



*Richfield Historical Society  
 Box 268  
 Richfield, WI 53076  
 richfieldhistoricalsociety.org*

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**President**

*Pete Samson*

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**Education**

*Kathy Weberg*

**Event Coordinator**

*Daryl Grier*

**Historic Sites**

*Quint Mueller/Herb Lofy*

**Library//Newsletter/Programs**

*Marge Holzbog/Connie Thoma*

**LWC Welcome Center**

*Ruth Jeffords*

**Marketing**

*Doug Wenzel*

**Membership**

*Dorothy Marks*

**Mill House**

*Clara Birkel/Cindy Schmechel*

**Mill Restoration**

*Al Mayer*

**Pioneer Homestead**

*Susan Sawdey*

**Project Coordinator**

*Al Mayer*

**Volunteer Coordinator**

*Sharon Lofy*

**THIS IS HOW IT ALL BEGAN:**

In the 1976 National Bicentennial year, the History Committee Chairmanship brought together interesting information about the history of our community.

Several senior citizens were interviewed at the time including, Lena Lofy, an early schoolteacher in the area, as well as other people in the know about the history of Richfield. A photo display was put together and displayed in the Library at Friess Lake School.

Over the 1980s and early 1990s, the Richfield Town Board was approached several times about partially funding a document about the community's history. Several times we were told that funding should be attained through advertising. That was not the group's desire. So the idea was dropped.

Then, in anticipation of Richfield's 1996 Sesquicentennial year, the informal group was requested by then Town Chairman Bill Neureuther to put together a celebration document that the Township would support for \$2,500 up front money to be refunded from the sale of the developed document.



And, that is how the 19<sup>th</sup> century history was developed in the "Richfield Remembers the Past" book. (Recall at this time, the Richfield Historical Society did not exist. That would come later in 1997, the Society founding year 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary which we are now celebrating.)

So "Richfield Remembers" was prepared by the ad hoc committee which included: Marge Holzbog, Barbara Nelson, Dan Goetz, Joyce Jung, Karleen Krause, Donna Schwenke, Connie Villalobos, and John Wahlen. The 1976 Richfield National Bicentennial Committee also assisted including: Otis and Anna Motz and Molly Soba. Fine Craft Studio headed by Jill Wettstein did the layout and Heritage Instant Printing did the printing.

With no electronic capabilities, all photos were identified at two Photo Fests held at Fire Station #1 where the photos were on display by their owners. The photos then needed borrowing (after meticulous documentation for the owners) and delivered to Crivello's Photo Shop for photographing. (Of course, a second trip was needed to return the photos to the donor.) The Committee received an initial photo print, no negatives, which today are the base for the on line electronic photo file managed by Will and Lois Hessenauer. At least two interviews per family were conducted to obtain the 150 Richfield homestead family genealogies included in the book.

The first prepaid soft cover copies were delivered on the day of the 150 celebration at the Town Hall. and all monies forwarded by the Township were repaid. The first printing was for 1000 copies and many reprints in both hard and soft cover have followed. Soft cover reprints are available today at the LWC History Room for \$50.00.

With interest in the history of the Township high, the year (1997) saw the birth of the Richfield Historical Society whose 25<sup>th</sup> birthday we will be celebrating on Sunday February 27, 2022.



**Town Chairman, Bill Neureuter and scouts raising the American flag at the Richfield 1996 Sesquicentennial Celebration.**



**The Sesquicentennial celebration was done with all the trimmings including distribution of plaques with the above image to homestead homes. Many are still there today.**



**The dismantling of the Kuhaupt barn in 1997 was the first project undertaken by the work crew which today is the very important RHS working team led by Al Mayer.**



In 1980, the Messer/Mayer Mill 1980 Property was in the ownership of George Mayer.

George Mayer  
The Last Miller  
1971



left to right)  
Pig Barn, Barn,  
and Wood Shed.



The Mill in 1997 as it stood in disrepair and bramble the year RHS was established.



After purchase by the Township in 1998, Mill work was begun under the long term maintenance and restoration agreement RHS has for the property with the Township.

**President**

**Pete Samson**

**Happy New Year!**

Throughout 2022 we will be celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Richfield Historical Society! Several new events have been added in addition to our ongoing annual events.

