



Richfield Historical Society
 Box 268
 Richfield, Wisconsin 53076
 richfieldhistoricalsociety.org

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V 24 N 3 - Fall 2021

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Education
Kathy Weberg

Event Coordinator
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Historic Sites
Quint Mueller/ Herb Lofy

Library/Program/Newsletter
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LWC Welcome Center
Ruth Jeffords

Marketing
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Membership
Dorothy Marks

Mill House
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Mill Restoration
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Pioneer Homestead/ Long-Term Planning
Susan Sawdey

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Al Mayer

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The following is the story of the Motz, Bauer, Holz and Kollath families as written by Lillian Motz Bauer who was born and lived in the Motz Cabin at the Richfield Historical Park. The cabin was moved to the Park from Willow Creek Road just east of Amy Belle School. Lillian's stories are a wonderful testimony of one family closely associated with our Pioneer Homestead at the Richfield Historical Park.

THE MOTZ LOG HOUSE by Lillian Motz Bauer - July 2003

I was born in the log house that has been taken down, log by log, marked and stored by the Richfield Historical Society. It will be rebuilt at the Richfield Park.



Lillian Motz Bauer 1907 - 2005

I have many memories of that old house. In 1908, my parents built a new house, and the log house became the summer house. Every spring we moved into the summer house. We only slept and bathed in the new house. The bath water was heated in the reservoir on the old wood stove in the summer house and was carried in buckets to the bath tub in the new house.

My three cousins (whose parents had both died and lived in separate foster homes) spent most of the summer with us.

The two younger boys and I were expected to keep the wood box filled with wood and the reservoir filled with water from the well. We went barefoot. At night, my mother put the wash tub on the porch for us to wash our feet at bedtime.

The boys slept upstairs in the summer house but I, being the only girl, had to sleep in my room in the new house. I always felt I was missing something, not being able to sleep up there.

The older cousin and my brother Otis helped with the farm work, the garden and picking fruit and vegetables. My mother was busy all summer cooking and baking and keeping her large family happy. Besides she canned quarts and quarts of cherries, strawberries, raspberries, plums, pears and tomatoes, also jars of jams and jelly. She canned applesauce, but some apples were dried or sulfured. She liked the sulfured ones best even though they were more work.

Sulfuring was done outdoors in the shade. Apples were peeled and quartered and placed in a cheese-cloth bag. Live coals were placed in the bottom of a metal barrel, and the apples were hung over them. Then the sulfur was sprinkled on the coals, and the barrel was tightly covered for four or five hours. The apples came out white and plump and were stored in covered containers. They lasted for months and did not taste or smell like sulfur. They made wonderful pies and kuchen.

The old hand propelled washing machine stood in the corner of the kitchen. We kids took turns at pumping the handle on wash days.

With all the activity going on in the kitchen, it was very hot. So we ate in the living room with the door and windows open to the breeze. I remember lying on the couch with a toothache watching the rest of the family eating dinner.

The summer house was also used at butchering time. The meat was cut and prepared for smoking. Sausage and head cheese were made. Pork chops, steaks and sausage were fried down and placed in stone jars and covered with hot lard. Beef was canned and some covered in large kegs of heavy salt brine.

That old log house saw a lot of living even after it became a summer house.

About 1920, my father bought a new car, a Chevy sedan. Part of the east wall of the summer house was removed for a large door, and the kitchen became a garage. (The 1913 Ford Model T touring car was kept in the Machine Shed.) All family cars have had their home in that house until 1984.

I hope I live long enough to see that old log house restored at the Richfield Historical Park.

Walter Benjamin Motz & Emma Holz Motz by Lillian Bauer – 1999

My dad was born May 3, 1869 in the Township of Richfield. He lived at the same place when he died August 13, 1967. He was a small short man, never weighed over 110 pounds. But he was wiry and full of spirit. He was an avid reader. He could read and write before going to school at age seven. He attended school near the church which was a log building with rough plank floors. There were wide cracks between the planks, so sweeping was easy. There was a ledge around two walls with benches in front of it where children sat with their slates. During the winter, when the field work was done, everyone under twenty went to school.

In 1886, when the new church was built (Zion Church), the school was torn down and a new brick school was built on a ½ acre plot on the corner. Charles Motz donated the ½ acre, or sold it for a small price. We all went to that one room school, even Arvin, Dennis and Kerlin (my children.)



Walter & Emma Holz Motz

When my dad was about thirteen, he got the measles and was very sick. He spent the time in bed and read everything he could get hold of day and night. Something happened to his eyes; and after that, he could not read. He spent two weeks at a doctor's home in Milwaukee where they tried to help him. The cure was just partial, and he spent the rest of his life bathing his eyes and reading very little. My mother read to him every night for as long as I can remember.



Emma Holz Motz

My mother, Emma Holz, worked in Waukesha for several years. Then in 1898 when Pauline, my dad's mother, became very ill and needed nursing attention, she was hired to take care of her.

My parents were married July 6, 1899. My brother Otis was born July 12, 1900. I was born September 20, 1907, one year after my grandmother died.

A year later, my parents built a new home. The builders stayed all week. My mother made up a bedroom in the Granary with three beds for the men. I still remember seeing the curtains in the window of the Granary. She served three meals and two lunches every day most of the summer to the men as well as to her own family. Aunt Elsie (Maschman) helped her sometimes.

