

Driftless Historium

GRAND OPENING

To Feature Outdoor Concert Series, Sculpture Unveiling,
Free Ice Cream and MORE!

Wisconsin's newest cultural center, emphasizing the enduring connection between the unique Driftless landscape and those who've made their lives here, celebrates its Grand Opening with a family-friendly, outdoor, three-part concert series that traverses the history of music—from the charged songs of the Civil War, to the irresistibly danceable age of swing, ending with the energetic and irrepressible anthems of the 1960s that captivated the globe.

The daylong event begins with ribbon-cutting and welcoming remarks. Be on hand at 9:00a.m. to hear from MHAHS President John Swartz, Capital Campaign Chair Karla Ott and special guest Wisconsin Historical Society Ruth and Hartley Barker Director Dr. Ellsworth H. Brown.

The unveiling of the Historium's locally-commissioned sculpture will follow. This one-of-a-kind, six-foot tall, mixed-metal hanging sculpture, dubbed "The Driftless Sanctuary," was crafted by John Pahlas of Mount Horeb's Center Ground Studios and is featured in the soaring atrium of the museum's main entrance.

In addition, visitors that day will be among the first ever to peruse the history center's program and exhibit spaces and newly stocked museum store, and they can grab a free sample of the Historium's new and exclusive ice cream flavor.

Beginning June 3, 2017, the Driftless Historium will maintain regular hours through the summer season, Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. For more information, call (608) 437 - 6486 or visit www.driftlesshistorium.org.

WHAT Driftless Historium
GRAND OPENING,
fea. Musical Time Warp LIVE!

WHEN Sat, June 3, 2017
9am to 5pm

WHERE 100 S Second St, Mt Horeb, WI

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9am Ribbon-cutting,
Welcome Remarks
& Sculpture Unveiling

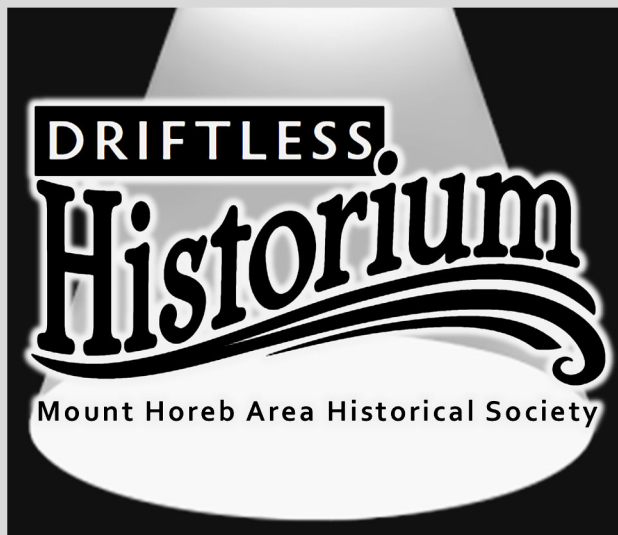
9am to 5pm Open House & Facility Tours,
Emporium Museum Store Open,
FREE Ice Cream Scoops
(while supplies last)

10am 1st Brigade Band, America's
Oldest Civil War Brass Band

1:30pm Ladies Must Swing

4pm Beatles Tribute Band,
w/ Ralph Kluseman & Friends

COST FREE and open to all.



BIG FUTURE, NEW LOGO

Of course, the **Mount Horeb Area Historical Society** is still who we are, legally and proudly. But we (and the community) have invested a lot of time and resources into establishing a new facility and identity to better serve our supporters and visitors—and our bottom line. This new venture is the **DRIFTLESS HISTORIUM**. This name was carefully crafted to move us into the future. "Driftless" reflects our core belief that the natural history and unique landscape of the Driftless area has consistently shaped and continues to influence our human story—or as we are fond of saying: "It all comes back to the land." And we truly believe it does. "Historium" is a fun and quirky mash-up of "History" and "Museum," that we hope will engage new and diverse audiences.

The new simple logo, shown here, was created by Baraboo-based graphic artist Mark Tully, and will be used in branding and marketing efforts for MHAHS's new history center.

Read More about the Driftless Historium's progress on page 2.

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society



AN UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We're almost there.....the new Driftless Historium is about to become a reality!

These words are music to the ears of the MHAHS Board of Directors, and particularly the Project Committee, chaired by Pete Riphahn and including Board members Doug Nesheim, John Swartz, Bill Thousand, as well as Director Destinee Udelhoven and Curator Johnna Buysse, along with our architect Bruce Roth. This committee has been meeting with Premier Building Solutions owners James Leuzinger and Scott Zahler, as well as Project Manager Tim Bogenschneider on a weekly basis for the past fourteen months or so, hashing out the innumerable details involved in a project of this magnitude.

