



Old Sauk Trails

September/October 2016

Devil's Lake Bird Mound Marker Centennial Commemoration Sunday, September 11, 2016

ON Labor Day, September 4, 1916, members of the Sauk County Historical Society and the Wisconsin Archeological Society gathered at the Bird Mound at Devil's Lake south shore to unveil a brass plaque to mark the spectacular effigy mound. Several individuals from both organizations spoke about the importance of the Bird Mound. The marker, donated by H. E. Cole, long-term leader of the Sauk County Historical Society, was unveiled on the mound and accepted by a member of the State Conservation Commission. Just days over a century later, on Sunday, September 11, 2016, the two organizations will again gather at the Devil's Lake Bird Mound to note the centennial of the placement of the marker, to learn more about effigy mounds,

and to renew the commitment to their preservation.

The Devil's Lake Bird Mound is one of some three to five thousand effigy mounds that were created by the Native People of what is now southern Wisconsin about one thousand years ago. These effigy mounds were created as burial sites, as cultural landmarks, and are sacred places. During the first half of the 1900s, many markers were placed at effigy and other burial mound sites as part of an effort to make the public aware of the importance of these places. The Devil's Lake Bird Mound is an outstanding example of ancient artwork, with wings that spread nearly 250 feet. Located in the

(continued on page 2)



state's most visited park, this mound is very likely seen by more people than any other effigy mound.

The centennial program will start at 11:00 am on Sunday, September 11th beginning with a performance by the Ho-Chunk Thundercloud Singers. This will be followed by speakers from the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Sauk County Historical Society and the Wisconsin Archeological Society. Ken Lange will speak about his own interest in this and other effigy mounds. The program will conclude with a visit from Baraboo's pioneer antiquarian William H. Canfield, or at least a fair semblance of him, who surveyed the Bird Mound in 1875. For an hour before the program, as well as afterwards, there will be exhibits available from several organizations involved with effigy mound preservation. Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy after

the program and are reminded that although the event is free and open to everyone, a park admission sticker is required.



The Society's float in the Big Top Parade in Baraboo in July honored the heritage of the Gollmar Brothers Circus which started in Baraboo 125 years ago. Inspired by the success of their famous Ringling cousins, the Gollmar brothers eventually operated one of the largest circuses in the United States. The float featured a reproduction of a Gollmar Brothers Circus poster which was generously provided by Circus World Museum

Diving into History

Annual Banquet and Meeting - October 13th

THE annual banquet and membership meeting of the Sauk County Historical Society will be held on Thursday, October 13th at 6 pm at the Rock Springs Community Center. A delicious fall meal will be catered by Geffert's Catering of Reedsburg after which the Society will conduct its annual business meeting. The meeting will include election of board members, financial report and the year in review.

The keynote presentation of the evening will be given by Tamara Thomsen and John Janzen on their dives in flooded mining shafts in Sauk County. For the past twelve years, Tamara Thomsen has worked as a Maritime Archaeologist with Wisconsin Historical Society's Maritime Preservation and Archaeology program. Her research has resulted in the nomination of forty-one Great Lakes shipwrecks to the National Register of Historic Places. For her dedicated work, she has received awards from the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society, and in 2014, she was inducted into the Women Diver's Hall of Fame.

John Janzen is a rebreather and technical diving instructor who has been diving the Great Lakes for 25 years. He has worked as a diver and videographer for National Geographic, NOAA, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Michigan State Police, U.S. Coast Guard, and the History Channel. He works professionally as an engineer where he has contributed to many programs including Cray supercomputers, NASA, Navy Research Laboratory, National Missile Defense, DARPA, and in the field of explosives chemistry.

Thomsen and Janzen are part of a small, loosely organized group of avid certified cave divers that have been working in their free time for the past 20 years to locate remaining submerged passages of Wisconsin's mining industries. They work with landowners to appreciate and preserve these windows into our past. The mines of the Baraboo

Iron Range were first explored in 2008, starting with the Illinois Mine's dewatering shaft. It was not until 2014 that the group located and filmed the Freedom Mine, also known as the Captain Roberts' Mine in La Rue. Video footage from that dive, and from others, will be shown and explained by Thomsen and Janzen making for an incredibly rare and unique look at part of Sauk County's past.

A reservation form for the banquet and meeting can be found on the enclosed flyer. The deadline for reservations is October 6. Don't miss out on this fascinating evening!