My mother always helped with the harvest, shocking grain and hauling hay and grain. The grain bundles were always hauled into the barn to season before threshing later. My mother would never ride on top of a load of hay or grain. Dad fashioned a wide plank to extend behind the wagon where she rode to and from the fields.

In 1913, my dad bought a car, a Ford Touring car. They enjoyed it for many years. I think they visited every church of our denomination within 200 miles. If there was a celebration or special event in any church, they went. I remember one time we went to Bondowell to some celebration. All I do remember about it was we were invited to a farm family for dinner, and all three children had dirty ears.

In early years in late summer, the Chateaugay came to Menomonee Falls for a week. We always went. There were musical groups, stand-up comics, and all kinds of entertainment. An ice cream vendor always provided ice cream. You had to lick fast before it melted. They cost five cents.

My father was always interested in education. He provided books and magazines which my mother read every night after supper and chores. In earlier years, some were in German. We always had all the church magazines and books. I never had "homework" until I went to high school. So I sat in on all the readings.

My mother could sew, knit, crochet and tat and with her sisters made many quilts. I learned to do all those things early in life, but I never did learn to tat. I just could not master that. Mom braided rugs from rags and my silk stockings.

In 1948, Mom bought some raw wool from Elmer Kelling who had sheep. She washed it, carded it, and spun it into yarn, then knitted socks, caps and mittens. I think there is still a hank of that yarn in a box at Kerlins. One of the last things she did was to take a piece of now clean wool, her carder and spinning wheel to a Home Economics meeting to show how it was done. She died a few days later – December 5, 1953.

The winter of about 1923-1924, my dad hurt his back shoveling snow. The roads were blocked, and the only monstrous snow plow was stuck on Amy Belle Road. All the men in the neighborhood went to shovel it out. My dad never recovered from that shoveling injury. He spent many years at home in bed. In later years, the pain subsided somewhat; and he got around the house on his knees. After my mother died, he became more self-sufficient and got around pretty well. He even got to walking. He liked to work in the garden on his knees. He raised strawberries and did most of the work on his knees. He lived fourteen years after my mother died. He died August 13, 1967.

It wasn't always easy with three generations living together. We never had any trouble. It took a lot of tolerance by everyone. We had a live-in baby sitter, and my mother helped clean and candle eggs. And, we took care of their needs. Garvin's mother also lived with us part time after Grandpa Wuest died in April 1950.

My Grandparents August and Johanna (Hanna) Holz by Lillian Bauer - 1973



August & Johanna Holz

It has been over one hundred twenty years since my grandparents came to this country from Europe. As far as I know, no one has kept any records of the family history. So, I thought it was time someone wrote down some facts and figures. Most of my information came from my grandmother Hanna Holz (Kollath.) I spent a lot of time with her as I was her first granddaughter to live near her.

Grandpa August Holz was born June 20, 1847 in Germany. It is not clear just where he was born, but these are the names of possible places – Pomeraine, Diepenburg, Heitbreck near Stateenn- East Prussia. We know of two brothers and one sister, also an aunt, Bernadine Holz Staatz.

Grandpa worked as a sheep herder on the hillside near the village where he was born in the old country in the summer. While out there, he knit stockings and mittens for the family.

He heard about this new land, America, of the opportunities and wealth that could be gained there, and most of all freedom. He was of the age to be called for army service. He took the little money he had and went to this new country with two of his friends, Charles and Albert Kollath.

They came to New York and had to work several weeks before going further west. Then they got to Detroit, Michigan and worked several weeks more before coming to Wisconsin. They settled in the Town of Richfield and in the Lisbon area. The first winter they worked for farmers and in the woods and any other jobs they could get.

In 1869, Grandpa sent for his mother. His father had died in Germany, and I don't know whether she married William Staatz in Germany or if she met him after she got here.

In 1870, he sent for Grandma Hanna Kollath. She arrived in the fall, and they were married in 1870 at Grandma Staatz's home in the Town of Lisbon. Grandpa was a good man. He raised eleven children who all became good citizens. He learned to speak English and could read and write some. He had some office in the church and was liked by all.

Grandma Hanna Holz by Lillian Bauer - 1973

Grandmother Johanna Kollath Holz was born in Germany. I am not sure about where. These are some of the names she talked about. They may have been cities, towns, villages, counties or states. They may have been farms or roads, maybe even people; Brandico, Gusteen, Kreis, Grenswalde, Kreis Regenswaldo, Staedt.

Her father's name was Fredrick Kollath and her mother's name Charlotte Bohlman Kollath. There were four brothers and three sisters. In Germany, they lived in a house with three other families. It was a square house with a long narrow hall in the center, and each family occupied a corner room. They made their own partitions with homespun curtains.

As soon as the children were old enough to work, they had to go to the fields to plant and hoe and do whatever needed doing. Each morning, the "Gustas beritzer," landlord or overseer, came into the hall and rapped on each door and told how many people he wanted that day for field work. When they didn't work in the fields or gardens, they would spin, weave, knit or sew. Grandma said she worked several days for the Hoernsollern family (Kaiser Wilhelm Hoernsollern..)

They had enough to eat most of the time, but not much variety, dark rye bread, vegetables, not much meat. Grandma hated (ruefen) rutabagas and turnips. She said she ate her share in Germany. The landlord raised some cows, pigs, sheep, chickens, geese and doves, but they saw little of the meat. The fields produced grain and hay, all done by hand work. They themselves owned no land or property. An uncle of Grandmas owned and operated a winery. He was considered wealthy.

