



Richfield Historical Society  
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 richfieldhistoricalsociety.org

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**Bank Robbery of December 10, 1968 by Jim Lofy**

Based on a Library Committee interview with Jim Lofy – June 2019

Following military service, Jim Lofy began his career at the Richfield State Bank. Due to the nature of his work, he got to know everyone in the community. Jim also belonged to the Richfield Lions Club and the Richfield Fire Department, and he always had to maintain a professional image.

That morning of December 10, 1968, Jim left his home, as usual, at 8:15 A.M. and proceeded to work. Along the way he would stop at the Post Office to collect the Bank's mail. Jim lived only 2 miles from the Bank at the time and would arrive at work by 8:30 A.M.

When he approached the stop sign at Hwy. 175, he noticed a parked car with its hood up in the air. Jim stopped and asked the man who was standing there if he needed some help – there was no answer!

At this point, Jim got the feeling he should *not* be there. While it was an overcast day, this guy was wearing wrap-around sunglasses and a camel hair overcoat. There were two additional men lurking in the back seat of his car. He slammed down the hood of his car, and then walked back to Jim's car (a new Volvo) and stepped in. The robber then pulled out a gun (a .38 Special) and directed Jim to drive to the Bank.



**Hold Up Victims** – Pictured are the two victims of the robbery Tuesday morning are Mrs. Robert Eibles and Jim Lofy, cashier. Both are residents of Richfield. Authorities have said more than \$20,000 was obtained in the robbery. Three men are sought in connection with the robbery.

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Jim and the robber drove into Richfield. The robber sat next to Jim with his arms crossed, and held a gun to the side of Jim's body. Upon arrival at the Bank, Jim pulled into the parking lot, but not to his usual spot. The robber was a very large man, and he and Jim nearly bumped shoulders in Jim's car. The robber had difficulty opening the door of Jim's fancy car; so, Jim ended up reaching over to open the door for the robber! They immediately entered the Bank and headed for the vault door. There were 5 different combinations that Jim had to remember.

Only Bank officers had keys to gain access to the Bank. Jim opened the vault door leading to the safes, (weighing 4,000 lbs.) He spun the wheel to prevent closing the door, a safety measure in the event someone was in there. (Spinning the vault door wheel would cause a jam so that it could not close. If someone got stuck in the vault, there was a chrome handle on the rear wall to turn which activated the ventilator. However, the ventilator was connected to the Men's Room, and that was the air that came into the vault!) One cash safe was opened; another safe containing huge amounts of money was on a time lock. It took 15-20 minutes to release the time lock.

After that, as Sandy Eilbes came to work; a guy came into the Bank with her. Jim sat on boxes, and Sandy went into the vault. The robber stood in the doorway. One of the men was the son-in-law of the robber, and he proceeded to watch out the windows.

The robber carried a huge green canvas bag which was used to collect the money. At this time of year, and because of the Holiday season, an abundance of money was kept in the back. Stocks and bonds were also located in the vault. The robber grabbed them; but Jim told him it was merely "scrap paper" - so the robber threw them on the floor. There was also a drawer for night deposits, which contained one bag; but the robbers did not take that. It was getting close to 9:00 A.M. when the robbers left the Bank. Upon leaving the bank, the men told Jim to tell the cops "it was 4-5 black men who held up the Bank." Jim was told they also had men staking out Jim's residence. Jim called home and learned a car was parked near the driveway; but his wife was okay.

Jim called the Sheriff's Department who immediately called the FBI. Ray Jeffords was the Washington County Sheriff at the time. Ray placed cardboard over the tire tracks of the robber's fleeing car in order to preserve them.

The plan was to have the police arrive without lights and sirens. Within 30 minutes, a member of the FBI was on-scene. At this time, the other employees and Vice President Bill Wolf arrived. Joe Kainz was a customer who came every day at 9:00 A.M. He was told, as were other arriving customers, there would be a slight delay to open the Bank. The Police and the FBI took a cash count to see how much money had been taken. In order to throw off other potential robbers, a smaller amount than had been taken was reported. The reported amount was \$20,000, but it was actually much more than that.