The Captain Roberts' Mine at La Rue was surveyed by marine archaeologist Tamara Thomsen in 2014. This photograph of Thomsen was taken by diving colleague John Janzen. Thomsen and Janzen will be the keynote speakers at the Society's annual banquet and membership meeting on October 13th. Photo courtesy of John Janzen.

Executive Director's Report - By Paul Wolter

THIS fall will be a busy time at the Sauk County Historical Society with our first event of the season commemorating something our counterparts did 100 years ago. After Devil's Lake State Park was established in 1911, cultural resources inside the park were more carefully noted. In 1916 the Society and its ally the Wisconsin Archeological Society met at the south shore to place a bronze marker at the bird mound describing its features and marking its importance. Members of the two organizations, the Ho-Chunk Nation and the public will once again meet on September 11 to re-dedicate the marker and our commitment to preserving cultural treasures such as the bird mound. Later in the month our "101" history series will begin again with a visit to Spring Green where the early history of the village will be presented in two parts. Rock Springs is next on the syllabus in early October.

This fascinating village and its first namesake, Colonel Ableman, will be presented at the Rock Springs Library. Our annual banquet and business meeting will also be held in Rock Springs on October 13th and I am very excited to have divers Tamara Thomsen and John Janzen as our guest speakers. They will discuss and show video from their dives into flooded Sauk County iron mines, a true trip into the past complete with pick axes still inside ore carts in timber lined tunnels. The month of October will end with a completely new event for the Society and one created for students. Taking a cue from the Night at the Museum movie series, the Van Orden Mansion will mysteriously come to life on October 29th. Mystery adventure tours will go from basement to ballroom and will meet some rather interesting characters along the way. I hope to see you at some of our fall programming!

Ahuchoga: Blue Wing's Legacy Community Mural Project



IN 1873 the U.S. Government decreed that all Native Americans were to be relocated to reservations in Nebraska. Armed federal agents arrived in Reedsburg to carry out that order. Ahuchoga (Blue Wing), his family and tribe were among those who were rounded up and taken to the Reedsburg depot. Ahuchoga's strong friendship with Reedsburg settlers inspired a group of non-Indian citizens to stand down the federal agents at the depot to prevent this "illegal" relocation. To commemorate this act of defiance, the Blue Wing Legacy Project was initiated, lead by the Little Eagle Arts Foundation and Reedsburg Artslink, to produce a commemorative mural which was designed by nationally recognized native artist Wesley May of Red Lake, MN. May invited members of the community to assist in the production and painting of the mural, which will be placed in downtown Reedsburg. Dedication of the mural will be on October 8, at 11 am in Harvest Park. The City of Reedsburg and Ahuchoga descendants will be honored with Ho-Chunk songs and dance at the event.

Upcoming Events -

Sept. 11 – Devil’s Lake Bird Mound Event

10 am – exhibits open
11 am – program – South shore
Devil’s Lake State Park

Sept. 22 - Spring Green “101” & “201”

6 pm (“101” repeat) & 7 pm (“201”)
Spring Green Community Library
230 E. Monroe Street, Spring Green

Oct. 6 - Rock Springs “101”

7 pm - Rock Springs Library
101 First Street, Rock Springs

Oct. 13 - Annual Banquet and Meeting

6 pm - Rock Springs Community Center
201 W. Broadway, Rock Springs

Oct. 29 – Night at the Museum

Adventures start every 10 minutes from 6-9 pm
with last group finishing at 10 pm
Sauk County Historical Museum
531 Fourth Avenue, Baraboo

Save the Dates

Dec. 3 – Baraboo Holiday Tour of Homes

Dec. 9 & 10 – Edwardian Christmas
at the Van Orden Mansion



Cathy Sperl of Lake Delton expounded on the life and times of Louise Alston Burleigh, better known as Princess Nadonis Shawa, on August 11. The princess owned a cottage on Mirror Lake for many years and led a colorful life as a self-proclaimed Indian poet and entertainer. Sperl is the treasurer of the Mirror Lake Association and has studied Shawa for years. The presentation was held in Lake Delton at the Frank Fischer Center, the use of which was generously provided by the village.