The first event will be held at Terrace 167 on February 27<sup>th</sup>. This is for our members and special people who have helped get us to where we are today. There will also be a video showing the progression of RHS's accomplishments over the past 25 years. All members will receive an invitation.

The second added event is for members only. Behind the Scenes Day at the Park, will be held July 17<sup>th</sup>. Have you ever wondered what is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the Welcome Center or the basement of the Messer Mayer House? Would you like a close up of the workings of the Blacksmith Shop? Come see what goes on Behind the Scenes at these locations.

In addition, mark your calendars for another new event open to the public. Blacksmith Day will be held on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

As always, we look forward to sharing all of our events with you and look forward to seeing you throughout the year including at our monthly meetings.

As your president, I plan to continue the traditions of past presidents to continue improving the Richfield Historical Society. If you have any questions, please email me at [rhsboardpete@gmail.com](mailto:rhsboardpete@gmail.com) or call 262-957-7890.

As always, we look forward to sharing all of our events with you and look forward to seeing you throughout the year including at our monthly Community Programs, open to members and the public at no charge at Fire Station #1 on HWY 175.

We will be electing two Directors at the January 27<sup>th</sup> Community Program meeting.

*Celebrating 25 Years*



**\*Members Only\***

**BEHIND THE SCENES DAY**

**Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00 - 4:00 PM**

Richfield Historical Park  
1896 Hwy 164  
Richfield, WI 53076

**Blacksmith**

**Kathy Lausenstein**

Got the fire ready?

Why is it called a ball peen hammer?

It was invented by Jaques Balpien. Peen means to bend, shape or flatten material. The ball shaped head is designed for peening. Peen represents the sound the hammer makes when it hits metal.

Why do blacksmiths hit the anvil between strikes?

This is the time a smith will evaluate the work and determine what needs to be done to complete the job. Instead of stopping the hammer rhythm and restarting with heavier strikes, a smith might tap the anvil to keep up the momentum and rhythm.

Why is it bad to hit two hammers together?

Hammers are intended to hit something softer than the hammer. Metals do have some degree of brittleness. There's a risk, if you hit two of them together, bits of metal can break off and fly. The smith uses a wide range of hammers to do the job. Come see the RHS smiths on Maple Syrup Family Day – March 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Collections**

**Deanna Einwalter**

The Collections Committee looks forward to a great 2022 year. As the 2021 year comes to a close, we have accepted some great donations, one of which is a wedding dress worn by Carol Mayer and photos of their wedding. Please come visit the Mill House to see our great collection of new items. Also, visit the History Room at LWC to see the Richfield arrowhead collection donated by the Laubenheimer family

We are ready, this spring/summer, to begin to organize the Barn to have the Museum open this Fall for the Threshere. Our storage capacity is becoming limited. So, organizing gives us a way to show the many interesting and rare donations we have received over the years.

**Education**

**Kathy Weberg**

In two of our four traveling trunks, we have three beautifully beaded purses. The history of these purses is quite interesting.

The purses were popular during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and were known as ridicules. One source indicates that they actually were used most commonly from 1795 to 1820. They are described as a small handbag or purse similar to a modern evening bag. They were often handmade and heavily decorated with beads, needlework, lace or ribbon. Victorian women began using them to carry calling cards, a pencil and handkerchief, only what was necessary. The gentlemen of the era would have been responsible for handling purchases.



**Ridicules**

As middle and upper class women were able to leave their homes, calling on friends in the afternoon, necessitated leaving a calling card upon arrival. Lower class women would have used cheap carpet bags or baskets while doing their duties that the middle and upper class women did not do. Think Mary Poppins! The ridicules evolved through the years into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with different fabrics being used such as fine wool or silk yarn. Some were crocheted or knitted. We do not have all the history of the ridicules in our possession, but they are a nice example of what the ladies used prior to cell phones, wallets, keys and all the other modern day trappings that we now shove in our purses. Visit [vintagedancer.com](http://vintagedancer.com) for much more detailed information. If you would like a presentation from our volunteers with our traveling trunk, please contact me, Kathy Weberg at [Kathyweberg@yahoo.com](mailto:Kathyweberg@yahoo.com)

**Events****Daryl Grier****New Events**

We experienced a new event in 2021: providing food & beverages for the CycloCross Bike Race. The race was in the Nature Park on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. RHS was asked if we wanted to provide the food & beverages. The team provided two tents for us and a heater, which ask any of the volunteers, did little to keep us from freezing! Despite the weather, all volunteers said they had a good time and hope we will be asked to provide food and beverages again. We made almost \$800, and we learned a lot that would make it even more profitable for us.