In 1870, a letter came for Grandma from America. It was from August Holz asking her to come to this new country and marry him. He had been gone for two years, and Grandma had a boyfriend. It was hard for her to decide what to do. But her family helped her. They were hoping to come to this new country too someday. Two brothers were already there; and if she went, their time might be coming soon.

Grandma was young and inexperienced, and the ocean trip was hard and long. She was alone and sick all the way across. Some German people looked after her until they landed at Ellis Island, New York. From there, she was put on a train for the Town of Lisbon, Wisconsin. She landed in New Lisbon, in about the center of the state. The station agent knew nothing of an August Holz, and she could not speak English. So he took her home for the night. There she showed him some letters Grandpa had sent her, and they found out where she was to go. The next day they put her on the right train and sent her to Du Plainville. A neighbor of Grandma Staatz, William McGill, happened to be at the station when she arrived. So he took her to the Staatz home where August Holz was. I am told that Mr. McGill later said "Hanna, that August Holz sent for from Germany, is the prettiest girl I ever saw."

After they were married, they lived in a small log house on the Quade farm, 1 ½ miles north of County Line Q on Hillside Road. Their first child "Emma," my mother, was born there. Later they moved to the farm on County Line Road. The first year they lived in a log house. Most of the eleven children were born in that log house. I think only Leoto, the last child, may have been born in the new house which is still there. Grandma and Grandpa lived in the west apartment until after Grandpa died in 1925.

While raising a family of eleven children, Grandpa drove to Milwaukee every two weeks with butter, eggs, cottage cheese, lard, potatoes, soap, grain, vegetables and anything they could produce. Each time he brought home one pair of shoes.

When the boys were 13 or 14, they went to work on neighboring farms or in the woods or making ice for the ice company. The girls went to Milwaukee to do housework or sewing.

My mother, Emma, worked in Waukesha in a hotel. It was the time of the "Rock Springs Health Water Boom." She cooked, baked, washed, ironed and cleaned for guests at the Health Spa. She had lost the sight of one eye in a farm accident when the tine of a hay fork used by one of her brothers hit her in the eye.

I spent a lot of time with my grandmother, visiting her on summer vacations and seeing her every Sunday at church. She sat on the right of the center, and Grandpa sat right across on the left side.

When there was a new baby born in the family, my mother always had to be there for a week or two. So Grandma usually stayed with us. We always had a good time. Grandma could not speak English. So I learned to speak German, and she learned to understand English.

I always remember the beautiful black dresses she wore on Sundays. They were beautiful creations with rows of fine tucks, lace edgings and fancy tiny buttons. Her girls made them for her. I doubt she ever had a ready-made dress.

The last few years she gave up her home and lived with her daughters. She was a very quiet unassuming person, and I loved her. She died at age 85, eight years after Grandpa August.

My Grandparents Charles and Pauline Kurtzhals Motz by Lillian Bauer – April 1999

I do not know much about my dad's parents. They died before I was born. All I know is what Dad told me.

Grandfather Charles Motz was born in New York state in 1840, and soon after his parents came to America from Germany, about 1843. They came to Wisconsin.

Grandfather taught school for some time near the church, but I think it was after he came home from the Civil War. I don't know where he got his education, but he was a great reader. He probably did a lot of reading while in the war, as he worked in the hospital after he was injured. He also wrote poetry while in the service. He sent one poem home to his mother. (There is a copy in the safe deposit box at the Associated Bank, also the original.)

He married Pauline Kurtzhals, a neighbor girl. She was born January 18, 1845 in Alsace Lorrain, Germany. Her family came to Mequon in July 1854.



Charles & Pauline Kurtzhals Motz

In 1867, they came to the Colgate area. Pauline was a very shy and fastidious person. She was afraid of weather, mice and bugs of any kind. When eating raspberries, she broke each berry apart to see if there were any bugs inside. She cried all the time she was doing it. Once she thought she saw a spider on the floor, she quickly stepped on it only to find it was her glasses that she had dropped.

My dad said she was not a strong healthy person. She spent a lot of time in bed or lying down. (He remembers his sister, Martha, standing on a chair at the stove stirring potatoes and scrambling eggs.) She lost several babies which is likely the reason for so much bed rest while trying to carry through the pregnancy. (I may have inherited her weakness as I also lost several babies, prematurely or soon after birth.)

Pauline died of cancer after a long illness in 1905.

My Great Grandmother Salomi Motz by Lillian Bauer

My great grandmother, Salomi MallowMotz, must have been quite a woman. I should not really call her my grandmother, for she was the Grandmother of a good percentage of the population of the extreme southeastern corner of Washington County before the age of subdivisions.

Great-Grandmother Salomi was born in Hessen, Darmstadt, Germany in 1806. In 1838, she and her husband, Gottfried Motz, and three very small children came to New York by sailboat. My grandfather Charles was born in the state of New York. In 1843, the family came to Milwaukee via the Erie Barge Canal and Great Lakes.

They purchased land in the county of Milwaukee, now known as the Town of Richfield, where there was a small Hessen, Darmstadt settlement.

It is hard to visualize how they survived those first few years, virtually living off the land on wild game and fish. In the summer, edible roots were collected and dried. Blackberries, red and black raspberries, elderberries, gooseberries and strawberries were gathered and preserved. Honey was taken from trees where wild bee swarms had stored it. Maple sap was gathered and cooked down into syrup and sugar. All kinds of nuts were gathered and stored. Chamomile and other leaves were gathered for tea.

