



Richfield Historical Society  
P.O. Box 268  
Richfield, Wisconsin 53076  
www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org

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**Special Thanks to Kent and Gail – Linda Derrick**

Kent Mayer and Gail Mayer Goodrich are the son and daughter of Vernon Mayer who was born and raised in the Mill House. Thanks to their very generous donations, many beautiful pieces of furniture that had passed down generation to generation within the Mayer family have now been returned to the Mill House to be enjoyed by all who visit this museum at Richfield Historical Park.

Kent and Gail have very fond memories of the Mill House from when they were children. It was their grandparents' farm and home, and they even lived there for a while when they were small. Their father Vernon was the son of George and Martha Mayer. George was the last Mayer to operate the mill until it closed. When Vernon returned from the Navy after WWII, he brought his wife Montre home to the Mill House where they lived for a few years. Vernon went to work for the West Bend Company; and he and his family eventually moved nearby to Hartford, Wisconsin.

**Committees**

*Education*

Sharon Lofy

*Event Coordinator*

Connie Thoma

*Historic Sites*

Herb Lofy

*Library/Program/*

*Newsletter Editor*

Marge Holzbog

*Lillicrapp House*

Aerona Smith

*Long-Term Planning*

Jim Metzger

*Marketing*

Kathy Weberg

*Membership*

Judy Lehman

*Mill House*

Clara Birkel

Cindy Schmechel

*Mill Restoration*

Frank (Buzz) Carr

*Museum*

Jean Happel

Norb Berres

*Project Coordinator/*

*Pioneer Homestead*

Del Schmechel



**C. W. and Mary Anna Kurtz Mayer Family –  
Great Grandparents of Kent Mayer & Gail Mayer Goodrich**

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Gail and Kent can remember visiting their grandparents at the farm almost every weekend and in the summer. The Mill had closed by then. Kent has fond memories of walking in the woods and fishing for minnows in the creek. In 1966, Vernon's career took the family to Florida where they lived from that time on. Today, Kent lives near Tallahassee, Florida; and Gail and her husband David Goodrich live in Pembroke Pines, Florida. They are Lifetime Members of the Richfield Historical Society.

When Kent and Gail decided to donate the family's furniture and many other treasured family keepsakes, it took some planning to get things from Florida to Wisconsin. They enlisted the help of their aunt and uncle, Carol and Bob Woods (Carol is their father Vernon's sister) who live in Wisconsin. A truck was hired to pick up the furniture in Florida. A second stop at Carol and Bob Woods' house in Kenosha added more items that they donated as well. When the furniture arrived at the Mill House last October 2014, many of the items were placed where they once stood several decades ago. It was evident these items had been lovingly cared for over the years. Some pieces are well over a century old, and they are in excellent condition.

The original love seat, settee, chairs and Edison Victrola that once belonged to C. W. Mayer are back in the parlor along with all the wax cylinders which contained all the music (the forerunner to vinyl records). The bedroom set that belonged to George and Martha Mayer is back upstairs in their bedroom along with the washstand, complete with the original water pitcher and basin. These are but a few of the many items donated by Kent and Gail as well as Carol and Bob.

All of us at the Richfield Historical Society greatly appreciate and sincerely thank each of them for so generously donating their priceless family heirlooms. It is easy to see the emotional attachment the families would have to these links to their past. They could have easily kept them to pass on within their family, and we appreciate that instead they chose to donate them to RHS. These items are truly special gifts and treasured additions to be displayed just as they once were for many years to come.



The Edison Victrola and all the wax music cylinders belonged to C. W. Mayer. They are over a century old and still in working order.

Recently donated by C. W.'s great-grandchildren (Kent Mayer and Gail Mayer Goodrich), they are now on display in the Mill House Parlor.





Above – Parlor furniture owned by C. W. Mayer  
Right – Wash Stand, Pitcher and Bowl owned by George and Martha Mayer now on display in the bedroom that once was theirs.



These items are just a few of many recently donated to RHS by Kent Mayer and Gail Mayer Goodrich.

