



# Old Sauk Trails

November/December 2016

## Edwardian Christmas December 9 & 10 *A Sauk County Christmas*

EDWARDIAN Christmas festivities at the Van Orden Mansion will kick off this year on Friday, December 9 with the Wine & Appetizer Premier, followed by the Jingle Bell Open House on Saturday, December 10. Guests at both events will be able to experience "A Sauk County Christmas" with each of the 11 trees in the mansion decorated to highlight a historical or natural attraction in Sauk County. Devil's Lake, Mirror Lake, the International Crane Foundation, Mid-Continent Railway Museum, Circus World Museum, the "400" Bike Trail, Tripp Heritage Museum, Reedsburg Pioneer Log Village, the Al. Ringling Theatre, Sauk County Fair and the one-room Harrisburg Schoolhouse will all provide inspiration for this year's decorators.

The premier on December 9 at 7 pm will be an adults-only party featuring festive appetizers and holiday spirits such as wine, Christmas beer and traditional mulled wine. Guests will be able to experience the mansion at night with subdued lighting and holiday music including Dave SaLoutos at the piano. Tickets for the Edwardian Christmas Wine & Appetizer Premier are \$22 for non-members and \$20 for members. Tickets will be limited, so please contact the Society to reserve your spot at this unique holiday event.

The Society's exuberant Edwardian Christmas Jingle Bell Open House on Saturday, December 10 from 12-7 pm will include live music throughout  
*(continued page 2)*

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## Baraboo Holiday Tour of Homes - December 3

GRAND Victorian homes bedecked with garlands, wreaths and trees are often depicted in our favorite Christmas cards. For those who have wished they could climb into the scene, the Baraboo Holiday Tour of Homes is an exciting new event that will provide that opportunity. The tour will offer unique access to four of Baraboo's finest historic homes decorated for the season and provide a memorable holiday experience. The 1902 Hatch Residence, the 1860 House of Seven Gables, the 1914 Jacobs

Residence and the 1903 Van Orden Mansion will all be open for touring on Saturday, December 3 from 2 to 7 pm. The Queen Anne style Hatch Residence at 405 Second Avenue will feature a foyer and stairwell filled with poplar trees leading to red and green decorated Christmas trees and an authentic German Christmas dining room. The House of Seven Gables at 215 Sixth Street will feature decorations appropriate to the  
*(continued page 2)*

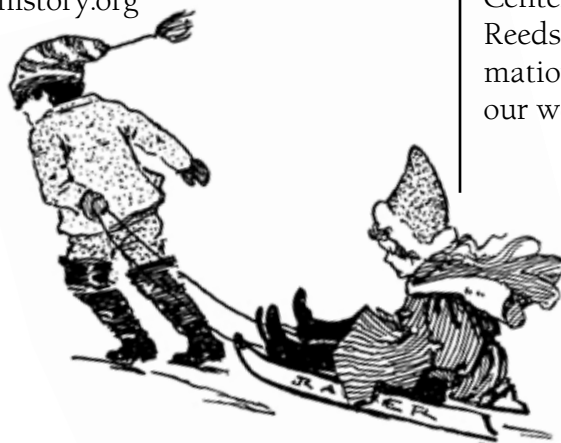
# Edwardian Christmas

(continued)

the day, holiday treats in the dining room and jingle bell horse-drawn rides from 2 pm until dark. This family-friendly event has delighted thousands of visitors over the years and is sure to do so again, as people experience the sights, sounds and tastes of an old-fashioned Christmas in an Edwardian-era mansion. Tickets for the celebration can be purchased at the door and will be \$7 for non-members and \$5 for members, with children ages 12 and under admitted free.

For more information on holiday events at the Van Orden mansion or renting the mansion for your own holiday event please contact the Society at 608-356-1001 or visit our website:

[www.saukcountyhistory.org](http://www.saukcountyhistory.org)



# Holiday Tour of Homes

(continued)

1860s complementing the historic architecture and furniture in the nationally-renowned house. At the historic Jacobs Residence at 430 Third Street, greenery in the foyer will lead to a spectacular Christmas tree decorated with hand-blown and painted glass ornaments and an elegant dining room set for a festive holiday meal. The Van Orden mansion at 531 Fourth Avenue will feature 12 fresh Christmas trees decorated to the theme of "A Sauk County Christmas." The tour is sponsored by Hill's Wiring, Slumberland Furniture and Bekah Kate's. Tickets for the tour are \$10 in advance and \$13 on the day of the tour and are available at the Corner Drug and Bekah Kate's in Baraboo, Sauk County History Center and Baraboo Area Visitors Center and the Reedsburg Chamber of Commerce. For more information contact the Society at 608-356-1001 or visit our website at [www.saukcountyhistory.org](http://www.saukcountyhistory.org)