In those days, it was important to keep live coals of fire at all times for starting the next cooking of meals. If the fire accidentally went out, you were embarrassed and had to borrow hot coals from a neighbor, and undoubtedly, were considered a poor house keeper. There were no matches; and, if there were, who had money to buy them?

Salomi's house was built of logs near a pond, which was produced by a spring. The water for the house had to be carried, and she did her washing at the pond. The animals, which were acquired later, also went to the pond to drink.

Salomi made her own soap. First the wood ashes had to be saved and properly handled by adding water which eventually produced lye. Then, by cooking the correct amount of animal fat, lye and salt; soap was made.

The first real crop of grain was a thankful Godsend. Wheat and barley were roasted for coffee. Wheat was taken to a mill and stone ground. The outer layers were used for animal feed, and the cleaner finer meal was used to make porridge, which was the staple breakfast menu. The flour made very good bread and biscuits. Cake was unheard of. The nearest one got to it was to make the dough a little richer and sweeter and sprinkle maple syrup or honey on top.

Yeast was another baking problem. You had to have a "starter," usually borrowed from someone. The day before baking you added the water to the "starter" in which the potatoes were cooked, also some sugar. You let it stand in a warm place over night and hoped it would "work." The next morning, if it was nice and foamy, you used it as a rising agent for the bread. You always saved one and one-half to two cups in a covered container for the next baking.

Vegetable gardens were very important in those days. "What you didn't raise, you didn't eat." Your first seeds were always borrowed from a neighbor or relative; and after that, you gathered, dried and stored your own seeds.



Salomi Mallow Motz

Salomi never heard of “women’s lib;” but when her husband, Godfried, went to a meeting, especially a church meeting, he was well briefed before he left home. It was through Solomi’s prodding that Zion Evangelical Church of Colgate was organized in 1846.

Slomi raised six children; and when her oldest daughter died leaving a small son, she took him home and raised him as her own. Three of her sons served in the Civil War. All returned home, however one had been a prisoner of war and confined to Libby Prison and another spent months at a hospital for veterans at Keokuk, Iowa.

After the family was grown and her husband died, she lived alone for 20 years. She kept her cow and chickens and made a small garden. Her needs were small. She was a happy, singing, Christian woman – always doing good for others and entertaining them with her humor. She sang all the way to church, all the way home and everywhere she walked. Everyone walked in those days.



**Four Motz Generations (left to right)
Pauline, Johanna, Salomi and baby
Lillian**

Once a year the church had a Camp meeting in Menomonee Falls for several days. Salomi wouldn’t miss that. She led her cow along and tied it to a tree on the edge of the grounds. She hid an extra pan of grain behind the door of the chicken coop, hoping the chickens wouldn’t find it for a day or two.

She walked to Milwaukee every few weeks to deliver butter and eggs to her friends. She left home right after midnight so she would arrive before the sun was hot causing the butter to melt.

My father, Walter Motz, must have been a lot like her. He had a wonderful sense of humor until the day he died at the age of 98 years. He often embarrassed his hostess by commenting “Jello was the next thing to nothing anyone could eat.”

I am proud of my heritage and owe much to these simple and courageous people who are my forebearers, especially Great-Grandmother Salomi.

President

Susan Sawdey

The Richfield Historical Society (RHS) believes that as a historical society we are obligated to observe historic preservation. We also recognize that the safeguarding of agricultural land in the Richfield area and guardianship of waterways plays a major part in historic preservation.

The Village of Richfield (the “Village”) Comprehensive Plan, 2014-2033 sets forth, among other things, the following: *“The natural environment is a key indicator in enhancing positive ‘quality of life’ attitudes among local residents. A correlation often exists between the presence and prevalence of open space and the positive feelings people have about their community. Woodlands, wetlands, grasslands, and surface waters provide important wildlife*

habitat and recreational opportunities for residents. They improve the visual appeal of the community and can function as development buffers, both within the Village, and between Richfield and its municipal neighbors. [...] Woodlands and grasslands, however, are afforded little state or federal protection. They, along with agricultural lands, tend to experience the greatest amount of development pressure and, therefore, require a greater level of local protection...at least for those communities intent upon preserving them."

In 2012, Herbert and Sharon Lofy made a heartfelt-generous donation to the Richfield Historical Society of their agricultural property on Pleasant Hill Road making historical preservation of their farmland a reality for the community of Richfield, the Lofy family and RHS. The Richfield Historical Society formed an Ad Hoc Committee to address its interests in a proposed Conservation Easement with Tall Pines Conservancy Inc. on April 20, 2020 regarding the land it owns subject to the Lofy's life estate interest on Pleasant Hill Road. The Committee began reviewing an initial Baseline Documentation Report and Grant of Conservation Easement & Declaration of Covenants.

The committee participated in several exercises to gain a better understanding of those documents. The committee also examined, in great detail, our vision for the future and potential uses for the land located at 4434 Pleasant Hill Road.

With a vision of using the property as a "Home" for RHS, the Ad Hoc committee developed proposed modifications to suit the property, RHS needs, and the resources it protects. Future uses include: educational facilities, historic sample field plots, event center, archival and genealogy research center and meeting space among countless other opportunities.