Spring Green 101 and 201, Thursday, September 22

ONE of the few villages that did not grow up around a mill site, the birth of Spring Green is attributed to the railroad, and Spring Green has the honor of being the site of the first railroad connection within the boundaries of Sauk County. The early history of Spring Green will once again be explored on **Thursday, September 22** at the Spring Green Community Library at 230 E. Monroe Street. At **6 pm**, the original presentation by SCHS Executive Director Paul Wolter entitled Spring Green “101” will be given for people that missed it the first time, or as a “refresher course” for those who attended in April; and at 7 pm the “201” presentation will continue the story of the early settlement of the village. Historic photos, maps and stories will paint a picture of the origins of the community and the elements that made it grow.

Rock Springs “101”, Thursday, October 6

THE origin of the village of Rock Springs, like many communities, is inextricably linked to geographical features. Located at the confluence of Narrows Creek and the Baraboo River, the settlement sprang up around the mills that harnessed the available water power. The settlement was originally called Ableman after its biggest promoter, Colonel Stephen Van Rensselaer Ableman, an almost larger-than-life figure. The early history of Rock Springs and the area will be part of a presentation on **Thursday, October 6 at 7 pm** at the Rock Springs Library at 101 First Street given by SCHS Executive Director Paul Wolter.

Society Receives Grant for Photo Equipment

THE Society recently received a mini-grant from the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Council for Local History to help purchase equipment needed to photograph the Society's collections. The grant award of \$662 will be used to buy a new digital camera and portable lights for photographing artifacts. The Society is currently seeking matching funds to complete the amount needed to purchase portable backdrops for photographing larger items such as furniture. Curator Becca Dubey will head up the photography project which will be part of Phase II of the Society's collection management plan. Phase I has been completed which included recording all accessions (since 1905) in PastPerfect museum software and replacing all collections shelving with adjustable metal shelves. County than people. The Lake Redstone 50th Anniversary celebration was also the same day, so SCHS was represented there with a display on the Town of LaValle featuring early plat maps of the area.

Night at the Museum

A mystery event for kids in grades 3 - 8



THIS October, grab your kids, grandkids or any other of your favorite people in grades 3 - 8 and bring them to the Van Orden Mansion for a night of fun, mystery and intrigue. On October 29, the Society is holding an event designed for children called Night at the Museum based on the movie series in which museum exhibits come to life. At the Sauk County Historical Museum, kids and their accompanying adults will take a 60 minute tour of the mansion, from basement to ballroom, and meet six "statues" of historical figures from 1749 to 1943 which will come alive to share their stories about life in Sauk County. Participants will also work to solve a mystery and will receive hints from the characters along the tour.

The adventure will take place in groups of 15 with tours starting every 10 minutes from 6-9 pm and the last tour finishing at 10 pm. The cost is \$7 for each participant, child or adult, and includes prizes at the end for all who solve the mystery. SCHS is recruiting sponsorships for Night at the Museum. To date, we are proud to partner with Murphy's Taxidermy and the Log Cabin Restaurant. If you or a business you know would like to be a sponsor, contact the Society at 608-356-1001.



S3801 County Hwy. BD
Baraboo, WI 53913

www.donlarson.com
(608) 356.AUTO



Customized insurance solutions and
personal service since 1919.

(608) 643-3000 meyeragency.com

Auto • Home • Life • Business • Farm



Rago - Baldwin

Funeral Home

520 East Street
Baraboo, WI 53913

(608) 356-4656

David A. Baldwin

Sherry D. Baldwin

E-mail ragobaldwin@centurytel.net
ragobaldwinfuneralhome.com

Funeral Directors

**Cross Jenks
Mercer & Maffei**
ATTORNEYS SINCE 1889

221 Third Avenue | Baraboo, WI 53913

Telephone (608) 356-3981 | Fax (608) 356-1179

www.baraboolaw.com

*A History of Treating Our Clients the
Way We Would Like to Be Treated.*



A Registered Investment Advisor

Brent Brinker - Baraboo

Jim Greenwood - Baraboo

Jacob Krueger - Reedsburg

www.mbewealth.com (800) 729-2270

Johnsen's Insurance

B A R A B O O

— Old Fashioned Service —

Give us a call

608-356-5515



THE CORNER DRUG STORE

Since 1855

**Full Service Pharmacy
Gifts for all Occasions**

TWO BARABOO LOCATIONS:

