

Mt. Horeb Past Times

March 2016

A Publication of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

Driftless Historium Will Soon Be a Reality – If Generous Challenge Grant Is Met: MHAHS Asks for Support to Reach \$300,000 Mark

A generous foundation has guaranteed the balance of funds necessary for construction of the Driftless Historium campus, with a summer 2016 groundbreaking... if the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society raises \$300,000 for an operational expenses fund by May 15, 2016.

This exciting opportunity—dubbed, simply, “The Final Challenge,” applies to new donations received after January 1, 2016. The gift is also conditioned on the MHAHS’s continued growth of programming, education and outreach in addition to the preservation of artifacts and archives – as well as a summer 2016 groundbreaking.

With a construction and renovation budget of \$1.7 million and projected annual operating costs of over \$140,000 for the new facility, the donor’s goal is to encourage support for several years of operations while relieving the pressures of simultaneously fundraising for bricks and mortar.

“It is incredible to find donors who are not only generous, but also completely sensitive to the economic



Artist's rendering of future Driftless Historium history campus.

realities that nonprofit organizations face. In considering not just the immediate needs for construction but also the Society’s long-term viability, this extraordinary act of kindness has the potential to move us months, even years, ahead in terms of what we can do for the community,” says Destinee Udelhoven, Executive Director.

Board President Tony Zalucha agrees, stating that meeting the Final Challenge and guaranteeing a summer groundbreaking “will not only drive tourism and economic development, but also increase the already-commendable quality of life in the Mount Horeb area.”

Capital Campaign Chair Karla Ott further notes that the challenge grant presents an opportunity for donors to maximize the impact of every dollar they donate: “This opportunity gives nearly a 3-to-1 benefit to donors: every dollar

designated for the operations fund will yield nearly three dollars for brick and mortar.”

If you choose to participate in the challenge grant, your contribution will be cumulative—meaning previous donors have the opportunity to receive a higher level of recognition. Of course, new financial partners are also needed to bring the history campus to a community-serving reality.

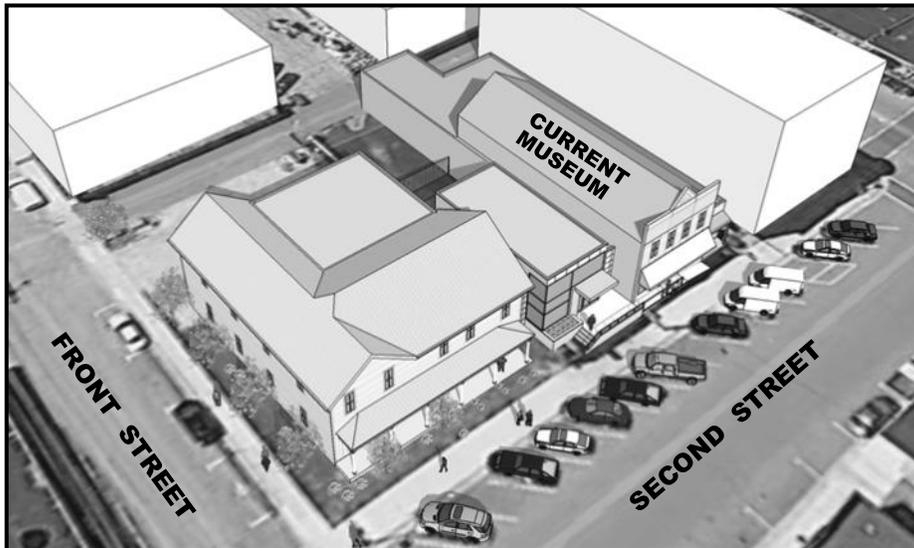
While pursuing the Driftless Historium’s Final Challenge, the Society’s Capital Campaign Committee will also continue grant-writing efforts to augment baseline project expenses. These grants will target monies for specific programming, exhibits and technology in the new facility.

For more information related to the Final Challenge, naming opportunities and upcoming programs, please call 608-437-6486 or visit us at www.mthorebhistory.org.

**SPECIAL
FINAL CHALLENGE
ISSUE**

New Vision, New Museum Name: MHAHS Moves Forward with Campus Concept for *Driftless Historium*

After concept approval by the Village of Mount Horeb Planning/Historic Preservation Commission and a name change for their future museum, the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society is moving forward with a campus concept for its new multipurpose, community-centered downtown facilities.



The original plans called for keeping the current Museum building at 100 S Second Street and constructing a 15,000 square foot Heritage Center at the corner of South Second and Front Streets for storage, public space and research facilities. In September a donor provided funds to purchase the Troll Inn [see page 7 for more info], which would have separated the two structures.