A new event in 2022 will be Blacksmith Day on October 1<sup>st</sup>. All buildings will be open and we'll have activities for the entire family. Of course, we'll have food and beverages! Stay tuned for more about Blacksmith Day in future newsletters.

**New Ideas**

The Events Committee can always use new ideas. Please join us at any meeting or contact me if you have ideas to share, including what we could do to improve an event.

At our event's meetings, we review the last event; make notes to improve each event for next year. We have a worksheet to document each event so we have a good foundation upon which to launch next year's event.

We meet at the Fire Station #1. Dates vary, depending on when the next event will be held. Our next couple of meetings will focus on Maple Syrup Family Day. See Pete Samson's article below.

**Our 2022 Events Are: Daryl -Grier, 262 628-4221or dgrier@charter.net for further information**

Antique Show, Appraisal and Chili Lunch: cancelled

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: Sunday – February 27, 2022 – by invitation.

Maple Syrup Family Day: Saturday - March 26, 2022 - 11 a. m. – 4 p.m. (Breakfast – 9: a.m. – 11 a.m.)

Art at the Mill: Saturday - June 18, 2022 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Threshere: Saturday & Sunday - September 17 & 18, 2022 - 9 a.m. –5 p.m.

Blacksmith Day: Saturday - October 1, 2022 – 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Christmas at the Historical Park: Saturday - December 3, 2022 - 12 noon – 3 p.m.

**Maple Syrup Sunday – Pete Samson**

Our annual Maple Syrup Family Day will be held on March 26, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We have added something new to this event. There will be a pancake and sausage breakfast with real maple syrup being served from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. There will be limited seating so plan to arrive early. Hot dogs and chili will be served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our wonderful maple cotton candy will also be available throughout the day.

On Maple Syrup Sunday, all buildings will be open. Activities available at the neighboring Pioneer Homestead include making soap, rag rugs on a 100 year - old loom, home cooked meals, lard rendering, corn shelling and grinding and log barn repair. You'll also be able to try your luck at our spinning wheel for a variety of prizes. The Blacksmith Shop will be open with working smiths. Throughout this upcoming year, as part of the RHS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, tours of the Mill and Messer Mayer Homestead will be free of charge. Make sure to also visit the LWC Welcome Center vintage Grocery Store and display in the LWC History Room of the Laubenheimer arrowheads and information on Native Americans in the area at the time of settlement. This is always a well-attended event, and we look forward to seeing you there.

**Historic Sites**

**Quint Mueller/Herb Lofy**

Another season has passed. As we started out 2021, we didn't know what to expect, but the year turned out to be quite successful. Relief from Covid, at least temporarily, allowed progress to be made on many projects and helped to make our annual events a success. The 2021 Thresheree turned out to be the highest attended to date. The outdoor and spread-out nature of the Thresheree allowed us to host a fun and safe event. The new culvert crossing was a big help with on-site traffic management, both during the event in general and especially during the daily parades.

One of the very noticeable projects at the north end of the Park was nearly completed this year. The railings of the "wood" bridge west of the Messer/Mayer Mill were replaced by the RHS Thursday crew this year. We still need to replace the decking, but that is waiting for the proper material to be found. We are looking for white oak logs approximately 15 feet long. If you have, or know of, a source of white oak, please let one of us know.

Almost all of the new storm windows have been installed in the Mill House now. The LWC storm windows have been completed, but still need to be sized to the individual window openings. Then, they need to get three coats of paint and the glass installed. As we said before, no two windows are sized exactly the same. This makes for a very slow process for a proper fit. Depending how the weather treats the crew, some of this may happen over the winter. We expect this project to be wrapped up in the first half of the 2022 season.

However, one of the big projects for 2022, besides finishing the outside of the Engine Shed, is repainting the Mill House, or at least part of it. It's likely this will be a contracted project, but that remains to be determined at this time. We are currently waiting for the results of a paint analysis to help determine what the original colors of the house were, what types of paints were used, and the main cause of the current paint failure. Although paint is never permanent, we are hoping to improve our paint life significantly.

Since 2022 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RHS, some of you may be interested in how we got to where we are now. Below is an abbreviated timeline of some of the major milestones and accomplishments related to the Messer/Mayer Mill.