The FBI assigned an agent to Jim, and they proceeded to the back room, with the agent carrying a large pack of legal pads. He used full legal pads to take notes, and he constantly repeated questions, attempting to intimidate and mix-up Jim. The blinds were closed in that office. They met until 6:00 P.M. that night. The FBI agent was a very impressive guy who asked many questions. The agent also did a background check on Jim, including school records, military service, etc.

The getaway car had actually been ditched, and it was eventually found outside of the Kohl's store in Menomonee Falls. Jim was able to describe the robber to the FBI agent. When Jim described the robber, the FBI agent had somewhat of an idea as to who Jim was talking about. He was a police officer from Milwaukee who had numerous gambling debts.

The FBI agent was at the Bank again the next day, asking many more questions. Jim was asked to look at mug shot books, and he also informed the Agent that the robber had said "stop looking at me!" There were 15 pictures to review, and the robber's photo (Roger Knotwell) was in those books!

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Prior to the robbery, Jim had attended an Aetna training session where he learned (based on the Bank's history) "you are overdue for a bank robbery!!" A major discussion item as to "what to look for" was a gun. Jim was cleared as a suspect by the second day. Tom Hooper from WITI-TV 6 also came out to the Bank one day to do an interview.

Roger Knotwell was caught one month later at the Denver Airport. He was also involved in other grocery store robberies and with the Kohls Store robbery in Milwaukee on Appleton Avenue. Since he left the Police Department, Roger had come on hard times. He had \$4,500 on him when arrested.

This matter went to trial in Milwaukee – and it was a huge fiasco!! Fran Croake from Milwaukee was his lawyer, and he was a very good defense attorney. Both Sandy and Jim testified in front of the 12-person jury. One man on the jury fell asleep frequently. While Sandy was on the stand, they talked about clothing and shoes worn by the robber. The robber was dressed in fine clothing. The attorney actually convinced Sandy he was wearing blue shoes!! Her testimony became inadmissible!

In the end, Roger Knotwell was charged with a lesser charge. However, he was sought after in Washington County and re-arrested! He was also tied with other police records and sent to prison in Lancaster, WI. One month later, the FBI agent reported Roger was not doing very well. He had died in prison. While working in the laundry at the prison, he was sitting at a table when scalding hot water was dumped on him, causing his death. Roger's helpers got minimal jail time.

No shots were ever fired during the Richfield State Bank robbery. There was no concern about locks being unlocked. Jim always kept a .44 mag pistol in the vault at the Bank. While the robber waited in the vault doorway with his back toward Jim, he could have killed him on the spot. However, it was a good thing Jim did not do so because that would have been BEFORE the robbery actually occurred!

Jim worked at the Bank for 10-15 years. The Wolf family got involved in the banking industry. William D. Wolf had controlling stock in the Bank. The Stuessers were also involved with the Bank. Typical services provided at the Bank included mortgages, real estate appraisals, deeds, and quit claim deeds.

When the charter for the first bank was obtained, some would buy stock. It was at that time when the Wolfs bought the majority of the stock. Bill had the Wolf Grocery Store. He was a very good business man, and he came from a good family. Herman Wolf was his brother, and the family was very large. In those days, there were not a lot of stockholders in the Bank; the Wolfs controlled the majority. This would need to change as time went on. Primary banks of that era included the First Wisconsin Bank and the Marine Bank.

Jim bought commercial paper from other banks. He attended the American Institute of Banking to learn about the business, but he also learned a lot on the job. Harry Kloth trained Jim. One day a customer brought in a dog, and Harry said the dog could stay in the bank if he did not leave a deposit! When the Kennedy shooting occurred, there was a radio located in the back of the Bank. As the news came over the radio, everyone was shocked; except for Harry – he always remained calm. Joe Hinchcliffe was also a very good banker at the time. He was an accountant and a major tax guy in the area. Some say he may have lived at the Bank at one time.

**P.S. Customer Memories:** Sheriff Laubenheimer lived behind the Bank. He walked in and often visited with some of the customers. He enjoyed joking around with people. Eldie Yochum Schwulst was a very interesting person; sort of a "Little Abner" type woman who often came in smoking a pipe or cigarettes – she was quite the character!