After the Society acquired the property, they invited State Historic Preservation Officer Jim Draeger to determine the historical significance of the structure. Mr. Draeger deemed its historical integrity to be very much compromised by decades of architectural alterations and multiple uses and, as a result, not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Based on this professional assessment and much internal discussion, the Society feels demolishing the Troll Inn will best serve the organization’s future needs – and will provide a welcome facelift to this high-traffic village block.

The new concept calls for a connector of glass and reclaimed brick. This connector will join the current Museum, which will be reconfigured for accessible bathrooms, a meeting/multipurpose room and exhibits, with the new building that will house a research room, environmentally sound collections storage, a special exhibit area, offices and a workroom. The new building will still replicate the exterior of the Mount Horeb House that formerly stood on the site. The connector will serve as the main entrance, gift shop and restroom area.

Feedback from Museum Consultant Peter Dajevskis underscored the Society’s enthusiasm for the new use of the Troll Inn lot. With decades of experience in the field, he was “thrilled to see the modernist solution that provides access to the gift shop through a contemporary structure.” Furthermore, Mr. Dajevskis noted that the connector, Museum and Mount Horeb House elements provided a harmonious architectural scheme that “subliminally tells the visitor (through the form of the building) that the museum and the Society as an institution are serving our century. The wings to the left and to the right read as historic visitor experiences to be discovered.”

With the new concept comes a new name. MHAHS voted at its November meeting to adopt a new, more current moniker for the campus:

“The Driftless Historium.”

This name was carefully crafted to emphasize the centrality and impact of the area’s unique landscape on its human history.



Conceptual design to assist internal discussion; final logo design now in progress.

Society members are now working with an experienced graphic designer on related logo and signage imagery

that will be formulated with an eye for appealing to a wide audience base.

Contact Executive Director Destinee Udelhoven at 437-6486 or at mthorebhistory@mhtc.net for more information.

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society Looks to Collaborative, Community-Centered Future

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society has long been known for collecting, preserving and exhibiting the artifacts and stories that shaped the world we all live in today. Recently, MHAHS made a conscious decision to increase outreach and collaborative partnerships to shine light on this shared history and encourage a sense of community.

In the past year, MHAHS has worked with the Mount Horeb Area School District to better align school tours with curriculum, co-sponsored a speaker series with the Mount Horeb Public Library, hosted UW-Madison Material Culture students in artifact-based research projects, engaged UW-Madison Marketing Management students in increasing organizational awareness, collaborated with a UW-Milwaukee Museum Studies student on an education internship, co-hosted a regional public history meeting with the Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation, worked with Cub Scout Pack 62 to provide enrichment opportunities, benefitted from Evangelical Lutheran Church youth volunteer week, and worked with the Friends of Donald and Stewart Parks on mutual promotional endeavors.



Mount Horeb High School Seniors Ross and Aaron Gandolph and Marta Cantrell scan historic photographs from the MHAHS collection. This important volunteer project will make these images eventually available to offsite researchers, while also protecting them from frequent future handling and subsequent light damage.

Additionally, the Society recently established a relationship with Mount Horeb High School in which technologically-savvy students Ross and Aaron Gandolph and Marta Cantrell, under the guidance of teacher Mary McDonough-Sutter, digitally scan historic photographs. Their efforts will make these often one-of-a-kind images accessible to genealogists, historians and others, without exposing the original prints to potentially harmful handling and damaging light. McDonough-Sutter and her students might also visit local senior living facilities, to request assistance in solving the mysteries of unidentified photographs with the help of longtime area residents.

MHAHS strongly believes such relationships are mutually beneficial. With limited staff, MHAHS relies on volunteers to preserve and share the rich history of Southwestern Dane County. The volunteers, interns and collaborators receive knowledge, opportunity and sometimes college credit. Additionally, being surrounded by, interacting with and learning from artifacts and archival materials creates a sense of previously unrealized community. The documents and voices of history cannot help but impress upon one a sense of insight, understanding and, often, camaraderie with those who came before us.

MHAHS looks forward to continuing and increasing community and regional partnerships in their new home – the Driftless Historium history campus. Plans for this facility, to be located in downtown Mount Horeb, reflect a mindful effort to better serve a range of audiences and community-minded functions.