- 1998: Purchasing of the Mill by the Town of Richfield.
- 1998: Start of the Mill Project – trees cleared around the Mill and the roof temporarily covered.
- 1999: Mill thoroughly cleaned and a new roof installed.
- 2000-01: Two of four roller mills restored and various other restoration projects started.
- 2002: Mill jacked, leveled and straightened.
- 2002-2004: New siding and windows installed.
- 2002-2006: Repair and replacement of internal Mill structural members, such as beams, floor joists, flooring and the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor stairs.
- 2005-2006: Mill wood chase installed in the flume as an Eagle Scout project.
- 2006: Superior Engine purchased to represent the original engine that powered the Mill when water wasn't available.
- 2007: Concrete bridge/culvert is installed in the flume west of the Mill as an Eagle Scout project.
- 2009: Temporary stabilization of the Mill foundation completed
- 2011: Additional stairway installed from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.
- 2013: Phase I foundation repair completed (west wall removal and reconstruction.)  
Cost approximately \$300,000
- 2015: Phase II foundation repair completed (basement entrance and retaining wall added.)  
Cost approximately \$11,000.
- 2017: East side of Mill repainted.
- 2017-2018: Phase III foundation repair completed (complete removal and rebuild of south wall.)

Cost approximately \$400,000. All three phases deemed necessary by both RHS and the Village of Richfield. All construction costs funded by RHS

- 2019-2021: Engine Shed foundation and structure built to recreate original Engine Shed, which had collapsed prior to RHS's existence. Much of the required lumber was sawn from ash trees in the Park.
- 2019-2021: Mill turbine refurbished

As you can see, just the Mill alone has been a major undertaking. However, with planning, fund raising, and especially our dedicated volunteers, a lot can be accomplished. Except for the foundation work, almost all of the Mill work above was accomplished by volunteers.

We also need to consider an eventual museum to display many items that are currently stored at several off-site locations. The museum could include improved restrooms and a well. This will help to ensure that the Richfield Historical Park becomes a major destination in Washington County and southeastern Wisconsin.

### Library/Newsletter/Program Committee

arge Holzbog/Connie Thoma

The Library Committee has developed plans for 2022 which include having the LWC History Room open weekends during the summer months. We will use the weekends to welcome new and old members for conversation and coffee. Additionally, one of the days each weekend will be set aside to work with families on their genealogies.

Hopefully the Covid situation will come under control and allow us to complete the senior interviews for publication of our next book. As you may recall, we currently have three books available for purchase at \$15.00 each: "Life on the Farm," "Downtown Richfield" and "Feeding the Crew." "Richfield Remembers the Past," the 500 page 1846 – 1996 history of Richfield's history, is also available in soft cover for \$50.00 during events or on summer weekends at the History Room at LWC, or, if mailed, \$60.00 to include postage and handling.

As you are reading this entry, the Committee will be including a survey in your April newsletter which will request your interest in receiving an electronic copy of this newsletter instead of a paper copy. Your responses will be much appreciated and help us plan for your 2023 newsletters. Your thoughtful response will be appreciated. Your Spring and Summer/Fall newsletter will continue to be paper and received in your US postal box.

Program Chairman, Connie Thoma, has created a stunning Spring Community Program lineup on Arctic exploration, an historic motorcycle, gardening information from experts and the history of the Milwaukee Road Railroad whose Chairman, Albert Earling, began his railroad career as a telegrapher at Rugby Junction, just north of Richfield.

### LWC Welcome Center

Ruth Gruen Jeffords

Now that Winter has reared its ugly head, Spring is on the minds of everyone. The LWC Team is considering options to enhance the "outside" beauty of the Welcome Center; working with what is already there. One possibility is a "Heritage Garden," because gardening is a great way to share history! Future projects may also include the addition of vintage fruit trees. However, much research is necessary to make all of this happen. Time will tell, stay tuned!

Preparation for the Maple Syrup Family Day in March will soon begin; the LWC will be open for this event. Be sure to attend!



## Marketing

**Doug Wenzel**

### Printing Project

Once the Thresheree is over, the end of the year is usually a relatively slow period for Marketing. This year, however, I had the opportunity to become involved in planning for the future of RHS's document printing process. You may not be aware that RHS owns an office-type printer, and that we've been using this machine to make an average of about 30,000 prints per year. This machine has been utilized for many years now. Our Newsletter Chairman has been doing all of this printing because our single biggest printing job is the newsletter.

