

## A Maid In Waiting

A first step has been taken to reclaim the Van Orden mansion as a House Museum. Since 1938 when the home was purchased by the Society, it has been used for a headquarters, artifact storage and display, research facility, and lecture hall. It has been a longtime dream to convert the various rooms to the way they once looked when the house was built during the Edwardian Era in 1903.

We now have the first vestige of that conversion. A second floor room—formerly used as an office—has been repurposed as the maid’s room and it now looks as it would have appeared when the Van Orden family first built the house. From the Society’s various artifacts, we have culled items which would have been familiar to the maid who served the family during the early part of the last century.

Items such as the bed, a sewing machine, wash stand, steamer trunk, and a few other period items, repopulate the room.

Many upper class homes of the Edwardian Era employed servants—particularly maids—to do the mundane jobs required to keep the household running smoothly. A maid would be responsible for preparing and serving meals, doing the laundry, and assuring that all the rooms were kept neat and tidy.

A 1908 *Guide for Edwardian Servants* notes several important requirements of a servant: “A waitress (maid) needs to be quick and light of foot; thus youth and a trim figure, not too large, are the first requisites in one who wishes to make a success of the calling. It is needless to add that a quiet, unobtrusive manner is absolutely essential. A waitress needs to possess a mind unwearied by detail and a willingness to cultivate nice ways of doing work.”

Attention to duty and appearance were paramount. “Her first duty in regard to everything she touches is to ‘keep it straight.’ On all occasions she is to be neatly dressed and manicured, calm and unruffled; no matter how many duties claim her attention at one and the same time, she needs to be absolutely deliberate, self-poised, and unhurried.”

In addition, personal hygiene was also an important factor. “The daily bath and immaculate undergarments are at the foundation of these moralities. Cleanliness is next to godliness, and opportunity for cleanliness should be freely given and freely accepted.”

The Van Orden family, at one time, employed two female servants. Customarily, one would be responsible for the dining room and pantry; the other would take care of washing the clothes, table linen and bedding.

The maid’s room was located on the second floor, however, her restroom was in the basement, along with the laundry room. She was not allowed to use the master bathroom, even though it was just across the hall from her bedroom. A back stairway led to the basement and to the kitchen so she would not be seen in the main part of the house.

Should the Van Ordens require assistance, a pushbutton was located in the master bedroom, which sounded a bell in the maid’s room.

The mansion has a butler’s pantry—where the tableware was kept, and a maid’s pantry—where the food was stored. It is unlikely, however, that the family ever had a butler.

Photo caption for Maid’s Room: The recently restored Maid’s room at the Van Orden mansion.

Photo caption of two maids: Lillian Lange, right, at Van Orden mansion. Born 1893, died 1982, age 89.

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## **Kraemer in Amerika**

If you'd like to see a copy of *Kraemer in Amerika*, there is a list of libraries and archives which have received a book donation: <https://sites.google.com/site/auswanderer20/Home/books/kraemer-in-amerika>. *Kraemer in Amerika* is now available at CreateSpace.com.

The 330-page book (8 ½" x 11" soft cover) is extensively indexed by last name, place, and occupation, and is sourced in detail. Because the book is in full color, it is priced steep at \$75. A black and white version is also available for \$35. To order, go to <https://wwwcreatespace.com/4638000> and click "Add to Cart." Follow the prompts to the check out. You will need to set up an account. After your order is placed, CreateSpace will send the book to you within a few days.

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Jan and Don Haasl, members of the eight-person team that wrote the book, *Lake Redstone...The First 50 Years*, presented a copy of the book to Rebecca DuBey, center, at the Sauk County Historical Society recently. This year is the 50th anniversary of the beginning of construction of the lake. The book features numerous photos of the lake and life on the lake. It includes information on the geology of the area, the early history of LaValle, Ike Isaacson and the development of the lake, a timeline of events, memories and stories of members past and present and information about the two lake organizations: the Lake Redstone Property Owners' Association and the Lake Redstone Protection District.