On April 22, 2021 The Richfield Historical Society solidified its commitment to historic preservation by partnering with Tall Pines Conservancy Inc. in safeguarding our natural resources for all to enjoy for generations.

I am so thankful to the Ad Hoc committee for the hours and hours of work poured into meetings and research. Your efforts are appreciated!

Blacksmith Shop

Kathy Lauenstein

What do you need for blacksmithing?

To get started with blacksmithing, the main tools you'll need are a forge, anvil, vise and hammers plus tongs. You can make many of the tools yourself, as you go.

Good hand to eye coordination, problem solving skills, math skills for measuring and making precise cuts and calculations and design skills are needed.

You can start with the basic ball pein or cross pein hammer and chisels and sledge hammer. Later on, Hardy punches, drifts and a fuller will be on your list to have.

On the forge, you will need to make a poker, rake, shovel and watering can. These are important to have. You can work with a smith to make this set of tools.

Whenever working on the forge, remember to wear eye and hearing protection and cotton clothing. Safety is important.

There are a few ways to change a piece of iron's shape. Important ways are: bending, drawing, upsetting, punching, cutting, splitting, riveting and welding. All things to learn.

Come see us if you have a question. Ask one of the RHS smiths. They will be happy to help.

Collections

Deanna Einwaller

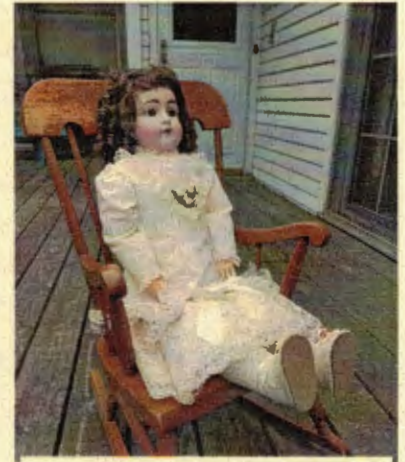
A Girls Dream

A little girl named Marie Molter grew up with two brothers in Richfield(?). When she was 6-years old, she received a gift of a beautiful doll.

This doll would be special to any little girl, but Marie cherished it. Her elbows and knees were hinged so she would sit neatly on a chair like a proper lady. Marie loved this doll so much she kept it her entire life. Upon her death it was then passed along to members of the family who were kind enough to donate it to Richfield Historical Society so others could enjoy the doll as much as Marie did.

The doll's body is constructed with "kid skin" leather. This leather was typically used in making children's gloves and footwear. It is very soft and supple. The body is filled with sawdust which was a plentiful product in those days. The head was a "china" head and is covered with a wig made from human hair.

We are grateful to receive all of our donations. Come visit our park at some of our events to view all of our wonderful items.



Marie's Doll

Education

Kathy Weberg



Toy Tractors

These cute little toy tractors are part of our four traveling trunk items. There are all sorts of goodies in these trunks, and I'm happy to say that RHS is again planning to take these trunks out to our senior communities. We've been on hiatus with the COVID pandemic, but I have about 25 letters ready to be mailed encouraging these facilities to give us a call to schedule a presentation. We also go to adult day care centers.

We could use a few more volunteers! If you would like to share your talents for a much appreciating audience, please give me a call. All you need to do is be comfortable in front of a group and talk about something you know a lot about! Antiques!

We will start our scheduling in October, after the Thresheree has finished up. I'm hoping also to have a get-together to go over the items in our trunk. It's been awhile, and we need a refresher! Consider it!

Events

Daryl Grier

Events This Year

Our first event this year, Maple Syrup Family Day, drew a huge crowd. Visitors had a great time learning how syrup is made, visiting the Park's historical buildings and watching demonstrations of pioneer life activities. They also enjoyed our maple cotton candy, chili hot dogs, beverages and, of course, sweets.

We do advertise our events, but the **BEST** advertising is done by **YOU!** So tell your friends, family and neighbors about what is happening at RHS. Better yet, bring them to our events!

Events Committee

The Thresheree Committee has a planning meeting so the Events Committee won't meet until after the Thresheree & Harvest Festival. At that time, we will plan the late winter Antique Appraisal & Chili Lunch.

If you have ideas for an event, please join us or contact me: Daryl Grier, 262 628-4221 grier@charter.net

Downsizing? We Can Help

Silent auction items, household treasures and books are needed for the Silent Auction and Sweets 'n Stuff tents at the Thresheree & Harvest Festival:

- Silent auction will be on both Saturday and Sunday
- Household treasures (rummage) and books will be sold at Sweets 'n Stuff

You don't need to determine if your item(s) would be appropriate for the Silent Auction or our Rummage, as we'll make the best use of your donation.

Items can be dropped off at

Daryl Grier's: 1179 Wejegi Dr. - 262 628-4221- dgrier@charter.net

Sharon Lofy's: 4434 Pleasant Hill Rd. - (262) 297-1546 - hsl1725@yahoo.com

Delores Parson's: 4290 Bell Tower Place - (262) 628-1070 - dpars1956@gmail.com

Time for Baking!

We know that there are many great bakers in our area! Sweets are sold at the Sweets 'n Stuff Tent at the Thresheree & Harvest Festival. Let Daryl Grier know if you are able to bake: cookies, bars, brownies etc. for the event.

Note: 2 cookies to a bag One brownie or fudge 3" square to a bag

Drop your sweets off at Daryl Grier's or Sharon Lofy's or bring them to the Thresheree on Saturday or Sunday morning.

