



Old Sauk Trails

March/April 2012

Mrs. Canfield Day April 10, 2012

IN keeping with the SCHS 2012 theme of historic Sauk County women, Canfield Day will honor Mrs. William H. Canfield this year. The wife of Sauk County's first historian was born Cordelia A. Long in Massachusetts in 1823. She came to Sauk County in 1842 with her husband when they settled on Skillet Creek. Cordelia Canfield was only 19 when they arrived and endured all of the hardships of pioneer life, learning quickly how to adapt to her new surroundings in the wilderness. Cordelia Canfield was a wonderful wife, mother of five and companion for 52 years and saw the Baraboo valley develop from wilderness to the advent of the electric light bulb. Learn more about this amazing woman on **Canfield Day, Tuesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Sauk County Historical Museum.**

During the evening the Society will also present its annual William H. Canfield History Award to honor the work of a present day local historian who displays the same passion for history as Canfield. Society members are asked to nominate a local historian for the award by filling out the nomination form inside this issue. The deadline for nominations is April 1. Previous recipients of the Canfield Award include: Erhart Mueller, Ken Lange, Phyllis Dearborn, Dr. Bob Dewel, Carol Sorg, Mark Tully, Bernadette Bittner, Joe Ward, Verlyn Mueller and Donna Lange. Cake and refreshments will round out the evening. The public is invited to attend.





A day at the beach in Sauk City around 1915. Ladies bathing “costumes” came in two separate pieces before 1910, a tunic top and long bathing knickers. Matching stockings covered the legs. Most of the body, from neck to toe, was covered with water-absorbent materials like wool. These uncomfortable suits became very heavy when wet. By 1915, these young ladies cast off the stockings, and dared to bare their legs.

Sauk City Library Photo Collection

William H. Canfield History Award Nomination

Deadline: April 1, 2012. Submit to: Sauk County Historical Society PO Box 651 Baraboo, WI 53913

SUBMITTER'S NAME _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Email Address _____

NOMINEE'S NAME _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Email Address _____

On a separate piece of paper, please complete the following paragraph in 500 words or less:

I nominate _____, who, like William H. Canfield, shows a passion for local history as shown by his/her...



Dolly Spencer – Sheriff

When her husband, Mike Spencer, could not legally run again for Sauk County Sheriff, Dolly Spencer threw her hat in the ring and was elected as Sauk County's first female sheriff. Both Mike and Dolly made sure voters knew that Mike would continue his duties while Dolly held the title. The time was the 1960s when county government was smaller and a bit more relaxed, but things would become very tense in August of 1961 when County Traffic Officer James Jantz was shot dead and Police Chief Bob Kohl was wounded in Lake Delton by three men pulled over in their car. The ensuing "Man Hunt of '61" was just one of the episodes that Sheriff Dolly Spencer experienced while living in Sauk County's old red brick castle-looking jail. More of Dolly's life will be told about by her children Diane and Terry at a presentation on **May 10, 2012, at 7 p.m.** at the Sauk County Historical Museum.

President's Report

By Paul Wolter

THERE are usually state of the union and state of the state addresses at the beginning of each year, so I thought I would give a state of local history address. I would like to report that local history is alive and well in Sauk County. All across Sauk County good people are working to keep local history relevant and accessible. Recently I have had the pleasure of working professionally at the Tripp Memorial Museum in Prairie du Sac where lots of renovations have been taking place to make room for the Bradford Bison exhibit and to restore the main hall to its original appearance. Under the capable leadership of Jody Kapp, Director of Development and Jack Berndt, Museum Manager, the Tripp Museum will have the feel of a grand 100 year old building with state of the art technology such as LED lighting and a Smart Board for interactive teaching. At the Reedsburg Area Historical Society good things are happening too. Current president Barb Steinhorst and Becky Hovde, who also serves on our board of directors, have reinvigorated the organization with new events and new exhibits at the pioneer log village. From the Harrisburg Historical Society to the Old Franklin Township Historical Society in Plain, many good people are making sure that local history is recorded, preserved and shared with others. There are nearly 400 local historical societies in the state and Sauk County has nine alone. There is much to do but there are people doing much. Your support of the Sauk County Historical Society and other local historical societies makes sure that the state of local history remains strong.