The future Driftless Historium will feature a variety of user-friendly spaces, including: a research room with local history library that will greatly increase accessibility to MHAHS’s 25,000 artifacts, 20,000 photos and other documents; two exhibit galleries; a ground-level collections workroom for projects like Ross, Aaron and Marta are undertaking; and a sizeable and well-equipped multipurpose room where Scouts, seniors, students and the general public can partake in onsite innovative and inspiring educational opportunities-with adjoining catering-accessible kitchenette.

Crucial Property Purchase Helps MHAHS Expand Plans

On Wednesday, September 30, 2015 MHAHS officially took possession of the former Troll Inn building, located at 102 S. Second Street in Mount Horeb. Made possible by a generous and visionary anonymous donor specifically for this purpose, the transaction was completed without the use of any previously raised funds.

This key purchase will make it possible to connect and utilize the two Second Street lots already owned by the Society, maximizing the efficiency of the planned new museum and allow for future growth.

In addition to the Troll Inn purchase, MHAHS has also taken other steps this year to ensure the best facility possible within a realistic budget; a facility that honors the time and knowledge contributed by decades of Society volunteers, that respects the investments of donors and that contributes an enticing visitor destination to the village and region.

This process included a 2015 spring series of community listening sessions. Between February and May, MHAHS hosted six such sessions across Southwestern Dane County, including stops in Mount Horeb, Blue Mounds, Perry, Pine Bluff, Vermont and Springdale.

Via these sessions, valuable feedback was collected that helped us grasp how people outside the organization view the Society (as a “hidden gem” that safeguards the area’s historical treasures) and what they hope the new facility will accomplish (continued care of a growing repository of invaluable local history artifacts and archival materials, continued and increased inclusion of constituencies outside Mount Horeb itself, increased public programming for all age groups and a physical space designed to accommodate both

tourist traffic and researchers).

The Society also contracted with Museum Consultant Peter Dajevskis of accomplished public history firm Interpretive Solutions (which has worked with Harpers Ferry Historic Site and American Swedish Historical Museum in Philadelphia, among many others across the country) to complete a review process of the Heritage Center project. The Society tasked Peter with evaluating the project objectives and preliminary plans from the perspective of a longtime museum professional and heritage tourism expert.

After intensive meetings with Society staff, Board members and key volunteers, Peter produced a report documenting his recommendations. Major points an emphasis on and visitor patterns, while keeping in mind the capabilities of a limited staff. Peter also provided guidance in evaluating the new facility’s climate control – perhaps the most crucial, and certainly the most expensive, element of a building intended to warehouse one-of-a-kind artifacts.

Based on the community listening sessions and Mr. Dajevskis direction, the Society then set about crafting a complete and updated list of “needs” and secondary “wants” – a list that looks very different than it might have just a year ago, due the addition of professional staff and the accompanying increased capabilities for educational programming, expanded museum hours and public access for researchers and academics.

The new “campus” concept facility made possible by the Troll Inn purchase will incorporate the functions and spaces that the project has touted since the beginning: climate-

controlled artifact and archival storage, public research room and library, work space for volunteers and staff, comfortable and attractive room for public programs and use by community groups, and an income-generating museum store.

But vital shifts in room sizes and adjacencies and construction details have emerged that fit our current needs and the economic realities of ongoing operational expenses.



MHAHS President Tony Zalucha signs the paperwork officially transferring the title of the Troll Inn property (shown below) to the Society.



The Board of Directors unanimously approved the finalized list, or architectural program in July and officially re-engaged our architect, Mount Horeb native Bruce Roth, to amend our previous plans with our updated needs and the new opportunities presented by the Troll Inn acquisition.

Troll Inn's Colorful Past to Live on in Historium

Always a place for socializing, 102 South Second Street's next call of duty is to serve as the main entrance, welcome center and gift shop for the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society's Driftless Historium campus.

An everyman's institution since 1930, the Troll Inn's hardworking past is a convoluted tale of incarnations, owners and management changes. The charmingly nondescript brick building has served Mount Horeb as a bowling alley, tavern, fish fry destination, after-softball hangout and, most recently, as a "Husband Daycare Center."

The brick structure, categorized architecturally as an astylistic utilitarian building, was built in 1930 by Vernon Hermann specifically to serve as a bowling alley. Later owners included Corella Hermann Comiskey, Bud and Hazel Hermann, Curtis Chilson, Joseph Piquette and, most recently, Linda and Tom Mc Cullick.

Many longtime villagers fondly remember the 1950s and '60s era of "Corella's Alleys," the site of one of Mount Horeb's first bowling establishments— long before the existence of the venerable Norsk Golf Bowl.