## Society Receives Grant from Nelson Family Foundation

THE Society has been awarded a grant of \$2,500 from the Todd and Shari Nelson Family Foundation to support its educational programming. The relatively new foundation partners with local nonprofits to enrich the quality of life through educational and medical advancements, the defense of human rights and the advocacy of animal rights. The educational programs of the Sauk County Historical Society fit one of the foundation's four goals - "strengthening education in our communities." The funds from the Todd and Shari Nelson Family Foundation will be used to help implement

the SCHS Past to Present Education Program - our year-round series of presentations, school visits, events, workshops, and exhibits. In the Society's last fiscal year over 3,000 students, adults and senior citizens attended presentations, events or exhibits put on by the Society across the county from Lake Delton to Spring Green and Prairie du Sac to Reedsburg. The Society thanks the foundation for its support of SCHS efforts to bring local history to more of Sauk County than ever before.



*Children and adults met six historical “statues” who came to life during the Night at the Museum on October 29th. The guided tours of the Van Orden mansion went from basement to ballroom and led participants on a quest to discover who borrowed the Society’s first artifact from 1905. Each of the statues was sponsored by a unique corresponding business. Fur-trader Francois Barbeau (Mark Tully) was sponsored by Murphy’s Taxidermy, early pioneer Roseline Peck (Bobbie Sessler) by the Log Cabin Restaurant, sawmill-owner David Reed (Gilbert Bird, pictured above) by Glenville Timberwrights, snake charmer Lou Ringling (Stephanie Miller-Lamb) by Circus World, train engineer William Hatch (Peter Wolter) by Mid-Continent Railway Museum and WWII Badger Ordnance Worker “Patty the Powder Maker” (Mary Hackbarth) was sponsored by McFarlanes’. The Society thanks the sponsors, volunteers, guides and actors who made the event a success. (Photo courtesy of Bill Johnsen.)*

# Annual Meeting Notes

THE Society’s annual banquet and business meeting was held on October 13th at the Rock Springs Community Center. Eighty five visitors and guests enjoyed a fall meal before the business meeting which was presided over by SCHS vice-president Lise Meyer-Kobussen of Sauk City. After the minutes of the 2015 annual meeting were read by SCHS secretary Bill Schuette and a financial report given by SCHS treasurer Jim Weickgenant, the expired board seats of Jim Weickgenant, Bill Schuette, Ken Weitzel and Todd Liebman were filled by the nomination of, and re-election of, the same board members. A year-in-review presentation was then given by executive director Paul Wolter followed by the introduction of key-note speakers Tamara Thomsen and John Janzen. Both are highly-trained cave divers who shared their fascinating experiences, pictures and videos from diving in two of the flooded iron mines at La Rue.

At the SCHS board meeting on October 17th the following officers were elected by the board: Todd Liebman, president, Lise Meyer-Kobussen, vice-president, Jim Weickgenant, treasurer, and Bill Schuette, secretary.

## President’s Report – Todd Liebman

I am writing this on a 60 degree November day with the sun shining and a gentle breeze blowing through the window, but it is worth remembering that the holidays are just around the corner. If you are like me, the holidays evoke memories of celebrations gone by and people and places that are no longer with us. The holidays themselves are historic remembrances whether, as with Thanksgiving, going back to the earliest interactions between native peoples and the pilgrims, or the religious holidays that remember events that took place thousands of years ago. Holidays in my home always involve some historic items, such as an old Christmas ornament from my childhood or the Gas Company Holiday Cookbook that I think every home in Milwaukee must have had.

I hope that you will enjoy marking your holidays with some of the events at the Van Orden Mansion, or perhaps you will take time to do some historic research at the History Center. Your holidays might also include some celebrations at some of the other historic sites in our communities.

This fall marked the formal dedication of the Man Mound as a National Historic Landmark. It is a tremendous testament to the work of the Historical Society in the early part of the last century that led to the protection and preservation of the Man Mound.

I hope that you will make your own joyous history this holiday season as you celebrate with family and friends.