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## Maple Syrup – Native American Origins – by Dave Lehman

Maple sugar has a long and rich American history as written in this letter from Benjamin Rush to Thomas Jefferson 19 August 1791:

*“In contemplating the present opening prospects in human affairs, I am led to expect that a material part of the general happiness which heaven seems to have prepared for mankind, will be derived from the manufacture and general use of Maple Sugar.”*

Then some sixteen year later in a letter from Jefferson himself to Monsieur Lasteyrie of France, he says: *“I have never seen a reason why every farmer should not have a sugar orchard, as well as an apple orchard. The supply of sugar for his family would require as little ground, and the process of making it as easy as that of cider.”*

Yet maple sugaring seems actually to have begun centuries ago among the **Chippewa** and **Menomini** of Wisconsin. For example, there is this wonderful myth from these Native Americans:

*“One day Weebojo [cultural hero and demigod whose grandmother was the Earth, and who was a “bringer of good things” and a “trickster”] was standing under a maple tree. Suddenly it began to rain maple syrup – no – sap – right on top of him. Weebojo got a birch-bark tray and held it out to catch the syrup. He said to himself: ‘This is too easy for the Indians.’ So he threw the syrup away and decided that before they could have the syrup, the Indians would have to give a feast, offer tobacco, speak to the **Manido** [great creator god, meaning “Great Spirit”] and put out some birch-bark trays.*

*The Menomini say that Nokimsi [grandmother of Weebojo and Manabush] showed him how to insert a small piece of wood into each maple tree so the sap could run down into the vessels beneath. When Manabush [son of the West Wind, the “transformer”] tested it, it was thick and sweet. He told his grandmother it would never do to give the Indians the syrup without making them work for it. He climbed to the top of the maples, scattered rain over all the trees, dissolving the sugar as it flowed into the birchbark vessels. Now the Indians have to cut wood, make vessels, collect the sap and boil it for a long time. This keeps them from being idle for too long a time.”*

The **Ojibway** call the maple tree, **Ninukik** [meaning “our own tree”,] and the earliest settlers apparently called it “Indian melasses” and “Indian sugar,” and had their own names for the tree before, the French, English, or Dutch even knew America existed.

Among the earliest references to the making of maple sugar is in the memoir of Sebastien Rasles, a missionary to the Abnakis [ancient forerunners to the Menomini] in the 1690s – *“It is curious to know that the method of extracting the bayberry wax and making maple sugar, articles of considerable importance to us, has been learned of the aborigines.”*

Then in 1705, Robert Beverley writes a statement that seems conclusive enough – *“The Sugar-Tree yields a kind of Sap or Juice, which by boiling is made into Sugar.*



Maple Tree

*This Juice is drawn out, by wounding the Trunk of the Tree, and placing a Receiver under the Wound. The Indians make One Pound of Sugar, out of Eight Pounds of the Liquor."*

**Ojibwe women making maple Sugar at Cass Lake on the Leech Lake Reservation of Ojibwe c. 1920**



*Ojibwee people have made maple sugar, a traditional dietary staple, for centuries. It is easily accessible in the woodlands of Minnesota [and Wisconsin!] and can be stored for months without spoiling. While the technology used in the process has changed over the years, Ojibwe people continue to harvest maple sugar in the present day." [photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society]*

Thus, the Richfield Historical Society continues proudly this rich tradition of the Native Americans of Wisconsin, and enjoy making maple syrup made from our own sugar bush on the property of the Messer-Mayer Mill.

**References:**

- Helen and Scott Nearing, The Maple Sugar Book: Together with Remarks on Pioneering as a Way of Living in the Twentieth Century, Shocken Books, 1970.
- Robert and Pat Ritzenthaler, The Woodland Indians of the Western Great Lakes, Natural History Press, 1970.

**Technology is Ever Changing - Lois Hessenauer**

Technology is ever changing, and the Richfield Historical Society is trying to keep up. With smart phones being one of the main methods of communication, signage on the buildings in the Richfield Historical Park will include QR (Quick Response) codes. On the outside of each building will be a sign giving a brief description of it. On these signs, there will be a QR code. When a smart phone is held up to the code, the viewer will be taken to an internet page. At that point, a script can be



listened to sharing more information about the building. Try it right now with your smart phone using the code for the Smokehouse. Our talented woodworker, Harry Niemann, has made waterproof frames for each of the signs.