Of course, bowling was a bit more strenuous in those days—at least for the pin setters. Before widespread mechanization, young men were employed to manually set up the bowling pins. Larry Kruckman, who grew up in Mount Horeb and now serves on the MHAHS Board, fondly remembers his job as a pin setter at Corella's on Second Street.

Kruckman reminisces: "I recall many of us bowled and set pins in both [Corella's and Vasen's Lanes] and earned the princely sum of 11 cents a

game. Coaches recommended pin setting as a way to build upper body strength for some of the high school athletes. (The pins weighed 3 1/2 lbs each and you had to lift four at a time to keep up with the machines.) Apparently they were not concerned with the heavy haze of smoke during the men's leagues. The bonus was the pin setters could bowl for free before and after and of course we felt we were in bowler's heaven. Many of us became quite proficient."

Kruckman notes that later Corella's upgraded to Brunswick automatic pin setters, but Vasen's Lanes (once west of Schubert's Restaurant on Main Street) still used pin setters into the 1960s. In retrospect, he marvels that "the machines seemed ancient!"

With a background steeped in such rich community folklore, Director Destinee Udelhoven and Curator Johnna Buysse were initially excited about the prospect of rehabbing the Troll Inn building. Unfortunately,

interior inspection revealed decades of alteration and mounting disrepair. MHAHS then sought the counsel of State Historic Preservation Officer Jim Draeger. After a Nov. 2015 site visit, Mr. Draeger confirmed that the property's structural and historical integrity were too compromised to afford the building recognition on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although the building will be removed to accommodate the Driftless Historium's main public entrance, the Society hopes to salvage as many components and memories as possible. MHAHS was generously gifted several artifacts by Troll Inn owner Lind Mc Cullick that hold the history of its watering hole days, including the kitschy "Husband Daycare Center" sign, a leather Duluth Trading Company dice cup and a well-worn bar stool. It is also hoped that the original bowling alley floor sections that remain may find new life in some form.



Vernon Hermann (forefront), stands behind the bar at 102 S Second St in Mount Horeb in 1930, the same year he constructed the building as a bowling alley. A sign in the background reading "Recreation Hall" led to the alleys. (Photo courtesy Sandra Roth.)

March 15, 2016

Dear Friend of History,

Greetings from the MHAHS Capital Campaign Committee!
 After two successful years of fundraising, 2015 ended with a bang.
 An anonymous donor presented this exciting challenge:
“Raise \$300,000 for future operations between Jan. 1 and May 15, 2016 and I will provide the remaining funds necessary to construct and furnish the \$1.7 million Driftless Historium campus.”

This Final Challenge offers a nearly 3-to-1 match; each dollar raised for operations yields almost three dollars of brick and mortar funds. The new building is assured while a solid foundation for future operations is simultaneously established.

I invite you to read the many updates in this newsletter. This is a truly exciting time for the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society, not only in terms of the exciting Final Challenge, but also in terms of outreach, collaboration and programming—all while maintaining and developing our acclaimed collection.

To meet this challenge we have sent out general mailings and personalized letters, met face to face with donors, and are pursuing grants. **As of the date of this letter, over \$210,000 of the \$300,000 goal has been gratefully received, including over \$100,000 from first time donors!** But we can't rest now—we only have a few short weeks in which to meet our goal and make the Historium a reality.

Please join in supporting this tremendous opportunity and help us spread the word. A donation form can be found on the opposite back of this page. If you have already donated, please pass it on to a friend knowing you have our deepest thanks.

In historical fellowship,

Karla J. Ott

Karla J. Ott
 Capital Campaign Committee Chair



MHAHS Driftless Historium Capital Campaign Committee and Staff (L to R): Director Destinee Udelhoven, Karla Ott, John Swartz, Tony Zalucha, Curator Johnna Buysse and Larry Kruckman. (Andy Burkart not pictured.)

EVOLUTION of the DRIFTLESS HISTORIUM

Through 2013	• Plans developed for Southwestern Dane County Heritage Center; Lot at corner of Second and Front Streets purchased.
Early 2014	• Steve & Marianne Schlecht \$250K challenge commences; Kalscheur Family Foundation \$100K donation received.
Dec 2014	• Schlecht challenge grant met! • First ever Executive Director starts work at MHAHS.
Mar 2015	• Museum Consultant hired to review facility program and plans.
April 2015	• Project Committee begins contractor selection process. • Six Community Listening Sessions in process.
Aug 2015	• Anonymous donor offers funds to purchase Troll Inn, which separates the planned Heritage Center and the current Museum.
Oct 2015	• MHAHS buys Troll Inn at 102 S 2nd St—initiating streamlined "campus concept" and subsequent overhaul of facility plans.
Nov 2015	• After serious consideration and multiple meetings, name of project changed to MHAHS Driftless Historium.
Dec 2015	• Anonymous donor steps forward with Final Challenge!
May 2016	• Jan 1- May 15, 2016: Final Challenge Capital Campaign ensures solid foundation (literally and financially) for Society's future.
July 2016	• Driftless Historium project breaks ground.
Early Summer 2017	• Grand Opening of NEW Driftless Historium campus.