The construction phase is nearly complete, with only a few small projects and finishing touches still underway. Some finishing work on the exterior of the original museum building [former Gilbertson's Hardware Store] will have to wait until warmer spring weather arrives, but the new facility is now occupancy-ready!

It's been a pleasure to work with Premier Building Solutions on this project. They have displayed patience and cooperation in working with a large group to arrive at mutually agreeable solutions. It's not easy to plan and construct a building by committee, and Premier has helped guide us through the process.

We are beginning the transition from construction to occupancy, and have our hands full with the multiple challenges of moving staff, archives and collections into a single facility. We are also modifying and constructing permanent and temporary exhibits, setting up the museum store (with ice cream counter!), and lining up volunteers for the summer season. We hope you'll consider volunteering, as we're anticipating a very busy season!

To say that the past year has been an active time for the staff, board members and volunteers of the MHAHS is an understatement. It's been an exciting, sometimes frustrating, always challenging, and above all else an extremely gratifying time to be a part this organization. It's been an honor to work with the dedicated team of people who have made the Driftless Historium become a reality.

**We hope you'll join us at the
June 3, 2017 Grand Opening.**

John Swartz, MHAHS President

TEMPORARY PAUSE OF SERVICES

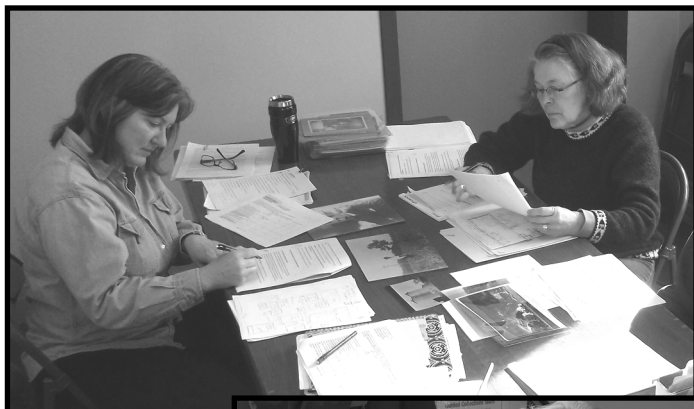
Due to intensive planning and tasks associated with the new Driftless Historium museum and research center facility, MHAHS is temporarily pausing some aspects of our usual services to allow staff and volunteers to focus on the success of this transition.

**This pause of services is effective
December 15, 2016 through August 15, 2017.**

If you are interested in historical research or in the possibility of donating artifacts or archival materials, we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this interruption of services may cause.

Call (608) 437-6486 with further questions or for information about the Driftless Historium project.

THANK YOU for your understanding and support!



Curator Johnna Buysse, Editor Nancy Nye Hunt and Volunteer Nancy Thousand are hard at work on the Historium exhibits, wading through research, documents and images.



COLLECTIONS CORNER

Get Pulled in by Tug-o-War History

Researched and Written By John Pare

On July 8, 2016 the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society received a thirty three inch piece of rope that had been part of a one hundred and ten foot tug-of-war rope use by the Mount Vernon tug-of-war team. When a tug-of-war rope begins to wear, the rope is cut up into sections and given to team members for hand-gripping exercises. This section of rope now in the Society's possession was donated by Bob Davis of Verona who has pulled for the Mount Vernon team.

In the old days many towns had tug-of-war teams. They were mostly made up of farmers who got together at various community events where the pulling contests were often the feature event of the day. Bob remembers teams from Ashton, Brooklyn, Dane, De Forest, Mazomanie, Monroe, Mount Horeb, Oregon, Riley and Waunakee. He said there were many more around the area including teams from Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota. Pulling was a relatively inexpensive sport requiring little more than the rope and special boots equipped with quarter inch steel plates on the heel.

These tug-of-war events were a great way for area families to gather and have fun. Folks from different towns met and socialized with each other especially around the summer holidays. It was a good way for young people to meet each other and for farmers to talk about the weather, the harvest, new machinery and politics. And who knows how many pullers met their future wives at these events?