Signage inside some of the buildings will also contain QR codes to allow visitors to browse on their own and learn about various artifacts within the buildings. The Motz log cabin, as well as some of the other buildings such as the Blacksmith Shop, will be using this type of interactive activity. Use your phone to access this QR code to hear about the rope bed which is located in the Motz log cabin.



**President**

**Susan Sawdey**

I want to take the opportunity to thank you, our membership, for "sticking with us" this year. Additionally, I would like to thank our hard working and dedicated Board members. 2020 has not been an easy year. It has been losing loved ones, missing out on friends, family, gatherings and activities that we love. It has meant economic hardship for many, difficult conversations on race, economic status, and political beliefs, all of which pulls us apart from one another. When I look back on 2020, I can think of a number of moments where we were able to make improvements to future services we will provide to you. We were able to re-evaluate how we do things and really took on some challenges that will have a positive impact on our community. The Richfield

Historical Society is fortunate to have the kind of volunteers we have and 2020 proved it. We pulled together, supported each other through the tough moments, and kept moving forward. Here's to a Happy and Healthy New Year!

**Blacksmith Shop**

**Kathy Lauenstein**

Hello 2021 . . . . Goodbye 2020

Working on plans for 2021 - A new look for the inside of RHS Blacksmith Shop. Plans are to regroup and move displays around for better viewing. With help from RHS master smith, we were trying to make displays that you would have seen back in time. Making items for the shop takes time because it's that attention to details we fine hard. Everything needs to be made. Want to hang something - a hook needs to be made. So our list grows.

To Quote Francis Whitaker, Master Smith  
*Art is long . . . Life is short . . . Get going*

Come see us at the Park.

**Education**

**Kathy Weberg**

The Education Committee is hopeful that Education Days held annually in May will happen! Schools are being contacted to see if it is even possible for them to attend. There is a lot that needs to come together, but our volunteers are eager to provide this opportunity once again for the area third graders.

While the schools attended for a full day in past years, this year the format will require some tweaking in order to keep our volunteers and the attendees safe. So it is anticipated that students will attend for only a half day. This shortened format will allow for students to remain outdoors. So some locations, like the Lillicrapp Welcome Center which has all activities inside, will be totally off limits. Students from different schools will not be grouped together; and since it is only a half day, will not eat lunch together.

There still will be plenty to do. An expanded hike through the Park is planned which could include checking out what was the Mill Pond and the remnants of the old Dam. The Pioneer Homestead will have activities outside as well as the Sugar Shack.

All of this is tentative, flexible and a work-in-progress, just what we've grown accustomed to this year.

**Events**

**Daryl Grier**

The Events Committee & event chairs met to discuss what events RHS will have in 2021, and how they will be changed due to COVID.

At this time, RHS has cancelled the Antique Appraisal & Chile Lunch and Step Back in Time.

Dates for events that are planned are:

- Maple Syrup Family Day - Saturday March 27
- Art at the Mill - June 19 - (new date)
- Thresheree & Harvest Festival - September 18 and 19
- Christmas at the Richfield Historical Park - December 4

We will be meeting soon to work out details for Maple Syrup Family Day. If you would like to join us, please contact Daryl Grier - 262 628-4221 [dgrier@charter.net](mailto:dgrier@charter.net)

**Purging Unused Household Items?**

You can decrease your clutter and help the Historical Society at the same time by donating items to be sold at the Silent Auction or at Sweets 'n Stuff at the Threshere. We can use household items and books.

Contact Daryl Grier [dgrier@charter.net](mailto:dgrier@charter.net) 262 628-4221 or Sharon Lofy [hsl1725@yahoo.com](mailto:hsl1725@yahoo.com) 262 297-1546 if

you have any questions. All proceeds benefit our society!