Driftless Historium Capital Campaign

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

The Final Challenge

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society (MHAHS) invites you to meet the final challenge for the Driftless Historium, (previously the Southwestern Dane County Heritage Center). A generous partner has offered the remaining funds to construct the Historium if MHAHS raises \$300,000 for future operations by May 15, 2016. The challenge provides a nearly 3-to-1 match for every new dollar raised.

Construction will commence July 2016. Revised plans provide for a hospitable, attractive campus to preserve and showcase our collection of over 50,000 artifacts and archival items, encourage discussion and appreciation of the Driftless Area, and promote respect and understanding of regional history. Formal and informal learning are present in every aspect of the Historium, from exhibits to research areas, to the museum store and multipurpose space.

Please partner with us in meeting this remarkable challenge, and make the Driftless Historium a reality. It is truly a gift that benefits generations to come!

Contributions are cumulative, previous donors will receive higher recognition levels with an additional donation. New financial partners are needed and always welcomed.

Donor Recognition Levels

Historian	\$50,001 to \$100,000	Friend	\$5,001 to \$10,000
Donor	\$35,001 to \$50,000	Docent	\$1,001 to \$5,000
Founder	\$20,001 to \$35,000	Contributor	\$501 to \$1,000
Researcher	\$10,001 to \$20,000	Associate	\$101 to \$500
	Supporter		\$25 to \$100

All gifts are greatly appreciated. Gifts over \$1,000 will be permanently recognized. Additional recognition levels available for those interested in investing greater than \$100,000; ask to learn more about a broad range of naming opportunities.

Any gift may be designated as a memorial. Please call (608) 437-6486 for more information.

MHAHS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit entity and, as such, your donation is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

I/We will support the MHAHS Driftless Historium Final Challenge as follows:

- Via enclosed check (please note "Driftless Historium" on the memo line).
- Via a qualified charitable distribution from my IRA (must be age 70 ½ or older)*; or
- Via transfer of stock, securities or in-kind items *

*Please call (608) 437-6486 for more information or to make arrangements to complete a transfer on or before May 15, 2016. PayPal donations may be made at www.mhorebhistory.org.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Preferred Telephone _____

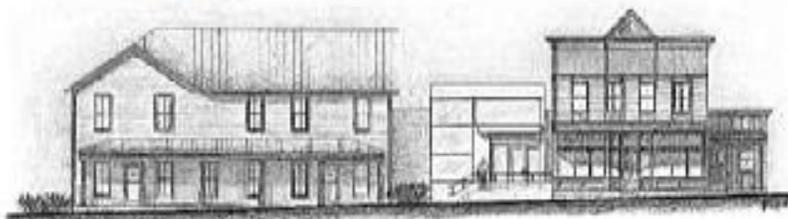
Email _____

I wish my gift to be recognized as follows: _____
(name(s) exactly as you wish them to be seen in print)

I wish my gift to be anonymous.

Please mail to:

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 238
Mount Horeb, WI 53572





Anna and Amy Haadem. Photo from *The Historic Perry Norwegian Settlement* (1994). Original caption reads: "Amy and Anna Haadem are the longest continuous residents in Daleyville. The twins moved, as children with their parents, from farm 4 in the Forward School District to house 2 in Daleyville 75 years ago. They still live in that house."

MHAHS Grateful Beneficiary of Haadem Planned Giving

When Anna and Amy Haadem undertook their estate planning they included the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society as a beneficiary and the Society recently received their generous gift. Anna died in December 2014 at the impressive age of 103 and her twin sister Amy died on March 19, 2000. The twins were born to Sever and Marie (Hill) Haadem on September 16, 1914, and the close-knit sisters lived together in the family home at Daleyville for all of Amy's life and most of Anna's.

Over the past 40 years the Haadem twins gifted to the Historical Society many personal objects that belonged to them and their parents, including their matching set of baby spoons.

"The twins were always a delight to work with, and whenever the Society needed information on the activities of the early Hauge Church they were the go-to ladies," recalls former MHAHS President Brian Bigler.