# Upcoming Events

**Dec. 3 – Baraboo Holiday  
Tour of Homes**  
2 - 7 pm

**Dec. 9 – Edwardian Christmas**  
Wine & Appetizer Premier  
7 pm  
Van Orden Mansion  
531 Fourth Avenue, Baraboo

**Dec. 10 – Edwardian Christmas  
Celebration**  
12 - 7 pm  
Van Orden Mansion  
531 Fourth Avenue, Baraboo



A presentation entitled “Rock Springs 101” was given by executive director Paul Wolter in October at the Rock Springs library. The presentation is part of a series that explores the origins of Sauk County communities. A similar talk on Spring Green’s origins was given earlier this year at the Spring Green library and re-given in September for those who missed it. This was followed by Spring Green 201 which looked at the early growth of the village.



WCCU Credit Union made a donation of \$350 to the Sauk County Historical Society to support its educational programs. The donation comes from the Baraboo, Lake Delton and Reedsburg branches of WCCU Credit Union and will help implement the Society’s popular fourth grade educational program known as Sauk County Investigators or “SCI”. Pictured left to right are Merry Lynn Riek, WCCU Baraboo Branch Manager, Paul Wolter, SCHS Executive Director, Myrna Weickgenant, SCHS Board Member and volunteer educator, and Debbie Smith, WCCU Lake Delton Branch Manager. Not pictured is Mary Schultz, WCCU Reedsburg Branch Manager.

# Recent Acquisitions

- WW I Uniform with campaign hat, helmet, gas mask, first aid kit, flag, and photographs - from Paul Wolter
- 1924 Program for the play "Stop Thief," presented by Baraboo High School; advertisement for the M. E. Gale Agency Real Estate and Insurance - from Richard Wilkinson
- "Little Chef" early electric toy oven - from Rikki McNabb
- Wood box made from packing crate panels with Baraboo and Milwaukee addresses, c. 1856 - from Ron Wormet
- Drawing, ink on linen, house located at 320 Walnut St. Baraboo from - Nick Kelly
- O. Altpeter and Son White soda, bottle, 24 oz; and can labels from Herfort's Circus Brand Corn and Peas, Baraboo - from Ralph Pierce
- Papers of: John Hehenberger, '49, Bev Hill, '45, and Glenyce Jean Hill, '41 along with photographs and letter sweaters, Baraboo High School, from - Kandie Beckwith
- 15 volume set, Americanized Encyclopedia Britanica, 1903 - from Pauline Wiseheart
- Photographs and postcards - from Kathy Waddell, Jerry Kleinert, Ralph Pierce, and Paul Wolter

## BHS Class of '61 Donates to Pillars of Progress

THE Baraboo High School Class of 1961 donated \$685 to Phase 3 of the Pillars of Progress Campaign for the Sauk County History Center in September. The funds will be allocated for the renovation of the ground floor of the history center which is slated to become exhibit space. The Society thanks the class for their thoughtful gift.

## Donations from August 20 - November 1, 2016

### BUSINESS DONATIONS

Badgerland Financial

### RECENT DONATIONS

Louis Solone

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## Man Mound Designated National Historic Landmark

THE Man Mound in the Town of Greenfield was recently declared a National Historic Landmark (NHL) by the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service along with nine other properties across the country. The designation recognizes Man Mound and the other properties as places that possess exceptional value and quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The Man Mound is only the 43rd National Historic Landmark designation for the State of Wisconsin and the fourth for Sauk County. The Ringling Brothers Circus Winter Headquarters, the Aldo Leopold Shack and Farm and Van Hise

Rock are the other NHL sites in Sauk County. Man Mound is also the only effigy mound designated as a National Historic Landmark in the state. Nationally there are only about 2,500 NHL designations.

The process to get the Man Mound designated as a NHL, has taken many years. Thanks in large part to the efforts of the State Historic Preservation Office at the Wisconsin Historical Society, especially staff archeologist Dr. Amy Rosebrough, the project has finally seen fruition. The Society heartily thanks Dr. Rosebrough and all of those involved for helping to make the designation a reality.



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**Old Sauk Trails • November/December 2016**

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**The Sauk County Historical Society and Museum**

531 Fourth Ave. • PO Box 651 • Baraboo, WI 53913

Van Orden Mansion open May-Oct. 12-4 p.m. Fri. & Sat.

History Center, 900 2nd Ave., Open 12-4 p.m. Weds - Sat

(608) 356.1001 • [history@saukcountyhistory.org](mailto:history@saukcountyhistory.org)

[www.saukcountyhistory.org](http://www.saukcountyhistory.org)

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**The Sauk County Historical Society**  
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## Membership Activity for September & October

THANK YOU TO THESE MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED OR RENEWED SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

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Vertein, Wava - North Freedom

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