Downtown 522 Oak Street • (608) 356-8701

Clinic 1700 Tuttle • (608) 356-6966

DELIVERY • DRIVE UP • COMPETITIVE PRICES
INSURANCE BILLING • HOME HEALTH AIDS • AROMA THERAPY

Slumberland Furniture

Furniture that lives the way you do

**Located on Hwy 12
next to Gander Mountain**

**We hope to see you soon for
all your home furnishing needs!**

Stop in or call us at 356-9555

Our Board and Staff

Todd Liebman, Society President - Baraboo

Lise Meyer-Kobussen, Vice President - Sauk City

Bill Schuette, Recording Secretary - Reedsburg

Jim Weickgenant, Treasurer - Baraboo

Steve Argo - Wisconsin Dells

Pam Krainik - Baraboo

Mona Larsen - Baraboo

John McNabb - Baraboo

David SaLoutos - Baraboo

Jim Weickgenant - Baraboo

Myrna Weickgenant - Baraboo

Ken Weitzel - Spring Green

STAFF

Paul Wolter, Executive Director - Baraboo

Rebecca DuBey, Curator - Baraboo

Deb Hanchek, Bookkeeper - Baraboo

Kathleen LaCombe, Museum Keeper - Baraboo

Linda Levenhagen, Office & Research Manager - Baraboo

Old Sauk Trails • September-October 2016

The Sauk County Historical Society publishes *Old Sauk Trails* six times each year.

Editor: Bill Schuette • Production: Minuteman Press

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

www.saukcountyhistory.org

September/October 2016
The Sauk County Historical Society
900 Second Avenue
P.O. Box 651
Baraboo, WI 53913

U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 91
Baraboo, WI
53913

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Let the past enrich your present

Membership Activity for July & August

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

INDIVIDUAL

Beeler, Jean - Evansville
Behnke, James - Reedsburg
Bellis, Mary W - Baraboo
Blumenfeld, Phil - Monona
Brinsko, Eleanor - Sun Prairie
Dupont, Nancy - Oregon
Haessly, James P - Sauk City
Hasheider, Philip - Sauk City
Hayes, Dottie - Baraboo
Jaedike, Dale - North Freedom
Ruder, Jim - Verona
Ryan, Joan - Lodi
Schultz, Betty Lee - Baraboo
Shepard, Theodore W - Spokane Valley, WA
Smith, Jean E - Baraboo
Springer, Edward - Madison
Stoekmann, Judith - Rock Springs
Stone, Barbara - Baraboo
Wimann, Theresa - Baraboo
Young, Paul - Baraboo

FAMILY

Bradley Family - Stoughton
Christiansen, George - Madison
Clemens, Inger - Wisconsin Dells
Gorak, Dave & Joanne - LaValle

Hause, Richard & Kitty - Baraboo
Herbst, Erich & Jean - Baraboo
Klett, Jon & Jennifer - Nashotah
Martin, Paul E & Nichelle - Baraboo
Myers, Harvey & Carol - Reedsburg
Olsen, Dan & Vicki - Verona
Phelps, Larry & Jan - Rock Springs
Rochacewicz, Frederick - Baraboo
Schell, Michael & Mary - Baraboo
Siebecker, Judy & Barbara - Dousman
Thurow, Dennis & Kathleen - Baraboo
Walters, Mark & Diane - Wauwatosa
Woodbury, Harry & Agnes - Baraboo

FRIEND

Bosshard, Chris, Maureen & Jennifer -
Lake Delton
Franzen, Roy & Jane - Baraboo
Hipke, Jack & Marcia - Poynette
Johnsen, Bill & Deb - Baraboo
Popp, Alice E - Baraboo
Rygiewicz, Donna - Madison
Steiger, Harold & Sharon - Beach Park, IL
Wolter, Wayne & Geraldine - Wisconsin Dells
Wozniak, Mark & Bridget - North Freedom

SPONSOR

Jauch, Phil - Baraboo
Nelson, Nancy - Baraboo
Schnitzler, Roger & Melissa - Wisconsin Dells
Steenrud, Joyce - Houston, TX
Utzinger, Arnold & Judy - Baraboo
Weinhold, Frank & Mariane - Madison

PATRON

Bullard, Jerry & Patricia - Reedsburg
McNabb, John & Rikki - Baraboo

VAN ORDEN CIRCLE

Graupman, Mark & Barb - Reedsburg

W. H. CANFIELD ASSOCIATE

Dana, Richard & Jane - Bonita Springs, FL

BUSINESS SPONSOR

Baxter Dental Center - Baraboo

BUSINESS PATRON

Don-Rick Insurance - Baraboo