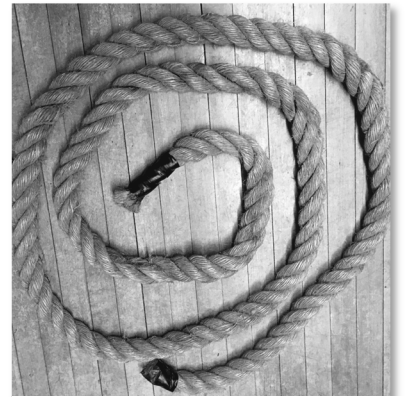
Recently, the Mount Horeb Mail noted that a big old oak tree in Mount Vernon Park had to be cut down because the rot in the tree made it a hazard. The tree had been used for many years by the Mount Vernon team for practice. A pulley was fastened to the trunk of the tree and a rope was run through the pulley. On one end of the rope was a thousand pounds of concrete in a barrel. On the other end were team members who hoisted the barrel as part of their practice routine. Teams were usually anchored by three or four three hundred pound men.

By the 1950s teams were organized into the Black

Hawk League and often competed in twenty or more events in the summertime. Teams sent delegates to league meetings and officers were elected every year. The league was located in

Monroe, not surprising since many Swiss immigrants brought their love for pulling from the old country.

Looking back further in our regional history, in 1934 a tug-of-war team achieved the ultimate recognition. In 1934 a Dane County team made



Tug-of-War Rope used by the Mount Vernon team around 2000, donated by Bob Davis of Verona, WI.



"Riley Champions 1930," courtesy MHAHS (8x10.846). Front Row, L to R: Earl Quigley, Hillary McCaughey, Early Riley, Teddy Lingard, Joseph Lingard; Middle: Cy Henderson, Laveryn Johnson, Earl Moore, E. Bakken, Forest Henderson; Back: Wm Kahl, Richard Farrell, Jerome Brown, Walter Richards, Ray Haegli.

up of the best pullers from many communities entered the pulling contest at the Chicago World's Fair. They won, beating a team from the Chicago Police Department. The team was made up of men from Madison, Springdale, Sun Prairie, Marshall, Blue Mounds, Mount Horeb, Pine Bluff and Windsor. According to a Capital Times article that appeared on October 23, 1974, the 40th anniversary of this great achievement, the local men pictured included Hector Bakken, Olaf Olkaltrud, C.A. "Colonel Sorenson (Springdale), Werner Richards (Blue Mounds), Carl Kahl (Mount Horeb) and Richard Farrell (Pine Bluff). Hector Bakken was the youngest puller on the team at 20 years old and also the lightest at 250 pounds. The average weight of the team members was around 300 (Continued on Page 6)

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

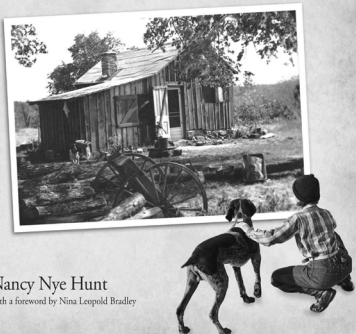


FIRST ANNUAL MOONLIGHT GALA A FUN & FABULOUS SUCCESS!

Mount Horeb's Thrivent Financial Glaciers Edge Team presents a check for \$11,725 to a grateful MHAHS. The funds represent 100% of the proceeds from Thrivent's first annual Moonlight Gala, held Nov 4, 2016. Over 200 folks gathered at Barneveld's Deer Valley Lodge to enjoy music by Joe Scalissi & the Dry Martinis, food and friendship. Photo L to R: Kim Arneson-O'Connell, MHAHS Director Destinee Udelhoven, MHAHS Board member Doug Nesheim, Jon Bauer, Amy Arneson, Joel Skalet, JoAnn Prehn, Dave Baumgartner, Thrivent Financial Advisor Roger Deterding and Thrivent Financial Associate Erin Deterding. THANK YOU, of course, to the Glaciers Edge Team, and all who attended or donated to this fun event!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Meet Nancy Nye Hunt!

Aldo Leopold's Shack Nina's Story



Hi! My Name is Nancy Nye Hunt and I started volunteering for MHAHS just after the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Driftless Historium [in June 2016]. Several years ago, I toured the Mount Horeb Area Museum and knew I wanted to be a volunteer. The objects, history and information were impressive!

I grew up near the shores of Lake Michigan north of Milwaukee and come from a family of story-tellers who valued history. My husband, Tom, an emeritus professor of restoration ecology, and I have two grown daughters and two lovely grandsons. We are all UW-Madison alumni (and two future Badgers?). My degree is in Agricultural Education. My love of the land inspired my children's book, "Aldo Leopold's Shack: Nina's Story," published in 2011.

Tom and I live on a farm south of Ridgeway, tucked in the steep hills

and narrow valleys of the Driftless Area. Living here and near Mount Horeb offers the best life can offer: natural beauty and a friendly, interesting and artful community of people.