As our printer contract with Impact Printing is up for renewal in March, I volunteered to look into the comparative costs of replacing the old machine vs. farming out the work to a local print shop. The decision was made to terminate our maintenance contract on the old machine and to accept a proposal from Digital Edge in Hubertus to do our printing. We've worked with Digital Edge on a number of projects in the past (the direct mail flyers and the Park map signs for example), and we have been very pleased with their quality and service.

### Upcoming activities

Things will get busy again in the new year, as we kick off a number of activities. The least fun of these is updating our entries in online event calendars. We maintain a presence in about two dozen online event calendars; and in January, we post entries for our events at the Park – there will be six this year. It takes several cups of hot chocolate to get through all these!

We'll be doing two direct mail pieces this year, and the design for the first should be completed by mid-February. These are mailed to every residential mailbox in three zip codes in Richfield (53076, 53033, and 53017,) a total of about 6,000 households. It's a great way to get our message out to our community!

We're also working on promotion for our first event, Maple Syrup Family Day. This event is expanding this year. It'll start earlier in the day and include a pancake breakfast. Mmmm, pancakes – be sure to tell your friends!

## Membership

**Dorothy Marks**

It's hard to believe 2021 is already over. That's what happens when you are having fun.

Since April 1 through November 18, we gained thirty new memberships. Some of the new members were already RHS volunteers and some were regular attendees at the monthly spring, fall and winter Community Programs. Being the Membership Chair is quite rewarding meeting new people and bringing them on board. It has been a great year!

In regard to the progress on the pictures for the Pleasant Hill Bar and Grill, we have completed five pictures leaving twenty-five to go. The first group of RHS pictures is of Pleasant Hill and the next group will be of Richfield. We are very pleased with the finished product. Hopefully the process will go quicker in 2022; and upon completion, the display in its entirety will be exquisite.

## Mill House

**Cindy Schmechel/Clara Birkel**

**Happy New Year** - Twenty-twenty-one was a challenging year for the Messer/Mayer Mill House. We wanted to make sure that our guests and volunteers remained safe while they took tours of the House So we made a few changes in the way we give tours. At our first event of the season, the Art Fair, we handed out new Mill House

brochures with information about the House and its history. We let folks wander through the House on their own. We had tour guides stationed throughout the House to answer any questions people had, and it all seemed to work out quite well.

For the Thresheree, we spent a good deal of time setting up vintage clothing displays throughout the House, mostly of clothing that was worn by or belonged to various Mayer family members. That also included the wedding gown of Carol Mayer Woods, which is certainly a treasure, along with many other original clothing items, too many to mention here. Our sincerest thanks to Linda Derrick for all of her help in creating the informational signs and for helping to put the correct clothing items on the correct mannequins and into the proper rooms.

We did the same "self-guided" tours for the Thresheree, and the response from our more than 500 guests was a great one. We will most likely use that same format in twenty twenty-two. As always, Clara and Cindy are always available to answer any questions that people may have about the Mill House or the families who lived there. It is our pleasure to share that history with all of our guests. Our many thanks go out to all of the volunteers who helped out this past year.

We missed having a Christmas celebration at the House this year; but hopefully with a much better health situation next year, we will once again be able to invite guests for Christmas cookies, beautiful decorations, sing Christmas carols around the piano and to enjoy the Holidays with friends, old and new. We wish you all a very happy and healthy new year.



Christmas at the Mill House

### **Mill Restoration**

**Al Mayer**

It was exciting to be able to bring back the Thresheree last fall. Somehow Autumn just isn't the same without the experience of the Thresheree to make the season complete.

To open up the door of the Mill so that visitors can view and learn of its purpose and importance to previous generations is a big part of our mission. I want to thank the tour guides that took our guests through the Mill and explained the workings of what it was like to grind wheat over a century ago.

After the Thresheree, we began applying fieldstone to the foundation of the Engine Shed and finishing it with mortar to insure it looked as it originally did. The South side has been completed, and we can now proceed with the lap siding which will cover the balance of the wall. This we hope to do over the winter months.

All of the parts and pieces that we need to restore the power train inside the Mill are all custom made. Most wood components need to be made of certain wood species. Doing this all in-house means acquiring the wood, sawing the boards, and then allowing it to dry to minimize warpage and shrinkage.