Daryl: 262 628-4221, 1179 Wejegi Dr,

Sharon: 262 297-1546 4434 Pleasant Hill Rd.

Historic Sites

Quint Mueller/Herb Lofy

IT'S BACK!!!The 22nd Thresheree will soon be here.

I think we're all ready to get back to normalcy and the 2021 Thresheree September 18 & 19. However, the committee chairs decided that for this year the food would be outsourced. We were uncertain how many volunteers would be available, and the food service takes many. Thanks to the Richfield Lions and the Washington County Humane Society for helping us providing the event food.

A major improvement for this year's event will be the new bridge on the Coney Creek. People movers can now circle the Park, and the congestion during the Tractor Parades will be eliminated. It has been a long time coming, but worth the effort. We are planning a ribbon cutting ceremony each morning before the Tractor Parade at 11 a.m.

The Society has been approached by two people living in Richfield about the possibility of creating a community market garden in the Historical Park. They have been successful creating gardens on their own properties which rely on rich compost raised beds. The infrastructure will take effort and time to create; but once established, can provide locally grown fresh produce. I know there are farmer's markets in surrounding areas. However, these two individuals propose to also educate interested people in the way to create successful gardens with healthy soils as well as how to preserve the produce.

We thank Daryl Grier and her team handling the Mill House garden for years. This is not to step on their toes, but to possibly enhance their efforts. Follow these Sites Committee articles for more information or call 262-297-1546.

The Sites Committee has been having their meetings in the Blacksmith Shop on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., while the weather permits. You are welcome to attend if you have questions or concerns about projects or maintenance in the Historical Park. We have a network of dedicated volunteers headed by Project Coordinator, Al Mayer, doing an outstanding job.

Library/Programs/Newsletter

Marge Holzbog

Library – The Committee is out again interviewing Richfield senior citizens in preparation for our third book about 20th century life in Richfield. Already available are “Life on the Farm,” “Downtown Richfield” and “Feeding the Crew. All will be available for purchase for \$15.00 each at LWC during the Threshereer.

Newsletter – This is your last newsletter for 2021. Expect your first 2022 issue in your mail box late January 2022.

Programs – We will again be presenting our Community Programs in September, October and November. The schedule is published on the cover of this newsletter.

LWC Welcome Center

Ruth Jeffords

Charlotte Thompson of Colgate recently donated 2 boxes of “stuff” to the LWC. Among those items we found an interesting tin of malt labeled “**Froedtert Grain & Malting Company – Milwaukee Wis.**” (and this tin is considered rare.)

In 1875, brothers William and Jacob Froedtert, from Nordheim, Germany, started the Froedtert Brothers Commission Company at 510 Juneau Avenue in Milwaukee where trading included grain, seed and feed. These were the product lines that William studied back home as an apprentice. The grain and feed business grew to include **malting** facilities.

William took over the business after the passing of Jacob. In 1915, William's son Kurtis became the man in charge when his father died.



Froedtert Grain & Malting Company Can

The **Froedtert Grain and Malting Company** processed germinated barley into malt, primarily for the use of the BREW industry. At one time they were the largest kind of company in the world.

Upon his death in 1951, Kurtis Froedtert (who had amassed an impressive fortune) left \$11 million to Milwaukee in trust to fund the creation of the hospital that still bears his family name. At that point, the company's annual sales had

surpassed \$35 million; which, adjusted for inflation, is about 10 times that amount today. *An interesting relationship between the Brew Industry and a hospital!*

Marketing

Doug Wenzel

RHS marketing on social media is an activity that goes on behind the scenes, but is important to attracting and retaining membership. In addition to our website (richfieldhistoricalsociety.org), we can be found on Facebook and Pinterest. We also maintain our presences on Google search and maps, and on YouTube.



Doug Wenzel

Lois Hessenaur is our chief webmaster (webmadam? Webperson?) She puts a great deal of time into keeping our sites fresh and interesting. Thanks also to Del Schmechel for his updates on the work of the Thursday crew. This work is definitely paying off for RHS, as we have over three thousand Facebook followers. The next time you see Lois or Del, congratulate them on a job well done! The Historical Park's average review at the Google map & search sites is 4.8 / 5, and our YouTube video has had 841 views.

Thanks to Kathy Weberg and Dorothy Marks for joining me in the RHS Membership tent at the recent Art at The Mill event. We passed out brochures, answered questions about RHS and the Park, and collected drawing tickets for the \$50 prize. In all, there were 71 tickets submitted, about evenly split between ones from the mailer we sent out and ones filled in at the event. That was 71 opportunities for us to meet folks and tell them about RHS in person. Congratulations to Cheri Kalcich of Richfield, the drawing winner!

I was busy lately working on a new sign, located in front of the Sugar Shack. It, and the existing sign near the Welcome Center, will house the new Park maps. Work on the graphics for the maps (thanks to Janet Scholl) is almost complete, and we'll have them up in time for the Thresheree in September. These will be a great addition to the Park.

Membership

Dorothy Marks

When I was approached in March about becoming the new Membership Chairperson, I was very hesitant. It has turned out to be something I am very much enjoying because of the new people I meet in addition to the many new and wonderful friends I have made. Since April 1 thru August 1, we have gained eighteen new members and one lifetime member.