Everything I do for MHAHS involves my passions: working with archival methods, researching, writing, editing and helping to tell the story of our local history on the land. One of the best parts is working with like-minded people including our fantastic director, Destinee, and phenomenal curator, Johnna, as well as the other volunteers.

Finally, while I prefer Nisse over trolls, I remain wistful for those cave-dwelling illuminated blue Smurfs. ;)



Interested in becoming part of the MHAHS Volunteer Team?
Call (608) 437 - 6486 or email mthorebhistory@mhtc.net.

Let's talk about how you can use your talents and explore your interests on your own time, while helping others!

Only at the Historium! :

The Search for a Winning Flavor

Fifty seven UW Platteville students in Dr. Tera Montgomery's "Animal Science 3010: Dairy Products Analysis and Process" Spring 2017 class competed in groups to produce a site-exclusive ice cream flavor for the all-new Driftless Historium's all-new ice cream counter.

With the Historium Grand Opening set for June 3, 2017, ANSCI 3010 student groups spent weeks concocting and testing a plethora of unique flavor combinations and profiles that will eventually be whittled down to one winning ice cream flavor.

Members of the winning student group will receive gift certificates, and their photo and flavor biography will be featured in the Driftless Historium's museum store.

Montgomery's students hail from a variety of majors, including Animal Science, Dairy Science, Agribusiness and Ag Education.

The MHAHS Board of Directors and staff will soon declare a flavor winner, taking into consideration community feedback gathered at a March 20 ice cream taste testing graciously hosted by the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce that drew over 250 eager ice cream enthusiasts.

Attendees sampled fifteen different ice cream concoctions, and recorded their favorites.

The tasty partnership between UW Platteville's Dairy Sciences Program and Dr. Montgomery's class benefitted from support and funding provided by UWP's Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement (PACCE). Based on an application and screening process, PACCE provides financial support for outreach projects that connect UWP students with the greater community.

MHAHS Director Destinee Udelhoven notes that since Historium planning intensified in 2015, she has been an enthusiastic but inexperienced advocate of the Historium's ice cream venture and the idea of a fun and marketable site-exclusive flavor. Based on a helpful lead from Mount Horeb resident Elisa Johnson at a MHAHS children's programming event, Udelhoven reached out to Elisa's husband, UW Platteville Professor Dr. Yari Ben Johnson. Dr. Johnson then connected MHAHS to Dr. Montgomery late in 2016.

Dr. Montgomery was immediately receptive and a meeting with Udelhoven and MHAHS Curator Johnna Buysse sealed the deal. She voiced her excitement to partner with MHAHS, listing several reasons for her interest: "One is because it helps to solve a community partner's problem, and that is what PACCE is all about. Two is because the students get a real world experience crafting something—through critical thinking, trial and error, and science—that will be truly useful to an end-user. Finally, these types of projects make the learning more fun for the students and the teaching more relevant for me. We value hands-on learning here at UW-Platteville, and this is hands-on and delicious at the same time!"

MHAHS hopes to continue the relationship by utilizing UW Platteville's Dairy Science program as their small-batch ice cream vendor, using milk produced by UWP's Pioneer Farm dairy herd.

The winning flavor will be decided at MHAHS's regularly scheduled April Board meeting, and debuted at the June 3 Grand Opening via free scoops to all guests. The Historium-exclusive flavor will be available thereafter at the museum store during regular public hours.



The March 20 Ice Cream Tasting at the MHACC Welcome Center drew more than 250 folks, eager to cast their vote for the Historium-Exclusive Ice Cream.



UW-Platteville students formulate their flavor submissions. Photos courtesy Andy McNeill.



WHC Grant Supports MHAHS Exploration of Southwestern Dane County Ethnic Art Traditions & Transformation

For over forty years, MHAHS has consciously collected a stunning variety of handmade art, originating from or owned by families who made their lives in the Mt Horeb area. Many of these one-of-a-kind pieces have never been publicly displayed.

The Driftless Historium's first special exhibit shines the light on this home



UW-Madison students carefully study MHAHS examples of ethnic art that will be featured in the Driftless Historium's first ever special exhibit.



grown artistry—and sets the bar high for future interpretive endeavors.

"Creators, Collectors & Community: Making Ethnic Identity through Art" is an exciting partnership between MHAHS and UW-Madison Professor Dr. Ann Smart Martin and her Material Culture students, with funding generously provided by a 2016 Major Grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council. In addition, the exhibit development team benefits from the expertise and input of UW Professors of Folk Culture Drs. James Leary and Janet Gilmore, UW-Madison Technology Consultant Steel Wagstaf, Exhibit Designer Nadia Niggli and long-time MHAHS collector and volunteer curator Brian Bigler.