*(Lk Redstone Book photo caption)*

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## **Tammy Baldwin Donates Doll to SCHS**

On a recent visit to the Sauk County History Center, Senator Tammy Baldwin indicated that she would like to donate a doll to the Society. The doll originally belonged to her great-great-grandmother, Ann Tyler, who once lived in Sauk County. She also provided a photo of Ann holding the doll around 1895. Our curator, Becca DuBey picked the doll up last month, from Tammy's office in Madison. It will be on display at our museum in the spring.

The doll, named Alice, is 22 inches high. It's bisque with composite body and appendages, and was made in Germany after 1891 when the United States instigated a marking system to indicate where dolls were made. What is so interesting is that the knees, hips, arms, wrists, and head beautifully mimic human movement. The eyes close when laid down, then magically open when she is placed upright. She was truly a treasure for a young girl.

Photo Caption: Tammy Baldwin and the doll, Alice.

Photo Caption: Ann Taylor, Tammy Baldwin's great-great grandmother and her doll

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## **Lake Redstone, The First Fifty Years**

Written by the Lake Redstone Property Owners' Association, 2014

Beautiful Cobleigh Valley was nearly inaccessible for centuries before Baraboo resident Paul Wegner donated 65 acres for development of a small lake and park. A year later, in 1963, the project caught the eye of

developer N. E. Isaacson, and soon the Cobleigh Valley was replaced by a bustling community formed around a lake. *Lake Redstone, The First Fifty Years* documents the geology and early history of the valley, and the vision and development of the lake. It is laced with memories of land owners, and describes the Project District, the Property Owners' Association, and current life on the lake. The 120 page hardcover book is beautifully illustrated. Because it has a limited printing, it is housed in our Rare Book and Manuscript Collection, available for research by special request. The book was donated by Jan and Don Haasl.

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### Recent Donations

- Baraboo High School Marching Band Uniform - from Nick Kelly
  - Programs: Al. Ringling Theater 25th Anniversary, Sauk County Courthouse rededication, 1963, and Baraboo Daily News Reprint featuring the Opening of the Al. Ringling Theater - from Dan and Sandy Edwards
  - 8 Reedsburg Telephone Directories - from Bernadette Bittner
  - George McArthur & Sons sewing kit - donor unknown
  - Proceedings, 2012 and 2013 - from Sauk County Board of Supervisors
  - Book: "That's the Way the Sun Rose," stories by, Lola O' Brien Huber, and a photograph of West School, Baraboo, after the fire - Joan Litscher
  - 2 books: "Ready" History of the 505th Parachute Infantry and "Descending from the Clouds," – from Dolores Krueger
  - 1890 German Bisque doll, a photograph of Anna Tyler holding the doll, taken around 1900 by Arthur Johnson, a Baraboo photographer, and various doll clothing - from Tammy Baldwin
  - Sign: "Baraboo," possibly from the Railroad depot – from Barb Lange
  - Book, "Roll Out the Barrels," – from the author, Gary Hess
  - 2 First Presbyterian Church Directories, 1974 and 1986 – from Bob Doepke
  - Loaned to copy, 500 Postcards – from John McNabb
  - Article, "Cecil's Misfortune," on CD - from Henrietta Lowery
  - Rocking chair, made by R. L. Bohn around 1870 in Sauk County, photograph of Belle Cushman Bohn in her chair, a corn husk doll in miniature chair – from Barbara Larsen
  - Archive collection of research materials, photographs, and notes used for newspaper articles and books, "The Best of Bob," 8 Linear feet – from Robert Dewel
  - DVD: Man Mound Day, 2014 – from Bill Schuette
  - Sauk County Postcards, Baraboo, Marie Settlegrin and other students in schoolhouse desks and interior of the Peck and Herforth – from Carl Alexander
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