Amy and Anna Haadem, with their proud Daleyville connections and high regard for the Society, were true patrons of local history who understood the resources it takes to indefinitely preserve and make publically available the artifacts and documents that capture our past.

MHAHS receives no public funding and relies in large part on generous contributions, grants and bequests. Remembering us in your will both ensures that your own needs will come first and that your support for MHAHS will be permanent-and is simple to accomplish with the help of an attorney. Call us at 608-437-6486 for more information; of course, we pledge to keep all related information secure and confidential and to be a good steward of all gifts.

A RARE FIND

One might think that with a collection of over 20,000 regional photographs, MHAHS has a little something of everything. Yet we are continually surprised by the rare images that make their way to us. Such is the case with this discovery in a box donated recently by Mary (Syverud) Harden of Florida.

This detail of a stereoscope card created by DeForest photographer Andrew Dahl around 1865 depicts the building known regionally as the "Prestegaarden." This is the home where Reverend Broodahl lived while serving the congregations of Springdale, North and South Blue Mounds, and Perry until 1860.

In 1931 Andrew Syverud wrote on the back: "Pictured from left brother Knudt Jr., mother, myself in high chair, father, grandma, brother Nels, aunt Marie and brother Thore sitting on ground."

Dahl traveled from farm-to-farm and town-to-town photographing Wisconsin's immigrants. To prove their new social standing, he often posed his subjects with their latest and best household goods. In this case the Syverud family chose a sewing machine, likely a recent acquisition.



Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Nancy Thousand!

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

I would say “Jill of all trades.” I like variety and learning so I’m happy to do whatever needs doing. On a regular basis I write database entries for the photograph collection and scan the photos into the database so they are available online. I also work in the museum gift shop and greet visitors. Currently I’m helping to get ready for our awesome estate sale on April 9-10.

How long have you volunteered for the Society?

I’m a “newbie!” I started late last summer and have worked about 6 months. I’m really enjoying it.

What is your favorite part of volunteering?

I’m fascinated by the old photographs and artifacts. Looking at the photos is like stepping into another world. I assisted in setting up a toy display for Christmas. Opening up the archive boxes to find the toys was magical. I really enjoy working with the staff and volunteers. I’ve learned so much from them. I also enjoy talking to our museum visitors. They often share fascinating family history stories.

Who or what got you interested?

I had read a couple of interesting articles in the local paper and Society newsletters, and then I attended that awesome Civil War band concert last summer. My brother [Bill Thousand, who serves as MHAHS treasurer] gave me a little push (the first step is always the hardest!) and I signed up.

Tell us about your family.

The Thousands had farms on County Road F, south of Blue Mounds for multiple generations (the original German name was Tausand). My Irish/Scotch grandmother grew up in Madison but came to her as a young school teacher. My Bohemian mother’s family farmed west of here but lost their farm in the Depression after their house burned down. My parents met in Mt Horeb. Mother was working for my dad’s aunt for room and board while going to high school. Shortly after they married, Dad went into the World War II Army infantry and Mom worked in a munitions factory. After the war, they took over the farm and stayed until 1957, then moved to Madison. I was the youngest of six children. Two of brothers live in Mount Horeb, the rest in Madison. They have numerous children and grandchildren.



And your education and vocational background?

I received a bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering with a minor in computers from UW-Madison. I worked 12 years in the aerospace industry in Southern California. My first project was testing software for the Space Shuttle. Later, I moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa and managed engineering projects on military Global Positioning System (GPS) applications. Eventually I managed an engineering team. After a medical incident, I took early retirement and moved back to Wisconsin. I ran a small business for awhile and remodeled an old house. I enjoy numerous hobbies and interests.

Why is Mount Horeb area the best place on Earth?

I love the small town feel while still enjoying the efficient services and nice mix of businesses. It seems to embrace both the old and the new in a nice balance. I love being close to wonderful parks and wild places. The Driftless Area is so beautiful and rich! It’s nice to be near Madison without the big city hassles. I love the local festivals and activities like the local farmers market. I really appreciate our amazing public library and first-rate local paper and of course our outstanding Historical Society! I’m grateful for the warm and generous people.

Got time to give and talents to spare?

Preparations for the transition to the Driftless Historium are in full swing—and it’s all hands on deck as MHAHS enters a new chapter in our own history. Call (608) 437-6486 to learn more about current volunteer opportunities.