The exhibition aims to create a thoughtful and layered multi-media experience that examines the evolution of ethnic identity in Southwestern Wisconsin. From folk art carefully transported here by the area's first immigrant residents, to the folksy troll statues that dot Mount Horeb's Main Street, the area's ethnic evolution is traced via the creative expression and craft of local artists and artisans.

Additionally, Dr. Martin's students have researched specific artifacts and will be using their findings to develop a multimedia, interactive "e-book" that will be featured in the exhibit. Companion exhibit

catalogs will be available for those who prefer a print experience.

The exhibit will be augmented by four demonstrations days and related artwork displays by local artists who utilize a variety of mediums. MHAHS will draw upon artists associated with the Mount Horeb Area Arts Association. The demonstration days will be family friendly, and provide opportunities to engage youth with an art activity station.

Director Destinee Udelhoven noted that MHAHS is "honored and grateful to receive the support of the Wisconsin Humanities Council for this exhibition, which we hope will set the stage in the new Driftless Historium for a future of similarly nuanced explorations of local history and culture."

"Creators, Collectors & Communities" is slated to open in conjunction with the June 3, 2017 Grand Opening, and will remain up for at least a year.

"Creators, Collectors & Communities" LIVE ARTIST DEMONSTRATIONS & CHILDREN'S ART STATION 10:00am - 2:00pm

Sat, June 24	Peggy Zalucha, Collage Artist
Sat, July 15	TBA
Sat, Aug 19	TBA
Sat, Sept 23	John Pahlas, Metal Artist

("Tug-o-War History" cont. from page 3)

pounds. The North Western Railroad provided a private coach to transport the men back to Madison at the end of the competition.

Who among us today in this area remembers the event? Does anyone have photographs? Unfortunately, the quality of the copy of the photograph that appeared in the article is poor and would not reproduce well. The men in the photograph are all dressed in bib overalls with white shirts. The 1930 photograph that accompanies this article of a championship team from Riley shows the men also sporting ties and bowties.

Tug-of-war events continue today but they are different than they were in the old days. Then, teams were mostly made up of farmers from small communities who practiced when they could. Now there is much more emphasis on athleticism which requires much more training and a regular practice schedule. There are fewer local events with a greater emphasis on regional, national and international competition. Area men have travelled to Sweden, Italy, The Netherlands, Switzerland, South Africa and England to compete in pulling contests organized by the U.S.A. Amateur Tug of War Association.

Special thanks to Bob Davis (Verona) and Guy Austin (Daleville) for their help with this article.

Summary of Support **

January 1 - December 31, 2016

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*Thank you to all who contributed time, funding or historical items in 2016.
Generous monetary gifts and talented volunteers make it possible for MHAHS to care
for and share the physical and ephemeral aspects of the Southwestern Dane County's
deep and unique history, using professional standards and a modest budget.
And we couldn't do it without you!*

****Please note that contributions to the 2016 Final Challenge capital campaign are NOT included in this listing.
The next issue of the newsletter will feature a complete roster of Final Challenge donors.**

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

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P.O. Box 238
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
www.mthorebhistory.org
(608) 437 - 6486



Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

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Driftless Historium
100 South Second Street

MHAHS Research Center
TEMPORARY LOCATION
108 East Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
(608) 437-6486

“Driftless Sanctuary” to be Unveiled at Grand Opening

As you approach the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society’s new history center, the Driftless Historium, you will see a massive metal hanging sculpture in the glass atrium. This sculpture, “Driftless Sanctuary” is the creation of local artist and Mount Horeb resident, John Pahlas. The eye-catching piece was commissioned to draw visitors inside, and artistically represent the enduring connection between humans and the environment in southwest Dane County.

Pahlas, who grew up in a metalworking family in Ripon, describes the concept as that of a nest of oak branches and prairie grass, inhabited by birds of Wisconsin; all created out of metal and repurposed tools and machinery parts—implements used to shape the native landscape.

Pahlas explains that the concept is both a literal and figurative depiction of the area: “Mount Horeb and the surrounding communities are ‘nesting

communities’: places where a wide variety of people nest, starting families, getting involved with their communities... and the diverse birds nestled in the branches and the red-tailed hawk gliding through the ring represents all these people that have come to nest here, perched in the same canopy.”

Be sure to stop by during the June 3, 2017 Grand Opening, which coincides with the Mount Horeb Area Arts Association Spring Art Tour, and take a look for yourself!



Metal Artist John Pahlas shows MHAHS staff the central element, a red-tailed hawk, of the then-evolving sculpture. (Oct 2016)