Additional, wood posts and beams for guiding the belts inside the Engine Shed needed to be cut at the 2021 Thresheree. They are now drying and will be used later in the year. Logs of white oak and hard maple were also cut into boards last Fall to make more sheaves for inside the Mill. These sheaves will turn various drive shafts once the engine is mounted in place and running again.

We're well on our way to "Getting It Grinding Again !!



Engine Shed



The Motz Cabin Before Being Moved to the Pioneer Village

The Pioneer Homestead Wishes Your Family A Happy New Year

Caraway Chicken  
A Norwegian Favorite

1 large Hen cut into serving size pieces  
Flour Salt and Pepper  
Lard/shortening 2 Tbls caraway seeds  
1/2 cup chicken stock 2 cups sour cream  
Flour and season chicken; brown in hot lard (I used a cast iron Dutch oven). Crush caraway seeds to release part of their flavor ( I toasted mine prior); add seeds, chicken stock and 1 cup sour cream to brown chicken. \*Have cream at room temperature to avoid curdling. Bake covered for 1 1/2 hours. Just before serving, add the rest of the sour cream.

(Pioneer Cookbook, Volunteers of the Norwegian-American Museum, Decorah, Iowa, 1969

Blindes Huhn  
A German Dish with a "typical" sweet sour sauce.

4 large carrots, scraped and cubed  
1/2 pound green beans broken  
3 Tbls Bacon 1-2 onions, sliced  
2-3 apples, peeled and sliced 1 Tbls sugar  
2 Tbls vinegar salt to taste

Cook the carrots and beans in salted water until almost tender, then drain. Sauté the bacon until it is crisp and remove from pan. Cook onions in bacon fat until they are soft but not brown; add apples, sugar and vinegar, and the partially cooked carrots and beans. Replace the crumbled, drained bacon and salt to taste. Cook the mixture, covered until the vegetables are tender. Serves 6.

(Ethnic Epicure)

### Dried Bean Soup

RHS Pioneer Homestead staple.

1 lb Dried Beans                      salt & pepper to taste<sup>2</sup>  
Onions chopped  
1 qt. canned Tomatoes 1-  
2 smoked Ham hocks

Rinse beans with water. Place beans, onion, tomatoes and ham hocks in a large pot/dutch oven or crock pot. Add enough water to cover all ingredients. Cook on low to medium heat for several hours until beans are tender. When using crock pot, soak beans overnight. Cook on high for 1 hour then low for 6-8 hours until beans are tender.

### Dried Fruit Pie

RHS Pioneer Homestead

1½ lb Sweet Pastry                      1/3 c Sugar  
2c pitted Prunes                      ½ c Walnuts chopped  
2c dried Apricots                      4oz butter melted  
1c Golden Raisins                      1 egg  
½c dried Apples                      Sugar

Roll out  $\frac{3}{8}$  sweet pastry about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch thick on a lightly floured surface. Line an 11 inch pie plate with the pastry, trim excess dough, prick the bottom of the shell with a fork and chill at least 30 minutes.

Place dried fruit in a sauce pan and cover with cold water, bring to a boil, and simmer gently for 10 minutes. Drain the fruit in a colander and chop coarsely. In a bowl combine the fruit with the sugar, nuts and melted butter.

Roll out the remaining  $\frac{1}{8}$  of the pastry and brush the dough lightly with beaten egg and sprinkle with sugar. Cut pastry in strips. Fill shell with the fruit mixture, mounding center, moisten edge of shell with egg and arrange strips in lattice fashion over fruit, pressing ends onto the edge of the shell. Bake pie on the bottom third of a preheated 425 degree oven for 30 minutes. Reduce heat to 375 degrees and bake for 20—30 minutes more or until pastry is browned.

\* I used Martha Stewart's Sweet Pastry Dough recipe

## Project Coordinator

**Al Mayer**

In reflecting on the year that has just ended, I am grateful for the people involved with the Richfield Historical Society and our accomplishments as a Society comprised of all volunteers.

On any given Thursday, there are well over a dozen people that come out to the Park and lend a hand to do whatever they can to fix whatever needs fixing - felling trees, painting, repairing windows, a host of different projects met with a host of different talents to meet the challenge with everyone working together and looking out for each other's safety.

