unfold.

The Society's *Facebook* page is both entertaining and enlightening, the perfect Sunday afternoon past time for a grandchild and a grandparent.

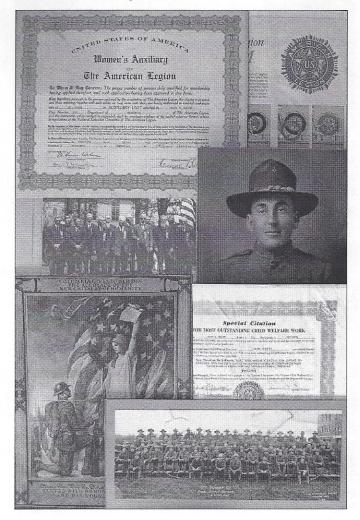
Check out the *Facebook Cover Photo Contest* going on right now. Your image could be the one chosen. Become a *Friend* today and then pass the word.

Volunteers Needed in the Archives

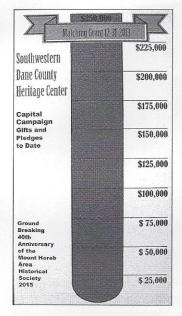
We are working on several exciting new projects and need your help. Volunteers can drop into the archives on the 3rd floor of the Municipal Building on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 11-4 and stay for as long as they'd like. We need help cataloging and describing photos, making inventories, and working on any projects you are interested in! Before dropping in, please email or call in case we're out of the office during the scheduled hours. Please contact Caitlin Besadny, Photographs Curator mthorebarchives@mhtc.net for more information. Thank you!

Recently Gifted Collection

The archives received records and photographs of American Legion, Frank E. Malone Post #113 ranging from 1918-2007 and all records of the Post's Women's Auxiliary from 1920-2012.



Past Times - April 2014 10

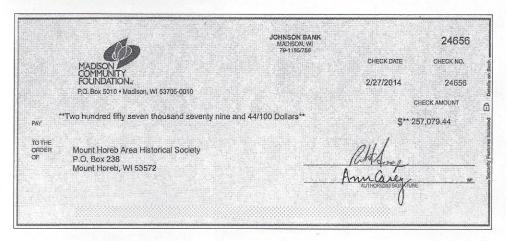


We Did It!

Through the efforts of more than 200 individuals the Historical Society met the challenge grant established by Steve and Marianne Schlecht early in 2013. The Schlechts established an account at the Madison Community Foundation where the money was held. In March the funds amounting to \$257,079.44 that included interest were turned over to the Historical Society.

The Schlechts' generous offer, combined with sizable gifts from Jim Kalscheur of UW Provision and Pleasant T. Rowland of the Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation, along with dozens of contributions from area businesses, organizations, members and friends, brought the year's total beyond \$800,000.

The Fundraising Committee is now focused on grant writing and is moving forward on the additional \$1 million needed to begin construction on the Southwestern Dane County Heritage Center. The Fundraising Committee and the Board of Directors extend a big thank you for your continued interest and support of the project.



April 2014 newsletter contributors: Caitlin Besadny, Brian Bigler, Laurie Boyden, Jane Burns, Shan Thomas; edited by Jane Burns with current photography by Laurie Boyden; historic photos and archival materials from the collections of the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society

Annual Membership in the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society

	New Member	Renewal	
	Name		
	Address		
All the second	City		State Zip Code
	Phone ()	E-mail	
Membership 1	Levels (Renewal to be paid annu	ally in January)	
\$20 Indiv	vidual \$35 Household	\$75 Contributing	\$150 Sustaining \$500 Patron
Additional D	onations To:	These levels will be ack	nowledged annually in the year end newsletter
Museum/Soci	iety Operations \$	Contingency Fund \$	Building Fund \$

Mail to: Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society, 138 East Main St., Mt. Horeb, WI 53572 All contributions are tax deductible.

Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society 138 E. Main St. Mt. Horeb, WI 53572-2195 www.mthorebhistory.org

Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society Board of Directors

Capital

Campaign

Committee

Brian Bigler

Karla Ott

Larry Kruckman

Darlene Nowak

Tony Zalucha

Steering

Brian J. Bigler-President Tony Zalucha-Vice President Ruth Haglund-Secretary Bill Thousand-Treasurer

Jane Burns Johnna Buysse Marlyn Grinde (Honorary) Shirley Martin Doug Nesheim

Darlene Nowak
Peter Riphahn
Lee Underwood
Connie Jo Zwettler

Connie Jo Zwettler

Curators:

Caitlin Besadny-Photographs

Marietta Gribb-Costumes, Textiles, Dolls

Marlyn Grinde Donna Read-Archeology

Lee Underwood

Operations:

Laurie Boyden-Museum Director/Newsletter Jane Burns-Newsletter Editor Shan Thomas-Archivist (for appt. 437-1147)

Archives Hours:

Archival Collections Research/Drop off Mondays Noon-4:00 Museum Collections Research/Drop-off 2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month 12:30-3:00 3rd floor of the Municipal Building 138 E. Main St., Mt. Horeb, WI 608-437-6486

Mt. Horeb Area Museum and Shop Open May - December Hours: Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday 12:30 p.m. - 4 p.m. 100 S. 2nd Street, Mt. Horeb, WI Free Admission

An Exciting Opportunity

The Historical Society has created several new committees giving those interested an exciting opportunity to use their unique talents to help. Contact the committee chair for more information and ways that you can give of your time and talents.

Capital Campaign Steering Committee

Fundraising for the Southwestern Dane County Heritage Center Tony Zalucha 437-4792

Finance/Executive Committee

Manage expenditures and Society departments Tony Zalucha 437-4792 or Bill Thousand 437-7730

Membership Committee

Create awareness of the Society and increase and maintain its membership

Doug Nesheim 437-5346

Program Committee

Develop and follow through with public programming highlighting Southwestern Dane County history for the Society and museum Brian Bigler 437-7776

Project Steering Committee

Coordinate building project details and work with tradespeople

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2014!

F. Y. I. FOR CURRENT MEMBERS: Your membership expiration date is printed on the mailing label of this newsletter. Please check to see if you are up to date through Jan. 15 or beyond. If not, your membership is due. Please fill out the form on page 11 and send it with your payment. We appreciate your renewal and don't want you to miss a single issue of our newsletter or any important information about Historical Society events.