**Maple Syrup Family Day – Pete Samson**

Maple Syrup Family Day will be held the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in March, the 27<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Although this is an outside event, social distancing guidelines will be followed, while still allowing everyone to have an enjoyable day in the Park. This year's event will be focused in the south end of the Park. Demonstrations will be held at the Sugar Shack, Pioneer Homestead and Blacksmith Shop. Our award winning maple syrup will be available for purchase as well as our signature maple flavored cotton candy. Other food and drink items will also be available for purchase.

Come join us for a memorable day you won't soon forget. We look forward to seeing all of you.

**Historic Sites**

**Quint Mueller/Herb Lofy**

One thing that was normal in 2020 is that we did manage to accomplish some very significant projects. In the spring of 2020 however, it didn't look like we would be able to even start much of anything. There were three big projects, plus numerous small ones that were addressed in 2020. Two of those have been in the planning for several years and are right out in the open. It's always nice to have visual progress to point to.

Not only, did Al Mayer and the RHS crew get a start on the long-awaited Engine Shed, but it's now enclosed for the winter. (Look for details about that in the Project Coordinator's report to follow.) The second big project of the year was installation of the new culvert crossing to the back area of the Nature Park. Even though this is technically a Nature Park addition, it was completely funded, planned, and organized by RHS. The new culvert crossing replaced the old foot bridge that was nearing the end of its life. This will be a huge benefit when the annual Threshere is held in September, as well as for other events, providing access to the threshing demonstration area at the Park.

Thanks go out to John Loosen, Chris Larsen, Zignego Ready Mix, Jacob Rosbeck, and the Village of Richfield for their assistance with this project. All of these community members helped make this happen. As has been the case so often when a need arises, community members, both individuals and organizations, have stepped up to help. This is one of the many things that make projects like this come alive.

Many of the new custom-made storm windows have now been installed at the Mill House. A small dedicated crew has been working on the construction of the windows, while a smaller, separate crew has been doing the installation. By maintaining a crew dedicated to each process, it's much easier to keep the results consistent throughout the project. As mentioned in the last newsletter, each window has to be trimmed and adjusted to fit. No two windows are exactly the same size.

Once the weather permits, installation of the second floor windows will proceed. In the meantime, new storm windows for the Lillicrapp Welcome Center are being worked on as well. We hope to get all of the new storm windows installed in 2021.

Del Schmechel has led the crew, as Project Coordinator, for several years now and has done a great job of keeping our projects and maintenance moving forward. Thank you Del! As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, Al Mayer has taken the lead as Project Coordinator. Al has been with RHS and the crew for many years now and has done a tremendous job with everything he has taken on. We look forward to Al's guidance and enthusiasm in his new role.

As you visit the Richfield Historical Park in 2021, look around for the work done by the RHS volunteers in 2020 and on going in 2021. Some of the projects to look for include new storm windows in the Mill House and LWC, rebuilding of the bridge near the Mill, completion of the mill Engine Shed and many smaller projects that need to be done.



Culvert



Culvert



Animal Shelter

**Animal Shelter**

Scout Nolan Jackett from Hubertus has completed the animal shelter located between the log cabin and barn in the Pioneer Homestead area in the Historical Park. This was his project to achieve Eagle Scout status. Thursday crew members harvested ash logs from the Historical Park to create the basic structure.

Nolan is a member of Troop 110, Daniel Boone. With help from his troop, the project was completed in about 4 months. It's an example of a three sided building (about 9'x12') used to protect small animals such as goats, sheep, pigs, etc. on pioneer farms. Thanks to Nolan and his crew.

Pioneer Homestead Committee Chairman, Susan Sawdey, tells us a fence will be constructed across the front to allow housing milking goats and other small livestock at our events.



**Library/Newsletter/Programs**

**Marge Holzbog**

During the month of July 2020, all RHS members received a complimentary copy of Professor Patrick Jung's book on Holy Hill. A limited number of copies are still available for purchase at \$10.00.

Other RHS publications available for purchase include:

Richfield Remembers the Past	\$50.00
Life on the Farm	\$15.00
Downtown Richfield	\$15.00
Feeding the Crew	\$15.00

Many of these publications contain memories of Richfield citizens that have been captured by the Library Committee in interviews.