Thursday Crew 2021 accomplishments include:

- After Maple Syrup Family Day, which was a very successful event, ash logs were cut and split to replenish the firewood needed to boil down sap for this year. The Lean-To next to the Sugar Shack is packed full...plus a cord or two.
- The flagstone stacked near the Mill House was laid to create the walkway to the foot bridge. We were able to cut cedar timbers and make the Mill bridge safe before the Art Fair, which was also an outstanding event!
- We built cedar fences around the garden and an Animal Shelter at the Pioneer Homestead.
- At the "Richfield Days Celebration," we had our ice cream booth; and we also entered TWO floats in the parade, one taking third place!
- By the time of the Thresheree, all of the picnic tables were freshly painted, and a majority of the remaining dead ash trees had been removed. During the year we also have built wood racks to store and protect the lumber we've sawn over the years.

In 2021, we resumed most of our annual events....and added a few more! The organization and staffing of these outings proved very satisfying, as well as providing successful outcomes in terms of promoting the Park and the Richfield Historical Society. Last year was a busy one, but I think that everyone involved would agree they've enjoyed their time at the Park and are looking forward to another year of friendship and teamwork.

Anyone interested in helping out at the Park can come out any Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. If you can't make Thursday, Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. is another chance to get acquainted with the Park and its many opportunities. Stop in soon!

We would like to congratulate Susan Sawdey for her leadership through the last two years as RHS President. It has been a challenging time filled with many unprecedented issues. Thank you, Susan, for your ability to move the Society ahead, keeping our mission moving forward!

Congratulations also to Pete Samson as our new President! We wish you the best, and we look forward to working with you in your upcoming term!

## **Volunteer Coordinator**

**Sharon Lofy**

Wishing all of you a Healthy and Happy 2022!! The Richfield Historical Society will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. Where have all those years gone? So much has been accomplished with your many helping hands (your talents, volunteer time and donations.) Thank you for making this wonderful anniversary a reality.

2022 will be filled with plans and achievements. Maple Syrup Family Day will be here before you know it. Art at the Mill will be following this event a few months later.

Now, after the holidays have settled down, pull out your spring list of things to do. Start a plan for your spring planting. Whether you do a large or small garden, raised beds or containers, vegetables or flowers; please remember Richfield Historical Society's Plant Sale. Nehm's Greenhouse (floral not included) has again agreed to do the Plant Certificate Fundraiser with the Richfield Historical Society. Certificates are \$25 and \$15. You purchase the certificates from the Society and use them like a gift card at the Greenhouse. The Society receives about a third of the sales. The certificates make great gifts. They can be used for plants, seeds, planting supplies and decorations.

If there are any questions that you have about volunteering at any event or activity, please give me a call (262-297-1564) or email ([hsl1725@yahoo.com](mailto:hsl1725@yahoo.com)). Your help is very much appreciated. Thanks again!

**Community Programs - Connie Thoma, Program Chairman**

Our Community Programs are held at Fire Station #1 on HWY 175. They begin at 7:00 p.m. and are open to members and the public free of charge.

**January 27, 2022** - The program will be “The Endurance” by Rochelle Pennington nationally renowned author and speaker. Ms. Pennington is an award-winning newspaper columnist who has delivered over 2000 presentation to various groups over the past 20 years. The Endurance is the jaw dropping true story about Sir Ernest Shackleton who led an expedition to the Arctic. It is a true story of endurance when their vessel got stuck in the ice and the captain and crew fought to survive. Ms. Pennington previously presented to the Richfield Historical Society “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald”.

**February 24, 2022** - Jade Sabatino and Jeremy Pilebky will present a “Concept of Sustaining Gardening.” They will focus on getting back to the way our ancestors gardened, no till farming and community sharing.

**March 24, 2022** - James Cutting will tell us about “Walter” Walter is the name given to the last known remaining Truck/Forecar that was produced by Harley Davidson in 1913-1914. This will be a well-made video presentation with several shots filmed in our Historical Park and Herb Lofy’s barn. “Walter” was originally produced for and owned by Schuster’s Garage in Goldendale.

**April 28, 2022** - Mr. Robert Storozuk’s presentation will provide background on the history of the Milwaukee Road and perhaps mention the early years of President Albert Earling who was a telegrapher at Rugby Junction just north of Richfield as a youth.

**May program pending.**



**Winter at the Mill Property**