In addition to recruiting new members, I also serve on the LWC Welcome and Library Committee. My "adopt a project" work is done when it's not raining. I do the trimming, weeding and cleanup of the Welcome Center grounds. Herb Lofy mows the grass, and together we keep it looking very nice. If you would like to join my efforts, just give Sharon Lofy, Volunteer Coordinator, a call at 262 297 1546.

John Loosen, owner of the Pleasant Hill Bar and Grill at the corner of Hwy 164 and Pleasant Hill Road, is giving us a sizable amount of wall space where we will be displaying historical pictures of Richfield, Pleasant Hill and the Richfield Historical Society. The picture frames are completed, and Herb and I will be selecting the mats and then frame the pictures. John is quite a team player! He wholeheartedly supports the Richfield Historical Society. And, we will do likewise in supporting him.

Mill House

Cindy Schmechel/Clara Birkel

Messer/Mayer Mill House Threshereee Preview

We are looking forward to once again having visitors come to tour the Mill House at the Threshereee. We will not be giving the usual guided tours as we have in the past, but will allow a few people in at a time to take self-guided tours through the House. We will have people stationed throughout the House to answer any questions they may have, and they will be given a lovely brochure which explains some of the history of the House and the families who lived there. This is the same format we used for the Art Fair. It seemed to work really well, and our visitors enjoyed their tours immensely.

We are currently in the process of setting up our special display for this year's Threshereee. We have a number of vintage clothing items that belonged to various Mayer family members which we will have displayed on mannequins and placed in different rooms throughout the House.

We are especially proud of receiving the donation of Carol Mayer Woods' wedding gown. We were allowed to "borrow" it some years ago for another display, but this year Bob and Carol have donated her beautiful dress to our permanent collection at the Mill House. In case you don't know, Carol is the daughter of George Mayer and Martha Mauer Mayer and was the last Mayer child to have been born in the Mill House. She married Bob Woods, and together they have donated a lot of original items back to the Mill House over the years.

They have been a treasure trove of information on the Mayer family history and especially generous with their own personal stories of life in Richfield and of growing up around the Mayer Mill and farm.

During your visit to the Threshereee, we look forward to having new and returning visitors come to the Mill House to see the clothing that was once worn by some of the people who lived there. We hope to see you there.



Bob & Carol Woods Wedding Photo

Mill Restoration

Al Mayer

This summer has been very busy at the Park with a lot of projects being addressed. The Mill itself has not seen much of that activity. However, it has not been ignored.

The fieldstone is beginning to grace the concrete sections of the Engine Shed, and soon the siding will follow. The siding on the Engine Shed will be the same type as that on the Woodshed located next to the Mill House. Some of the fieldstone wall needs to be built inside the building also.

Inside the Engine Shed, wooden pulleys have been made over the summer to guide the belt from the engine to the main shaft in the Mill. Additional, larger pulleys still need to be built, along with additional framing and timbers. These items will be cut from logs that we've acquired over the past two years. And, the logs will be sawed into lumber at this year's Threshereee.

We're also restoring other machinery in the Mill which needs to be ready when it becomes operational. Directly below the first floor wooden boxes, where the grain is dumped through the floor, is a piece of machinery called a

“smutter.” It is designed to scour or brush the grain to remove spores and other foreign dust and dirt before the grain is stored or ground. We've acquired a patent drawing of this machinery along with the explanation of its operation. Restoring the smaller piece is another component of getting the Mill running.

Come on out to the Park on a Sunday and check out the interesting projects that come with an 1870's Grist Mill. They are there from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. to answer your questions. See you soon at the Park!

Pioneer Homestead

Susan Sawdey

Come see the new activities at the Pioneer Homestead-Try your hand on our cider press or churning butter! Enjoy music, watch goat milking, participate in kids corn shelling and laundry washing, making sauerkraut, cooking and so much more!



Project Coordinator

Al Mayer

I invite everyone to come out to the Park and spend an hour or two taking in the beauty of what is the Richfield Historical Park.

This summer we have worked on quite a few improvements, along with routine maintenance, like mowing and painting. When you come in from Pleasant Hill Road., you'll see the newly painted shutters on the Welcome Center. Stop for a few minutes and take in the flowers. Each week many hours are spent keeping this area looking beautiful.

If you look south, across the foot bridge, you will see a flagstone walkway that takes you up to the Mill House. The stone was donated by an historical church in Sussex. Further along, you will cross over the Mill Race Bridge with its new timbers. Immediately ahead are the picnic tables in freshly red stained attire. Turning right toward the west, you will approach the garden with its cedar sided fencing. The garden too involves many hours a week tending, weeding and watering. Anyone helping with the garden is welcome to its produce.

Except for around the barn, what you won't notice are all of the ash trees that have been removed. Three years ago they lined the Park from one end to the other. The lawn mowing and snow removal also fall into the seasonal chores of the Historical Society. One of the maintenance tasks that we are currently working on is to clean the moss and other debris off of each buildings cedar roofs and treating them so as to extend their life span. All of these projects are accomplished through the efforts of members having a passion for the Park, volunteering their time to improve the Park so that all have a pride in this jewel of the community.

Come on out to the Park and take a look! We have a group of retired guys that meet there on Thursdays at 8 a.m., our volunteer work group. We also get together at 10 a.m. on Sunday's for the younger set that would like to get involved. I hope you'll come out and see us! You can contact me at 262-909-0129

Volunteer Coordinator

Sharon Lofty

The Richfield Historical Society 22nd Annual Thresheree & Harvest Festival will be September 18 &19. We are grateful to our many sponsors. They help us present this great two-day event.