To that end, Jerry Apps has a new publication called "The Old Timer Says." It is a writing journal which provides writers and non-writers alike the space and inspiration to capture their own stories. Perhaps starting your own journal now will allow you to look back at a later date to recollect some of today's happenings to share with your family or Richfield Historical Society's Library Committee

Please note that due to the Covid virus our Community Programs for January, February and March have been cancelled. Updates regarding April and May will be posted on our website. It is too early to tell what is possible.

**Marketing**

**Doug Wenzel**

Much of our time over the past couple of months was spent developing a promotional video, which presents the Historical Park buildings as well as the events held there by RHS. We hope you like the results!

You can find the link to the new video at the RHS website and Facebook page. Our thanks to Herb Lofy, who had the vision for this project and kicked it off by organizing the drone video shots, and to Susan Brushafer for doing the narration and putting up with my incessant revisions.

January is our month for entering the upcoming RHS events into online community event calendars. Each year we enter our events into about 40 different online calendars. We want to make sure that anyone looking for a good time can find us!

**Mill House**

**Cindy Schmechel/Clara Birkel**

Thankfully, the year twenty-twenty has come to a close and a new year has finally begun. The Messer-Mayer Mill House Committee is looking forward to being able to open the Mill House for tours as soon as it becomes safe to do so and to share with our guests the story of the families who lived and worked there.

Even though we were closed for all of last year, that doesn't mean we weren't busy getting some creative ideas together for the 2021 Threshere. Earlier last year, before the pandemic hit, we had spent some time looking through several storage boxes we have that are filled with various clothing items from a variety of Mayer family members. They range from vintage wedding gowns to military uniforms to beautiful items of children's clothing. Each outfit is unique in its own way, and they represent several different generations of the family. We have decided to set up displays of some of these items throughout the Mill House for our special 2021 Threshere presentation and will have information on each outfit and the person who wore it.

To that end, we are looking for both children's and adult women's mannequins or dress forms so that we are able to present these clothing items in vignette's in various rooms throughout the House. We work with a limited budget, so donations or loans of dress forms or mannequins would be greatly appreciated. We want to make this year's Thresheree display at the Mill House as special as we can make it so that our new and returning guests enjoy their visit.

We thank all of you for your support of the Richfield Historical Society and hope that you have remained safe and healthy through the pandemic and that you continue to do so until we meet again. Have a very Happy New Year!

**Mill Restoration**

**Harry Niemann/Al Mayer**

Now that the Engine Shed reconstruction is well under way and the Superior engine is located inside, our organization has taken a significant step towards "Getting it Grinding"!!

As spring approaches, added efforts will focus on setting in place the main shaft that transfers the power from the engine into the Mill, and distributes it to the various equipment. This shaft, as shown in the photo, was hanging from the south wall of the Messer- Mayer Mill for decades. RHS took it down and had it rebuilt.

You have seen our engine in operation if you've been to one of our events and viewed the Superior engine display near the Mill.



**Kevin Maltby & Superior Engine**



**Main Shaft**

Some of the existing supports that secure this shaft in place are solid and intact. Some, due to decay, need to be remade. Many of the wooden pulleys (sheaves) are deteriorated and also need to be rebuilt. Most of the line shafts have been placed back in the Mill since the foundation repair, and there is much "put zing" to do! But, we are making steady progress!!

**Project Coordinator**

**Al Mayer**

**The Mayer- Messer Engine Shed Reconstruction** - The vision of reconstructing the Engine Shed to the Mayer- Messer Mill has been a dream of many since the inception of the Richfield Historical Society. As time has advanced, so has the dream. With hundreds of volunteers and countless hours of hard work, the

Historical Park has been transformed into a beautiful resource for the Village of Richfield as well as anyone who visits.

In the fall of 2019, RHS developed plans and attained approvals and permits to begin reconstruction of the previously existing Engine Shed. Due to sub-freezing temperatures and snow in early 2020, it looked as though we would have to postpone work on the foundation until spring. However, early 2020 December warmed up long enough to excavate, build the foundation, and complete the footwork (floor) before the cold weather and frost returned. (For a more detailed account of this part of the project see Tim Einwalter's article in the Winter 2019 Newsletter.)