University Partnerships Do MHAHS Proud

A Study in Material Culture

Eight graduate students from UW-Madison Professor Ann Smart Martin's Fall 2015 Material Culture AH865 class were given the challenge to apply their course title ("Things: Making, Consuming, Remembering and Subverting") to objects in the Society's collections. Each student chose an artifact from the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society's vast collection and researched its historical, cultural and social connections.

Under the supervision and direction of Curator Johnna Buysse and Volunteer Curator Brian Bigler (who has helped shape MHAHS's collections since its 1975 inception), the students examined and photographed their artifact and combed the Society archives for information about its owner and maker. They then placed



Volunteer Curator Brian Bigler introduces AH865 student Joanna Wilson to her object of study, a kubbestol that formerly resided at local destination, Little Norway.

this research in the larger context of American history and culture – leading to intriguing and new connections. The students' findings underscored the value of the Society's ongoing efforts to preserve these irreplaceable remnants of American history.

The article will briefly summarize the work of several students in the class, including Jessica Frantel, Lau-

rel Miller, Sarah O'Farrell, Allison Roberts, and Alex Leme.

Jessica Frantel's paper, "The Blessed Virgin Never Made Ammunition" was based on a work uniform worn at Badger Ordnance Works by Dorothy Mickelson, a 22 year old farm girl from Blue Mounds. Badger Ordnance was the largest plant of its type in the world in 1944 when Mickelson took employment there.

Dorothy's unassuming keepsake from WWII revealed the stories of the women who worked the ammunition plant at the height of the war. The major discovery of this story is that the coveralls and hat are most likely the only known example in existence as the women were not allowed to even take them home for mending or washing and all were thought to have been destroyed after the war.

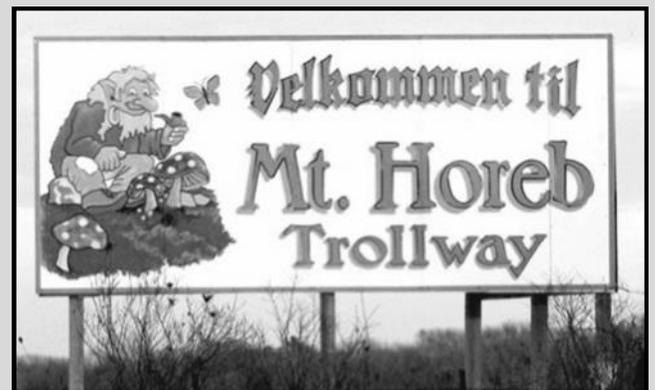
(Article continued on page 11)

Uncovering the Origins of the Trollway

Sam Gee, a student of the University of Wisconsin recently used the Society's archive as a main source of information for his fall semester history class. "The "Trollway" of Mount Horeb, Wisconsin: A Critical Environmental History" is the title of his finished work.

Sam gives an impressive, enlightening and well researched version of the development of the Trollway theme adopted by the Chamber of Commerce in the 1980s. He sets the context that originally led to this theme back in the 1940s with the introduction of the "Portal to Wonderland" moniker created by the Chamber at that time.

The main thesis of his paper revolves around the discovery of the Cave of the Mounds in 1939 and its



influence on the various themes used since. His paper also includes a well-researched basis for how Mount Horeb sees itself, and promotes itself, to a larger audience both historically and currently while mindful of the economic benefits.

Sam's paper is on file at the MHAHS archives and available to share with visiting patrons.

("Material Culture" cont. from page 10)

Laurel Miller's paper "Making a Home for Debbie" researched one of the Society's most precious artifacts, a doll said to have belonged to Victoria Wisconsin Peck (1838-1922) the first white child born in Dane County. The doll fondly named Debbie was donated to the MHAHS by Mary Jane Wiecking in 1989.



"...a single object can tell many stories..."

*Laurel Miller
AH865 Fall 2015*

Miller took an in-depth look at the families that have cared for Debbie through her many years, the origins of her story and the "making of romantic history." Regarding Debbie's display at the Historical Society's museum Laurel writes "she now serves as a symbol of collective Wisconsin History."

Sarah O'Farrell's paper, "Destiny, Domesticity, and Decoration: The Curious Life of Ella Mavis's Chair" takes on the story behind a decorated office-style chair donated by former Historical Society member and patron Ella Mavis (1901-1991). Ella donated her rose-mailed chair to the Society in 1989 and its unusual story was recorded into the record. Ella was a former nurse at the Mount Horeb Hospital and a patient as well. When the hospital upgraded she procured the simple oak chair that was used for removing tonsils at the hospital and had local folk artist, Oljana Cunneen rose-mailed the piece for use in her Mount Horeb home kitchen. Ella was very proud of this souvenir of local medical fame and would be equally proud of Sarah's research.