- The steam engines need to be hauled to and from the show.
- There are some exhibitors (saw mill) that are paid to come to our event. But, we have so many exhibitors who come at their own expense (gasoline engines, Model "T" & Model" A" Car Clubs, WWI & WWII exhibitors, encampments, tractor, truck and car collections. New this year is the American Truck Historical Society – Beer City Chapter Exhibit.
- There will be more activities for children - look for the Kids Zone (provided and run by the Sussex Antique Power Club) along with other activities for children around the grounds.
- This year check out the Mill with the Superior engine in our new attached Engine Shed.
- The House will have a great display of clothing from the Mayer family.
- Look for the Smoke House to emit real smoke.
- Visit the Lillicrapp Welcome Center to gain information on the Richfield area and see what is new in the General Store.
- Check out the Blacksmith Shop and see what they are hammering.
- The Pioneer Homestead will teach the basics of making apple cider, sauerkraut, turning wool into yarn, cast iron cooking, washboard laundry, goat milking all while listening to Grandpas Banjo.
- Don't forget the Silent Auction Tent with great items for yourself and possible gifts for those you know.
- Sweets 'n' Stuff will be filled with items for everyone along with bakery treats.
- Are you a pie baker? Enter our Pie Contest Saturday & Sunday. Bring your cooled and set fruit pie to the Pie Tent by 10 a.m. Judging will be at 10:30 a. m. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be given both days. (Please no cream pies.) Also, bring cooled pies. (If the pies are still hot or warm, they cannot be sliced, served, and judged properly.) If you do not want your pie judged, we will gratefully accept it and sell slices to our attendees.
- For this year, the food will be served by the Richfield Lions. Also, the Humane Society will provide chili.
- Be sure to stop at the Richfield Historical Society Beverage & Ice Cream tent for refreshments and ice cream treats.
- Look for the Sweet Corn tent. Kettle Korn will be a great snack.
- Also, fresh produce, canned jellies & pickles will be available along the way.
- At the Sugar Shack you can find Richfield Historical Society's maple cotton candy.

- Richfield Historical Society's new bridge will be ready for use during the Threshere. It is located where the walking bridge was. Now the people movers will be able to make a complete circle in the Park. Hop on one, and it will take you around the Park and then back to the parking lot. The Tractor Parade (Saturday & Sunday 11:30 a.m..) will be able to make a complete circle as well. This has been on the planning table for many years. Finally, all the "t's" were crossed and the "i's" dotted.
- WTKM Live Remote will be present Saturday morning, along with the Ed Hause Band.
- Kettle Moraine Musicians will perform in the afternoon.
- Sunday morning, Tale Spin will perform followed by Jefferson Davis in the afternoon.

You will be receiving an email with a listing of areas where we need a helping hand. Please help if you can. We know not everyone can. If you cannot help, maybe you can come and see the event. Maybe you know of someone who would like to volunteer. Either pass their name and information on to me – Sharon (262-297-1546) or have them give me a call.

It's unbelievable that we have done this event for over 20 years. A BIG THANK YOU goes to all of YOU – VOLUNTEERS that make this event possible year after year!!!

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE THRESHEREE ENCLOSED FLIER.

Sponsors & Goods/Services Donors

Sponsors for our events and Good/Services donors are a very important and appreciated element of the operation of the Richfield Historical Society. The support of these contributors enables the Society to continue the projects which preserve the history of the Village of Richfield and share it with current and future generations.

Wheat \$500 or more

Dr. Don & Janis Crego (Threshere)
 Dehumidifier Corporation of America (Art Fair)
 E. H. Wolf & Sons, Inc. (Threshere)
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Rye \$499 - \$250

Window Select (Art Fair)

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 Wissota Sand & Gravel (Gravel)
 Wolf Bros. Fuel, Inc. (LP Gas)

SOCIETY FALL PROGRAMS – Richfield Fire Station #1 on HWY 175 – 7:00 p.m.
(Programs are open to the public at no charge, and all are welcome!)

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 – “Pioneer Cooking and Early Cuisine” – Susan Sawdey

Early frontier cooking was greatly influenced by place and season. By necessity food was cooked by very simple methods. Dutch ovens, frying pans, boiling pots, and roasting spits were typically employed. Susan Sawdey, Committee Chair for our Pioneer Homestead, is known for her hands on demonstrations of pioneer cooking at our Motz Log Cabin.

OCTOBER 28, 2021 – “The Black Hawk War of 1832 – Wisconsin’s Last Indian War” – Dr. Patrick J. Jung

The Black Hawk War of 1832 was the last Indian war fought in Wisconsin. Dr. Jung’s talk will provide a general overview of the conflict, including the causes of the war, its principal battles, and the war’s final consequences. The greatest consequence was that the Black Hawk War provided the way for large-scale white settlement in Wisconsin after 1832

NOVEMBER 18, 2021– “Mittens on the Tree” – Jessica Michna

Ms. Michna is no stranger to RHS. She will be with us again now presenting as Caroline Ingalls, the mother of Laura Ingalls Wilder author of “The Little House on the Prairie.” Caroline Ingalls was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1839. She and her husband, Charles Ingalls had five children. Their second oldest girl was authoress Laura Ingalls Wilder.