January of 2020 presented the opportunity to acquire the "Dutch Lap" siding needed for the Shed from a building in Jackson that was scheduled to be burned down in a week. Four days later our crew of volunteers dismantled the 100-year-old garage and saved the sheathing and siding that matches the material used on the original Engine Shed. Boy- what a find!!

In late February 2020, our crew of volunteers was making shingles out of cedar telephone poles over at Charlie Schmitz place for the roof of the Shed. An estimated 7 squares of shingles were cut (20 bundles.) Also lumber was cut from ash trees removed from the Park to aid in additional boards to construct the Shed. Volunteers spent over 70 hours cutting rafters, joists, and sheathing.

After allowing time for this structural lumber to dry to reduce warpage, we were ready to start building in late July. The long dreamed of structure of 1895 would begin to take shape. After construction techniques and early architectural elements were studied, we started rebuilding the balloon frame style shed that features cut-in ledger boards and rafters from rough cut wood that exhibits saw marks of field cut logs.

The century-old sheathing is visible inside on the walls, and the rafters feature a "bird's mouth" style eave used on the original The century-old sheathing is visible inside on the walls, and the Shed. The roof is sheathed with pine boards to make re-roofing feasible. The shingles are nailed like the originals, nail guns prohibited

Now at the close of 2020, the building is secure for the winter. The Superior engine that has spent so many years in the weather is now covered from the elements. Over the winter months, we'll start to reconstruct the belt transmission system that connects the Engine to the Mill apparatus. As of this writing, the windows have already been made, from scratch, by one of our members. Expect to see a few of them installed in the coming weeks!



**Archival Engine Shed Photo**



**Engine Shed Material**



**Engine Shed Construction**

When spring returns and the ground thaws, we look forward to setting fieldstone to the exposed concrete walls, installing the remaining windows, and putting on the siding that is signature to the archive photos of the Engine Shed!

If you feel you have an interest in learning more about our projects, or want to develop a new talent, contact any board member and they can help you find out more! I feel we're in for an exciting year.

Come out and enjoy the Park.



Engine Shed Winter 2020

## **Volunteer Coordinator**

**Sharon Lofy**

Thanks goes to the Richfield Historical Society Board Members, Event Chairs, Thursday Crew and all volunteers for all that you do to keep our society energized and growing. Please pass along a thank you to volunteers that are not members. Without your time and talents, we would not be.

2020 in one way gave some (not all) of us extra free time. Hopefully, this gave us time to reflect. You might be considering becoming more involved (joining the Board, Thursday Crew, or one of our many committee groups.) There is always need for volunteers for our events, tour guides (Mill, Mill House, Welcome Center), helping with maple syrup, grounds keeping, and maintenance are some areas to look into. If you have any questions or interests, please get in touch with the chair person for that group or give me a call (262-297-1546.) We are planning ways to have events in 2021. Safety measures for our guests and you as volunteers are top priority.

The seed catalogs are coming in the mail. It's a great time to start planning your vegetable and flower gardens along with planters for your yard.

The Richfield Historical Society is again sponsoring a Plant Fundraiser Event made possible through Nehm's Greenhouse. Plant certificates will be in \$15 and \$25 amounts. You will be able to purchase these certificates from our society to be use at the Greenhouse. A portion from each certificate will go to the Society. These certificates make great gifts. Personally, I use them annually for Mother's Day, in Easter baskets, and for Birthday and special occasion gifts. Also, it's an opportunity to get your children involved in growing vegetables or flowering plants - great for watching how a seed sprouts as well as watching how the plant grows and produces something to eat or a beautiful flower to enjoy.

You will be getting information in April. The certificates are good in the month of May, the month allowing for the best selection of plants. Certificates will still be accepted beginning of June, but it is not assured the selections will be as plentiful. If you do not receive information about the Plant Sale, give me a call at (262-297-1546.)

Please be sure to spread this information to relatives, friends and neighbors. Your participation in this Plant Fund Raiser is greatly appreciated! It helps with the many expenses that the Society incurs with keeping everything in good order. Last year due to the Covid-19, we were unable to have our great events that bring in money for expenses. Keeping everything repaired and maintained needs to be done whether we have events or not.