Old Sauk Trails • March/April 2012

The Sauk County Historical Society publishes
Old Sauk Trails six times each year.
Editor: Bill Schuette • Production: Bananaboat Ad/Grfx

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531 Fourth Ave. • PO Box 651 • Baraboo, WI 53913
Open Wednesday-Saturday 12-4pm year-round
(608) 356.1001 • history@saukcountyhistory.org
www.saukcountyhistory.org

Work of Wisconsin Women in the Civil War

Excerpts from a paper read before the Sauk County Historical Society at
the spring picnic, 1919. Author Mrs. L.H. Palmer

WHEN the shot was fired that was heard around the world, the North awoke to the fact that civil war was inevitable. From a peaceful, industrial community, Wisconsin quickly became a hive of military activity. When Governor Randall made a stirring appeal to Wisconsin women to aid in every possible manner in caring for the soldiers not only of Wisconsin, but the boys of other states as well, they entered heart and soul into the work.

Patriotic meetings were held in school houses, town halls or any hall large enough to accommodate a crowd.

When President Lincoln, April 1861, issued his first call for troops, not only did the men respond, but the women of every community in Wisconsin rallied to the call for organized relief work for the soldiers. While Companies were being formed and sent to the front, the women put forth every effort to provide the soldiers with everything possible for their comfort.

The women of Wisconsin began meeting at homes to make garments for the soldiers. In a few months these meetings developed into Aid Societies, with officers, rules, a regular scheme of work, and committees appointed to have charge of the various divisions of the work. Old clothing was made over or mended; new material was purchased with money subscribed or procured by giving entertainments, the most popular being tableaux by local talent.

There was no absorbent cotton or gauze in those days and thousands of bandages were made by tearing old sheets into strips and rolling into hard round rolls. Lint was provided by scraping old linen with a dull knife until it became a fluffy mass and all ravelings were saved to be used as absorbents

Comfort bags containing pins, needles, buttons, thread and yarn, were made by the thousand, and as proof of the appreciation of the soldiers, one Aid Society received five hundred letters of thanks.

Vegetables of all kinds were generously contributed. Many tons of cabbages were made into sauerkraut. Pickles were given in large quantities. Raw potatoes were pared,

sliced, and packed in kegs and barrels and covered with hot spiced vinegar. A barrel was sent from Baraboo at one shipment. Horseradish was dug, grated, and bottled.

Stories without number could be written of the courage, tenderness, keen judgment and self-sacrifice of hundreds of loyal Wisconsin women, but in closing I wish to make special mention of an organization which grew out of the great need of associated relief in thousands of soldiers' homes where wives, mothers and little children were left destitute. This brave hard working organization of women did not relax their vigilance at the close of the war, but have continued their active ministrations among the sick and needy and today the old veterans of the Civil War, pay grateful tribute to the noble work of the Women's Relief Corp.



Photo from the Civil War reenactment at Sauk City in 2011

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Sauk County women are still available.*

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The main gallery at the Tripp Museum is being restored. Crown molding which was hidden for over 50 years above a dropped ceiling has been exposed. Reproduction pendant lights and new LED track lighting will highlight architectural features as well as new exhibits. The large diorama of Jonathan Carver meeting the Sauk Indians, at right, used to be at the Sauk County Historical Museum. The diorama was given to the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society a dozen years ago and will remain in the newly refurbished gallery space along with new exhibits.

Tripp Memorial Museum Renovations

THE Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society owns and operates several buildings in the Sauk Prairie area. Main headquarters and exhibits are at the Tripp Memorial Museum which is housed in the J. S. Tripp Memorial building, built in 1912 as the village hall and library. The building was a gift from Mr. Tripp whose name might be familiar to those who attended UW-Madison where Tripp's name also appears on a few buildings. The Tripp building in Prairie du Sac is now home to the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society which has been renovating the main gallery space to make way for the installation of the Bradford Bison exhibit. Several years ago a 5,000 year old bison skull was

found along the banks of the Wisconsin River near Prairie du Sac by Joshua Bradford and the find will soon be on display at the Tripp Museum. The main gallery which was once the library has been refurbished to look much as it did in 1912. A suspended acoustical tile ceiling has been removed and reproduction pendant lights have been installed. New LED track lighting has also been installed along with new wood blinds, new carpet and new cabinetry. A grand opening is scheduled for June 29 – July 1 when the Bradford Bison along with other new exhibits will be on display in the newly restored gallery space.

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Upcoming Events

April 1

Wm. H. Canfield Award Nomination
deadline

April 10, 7 p.m.

Canfield Day celebrating Mrs. Canfield
Sauk County Historical Museum

May 10, 7 p.m.

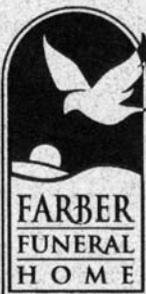
Sheriff Dolly Spencer Presentation
Sauk County Historical Museum

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March/April 2012
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