Allison A. Roberts picked two Norwegian trunks from the Little Norway collection for her paper titled "Migration through the Lens of Material Culture: Norwegian Emigrant Trunks." Allison's research not only reveals what regions in Norway the trunks derived from, but also the emotional connections that the immigrants to the Mount Horeb area held in these transportation vessels and their sentimental and practical contents. She writes "the immigrant's luggage, both the trunk and items they carried, became psychological as well as physical security."

Alex Leme's work is titled "A Family Legacy: Stereography as Gendered Expression and Markers of American History in Late Nineteenth Century." Alex looks at the role of the stereograph (a double image photograph) in the everyday lives of Victorian Americans, especially women, and connects this cultural phenomenon to the Donald family's stereopticon viewer and cards housed in the Historical Society's archive and museum collections. The Donalds were early settlers of Springdale Township and their massive collection of personal effects and papers is preserved by the Society. Alex demonstrates the commonality of mainstream American culture with that of a rural educated family such as the Donalds of Springdale Township. Alex gives clues in his chronological story of the Donald family as to their early desires of recording their family lineage in both the written and material cultural forms.

Sarah O'Farrell, Allison Roberts and another student, Kaylyn Gerenz were so impacted by this project that they, upon their own initiative, created a temporary art installation inspired by their relationships with their selected historic artifacts. The exhibit, "Reimagining the Domestic," was held at the Art Lofts building on the UW-Madison campus. Bigler, Buysse and Director Destinee Udelhoven had the opportunity to view the exhibit, and were humbled by the obvious (and beautifully executed) evidence of emotional impact that the MHAHS objects had imparted to Sarah, Allison and Kaylyn.

Then, on Jan 30, MHAHS hosted a public symposium to share the students' outstanding research and imaginative larger-world connections. "Secrets of Stuff" was held at the Mount Horeb Senior Center and featured presentations by six AH865 students. Over 55 attended.



Allison Roberts excitedly showed us the UW-Madison Art Lofts exhibit inspired by MHAHS's collection.

MHAHS looks forward to a continued relationship with Dr. Ann Smart Martin and the creative perspectives of her future students— and we didn't have long to wait! We are currently in the midst of another artifact research project with another batch of Smart Martin's protégés—and we can't wait to see what connections they bring to light!

Summary of Support & Giving

January 1 - December 31, 2015

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Summary of Support & Giving

January 1 - December 31, 2015

Thank you to all who supported MHAHS in 2015 - from our valued Members, to those who donated much appreciated funding or treasured, locally significant artifacts and documents, we exist for and because of you!

We strive to correctly recognize all who have given...but we know we are far from infallible. Please notify us immediately of any omissions or errors.

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MEM BER SHIP

Time to Renew Your Membership?

We want to keep you up-to-date on all MHAHS information, events and activities — if you haven't done so already, all it takes is a simple renewal of your annual membership!

With so much to report in this belated issue, the usual beginning-of-the-year membership renewal form will be instead included in the next issue of *Past Times*. Of course, feel free to pay your 2016 membership dues at any time, simply by sending your desired dues amount to: MHAHS, P.O. Box 238, Mt Horeb, WI 53572. [Categories include Individual @ \$20, Household @ \$35, Contributing @ \$75, Sustaining @ \$150 or Patron @ \$500.]

Not quite sure of your membership status? Want to learn more?

Call us today at (608) 437-6486.

Mount Horeb Area
Historical Society
& Museum

100 S. Second St.
P.O. Box 238
Mtount Horeb, WI 53572
www.mthorebhistory.org

Help Us Meet
The Final Challenge!
(Details Inside.)



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**All Proceeds Benefit the
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DRIFTLESS HISTORIUM History Campus.**

In December, MHAHS received notice that the heirs of the Kirking family of Lodi, Wisconsin were generously gifting the remaining contents of the farmstead home that had been in the family for more than 125 years.

The sale represents a nearly complete domestic ensemble. Some specific items include: a large multi-generational collection of vintage dolls and other toys from the 1930s -50s (some handmade), vintage clothing, needlework, trunks, beds, bureaus, jewelry, farm antiques, tables, chairs of all kinds, crocks and jugs, old canning jars, wicker baskets, kerosene and electric lamps, old garden tools, flower pots, old crates, glassware, egg gathering baskets, braided rugs, etc etc etc.

Mark your calendars now for this fun event for a great cause! For information, call (608) 437-6486.