**The Story of “Puck,” America’s first and most influential magazine of color political cartoons. Excerpted from “What Fools These Mortals Be!” by Kahn & West, IDW Publishing 2014**

Published from 1877 to 1918 (in the time when “wheat was king”), “Puck” was an original – the country’s first most successful humor magazine; the first magazine to publish color lithographs on a weekly basis; and for nearly forty years a training ground and showcase for some of the country’s most talented cartoonists led by its co-founder Joseph Keppler. During its illustrious career, “Puck” published more than two thousand numbered issues. In the day, a “Puck” political cartoon could take up the entire cover or a two-page centerspread inside. The lithographic drawings of Joseph Keppler were a world away from the crosshatched wood engravings of Thomas Nast’s cartoons just a few years earlier. This new lithograph technology permitted serious lines, an immense range of halftones – and what must have been absolutely eye-popping in those days – full color. Some were bold and graphic, some are exaggerated and cartoony, and others are richly illustrative. Commentary was equally varied, ranging from silly to satire, to outrage. Cartoons are partly shaped by their publishing environment, and the artistry of cartoons expands in those rare times when it’s given some encouragement and open territory.

“Puck’s” founders, cartoonist Joseph Keppler and printer Adolph Schwarzmann had high hopes for their ambitious effort. Keppler was born in Vienna in 1838 and studied art when a youth but turned in his early years to acting. When he immigrated to America in 1867, he decided to give up acting in favor of cartooning. He settled in St. Louis where he established several short lived humor magazines. In 1872, he moved to New York City where he worked for Frank Leslie’s Publishing House. It was there he met Adolph Schwarzmann, foreman of the printing department for the German language edition of Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper.

Schwarzmann had emigrated from his native Germany in 1858; and after working under Frank Leslie for more than a decade, he established his own printing firm. In 1876 (just as the Messer Mayer Mill began production), he convinced Keppler to join him in publishing a cartoon weekly for German speaking Americans. Keppler had named the magazine after the famous character in Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.” “Puck” took as its motto “What fools these mortals be” to underscore its intent to expose folly and puncture pretension.

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Puck's" most distinctive feature was its sharp focus on Presidential politics and its stinging satirical portrayal of America's political leadership. Throughout the decades, "Puck" was a supporter of the Democratic Party and stood tough except for the nominee of William Jennings Bryan whom "Puck" could not stomach.

From its earliest day, "Puck" brilliantly lampooned some of the most prominent Republicans of the day – Ulysses Grant, Benjamin Harrison, and Theodore Roosevelt to name a few. The high-water mark of "Puck's" success was the 1884 presidential campaign with a circulation of 125,000 where it presented loosing candidate James G. Blaine in its devastating series "Tatoood Man."



Although political humor played an important role in "Puck's" pages, the magazine devoted considerable space to lampooning social and cultural trends of the day – the wealthy, the working class and poor, religion, matrimony, the new woman, servants and kids, resorts and beaches, college sports, bicycling and golf, courtship, pets and just everything in the minds of the turn-of-the-century Americans.

Keppler's death ended twenty years of stability in "Puck's leadership.

Schwarzmann now consolidated control of the magazine in his own hands and tilted the magazine rightward. Upon his death in 1904, Keppler, Jr. and Schwarzmann, Jr. took control, and in 1905 returned "Puck" to its progressive roots. In 1912, it proudly flew the Democratic banner in support of the candidacy of Woodrow Wilson.

In January 1914, Keppler and Schwarzmann sold the magazine, now with a shrunken circulation of 12,500, to Nathan Straus, son of a department store magnet; and in June 1917, it was again sold this time to William Randolph Hearst. Under Hearst management, emphasis was placed on covers with patriotic themes. (This was the same year C. W. Mayer died.) In March 1918, Hearst converted "Puck" to a monthly and then killed it in September.

In its illustrious career, "Puck" published 2,121 numbered issues in 81 volumes and was remembered by "Literary Digest" in its September 17, 1918 issue: "Puck" had no rival in its best days. Fallen from its fine estate, it left no successors."

## PRESIDENT

Frank "Buzz" Carr

The year is only a short three months old, and we have already had two successful events. The Antique Appraisal and Chili Lunch in February and the Maple Syrup Family Day in March. Both had great attendance. This was partly because of good weather, but it was also because of the effort of the Marketing Committee to get the word out about our events.

RHS has decided to spend more on advertising this year so that more folks can enjoy our events. Our volunteers work so hard to put on these events that we want everyone possible to enjoy them. As a result, you should see more advertising in your local newspapers and more publicity on social media such as Twitter and Facebook. I want to thank Conley Media for their help with this as they have given us very favorable rates in their various print

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publications in Washington, Ozaukee, Dodge and Waukesha counties. For those of you on Facebook, you can help by “liking” us, and please share RHS with your Facebook friends. We have gone from about 200 “likes” to over 400 “likes.” So thank you and help us get to 500 and beyond.

In speaking with attendees at our events, I am reminded of the many comments about how “friendly” our events and people are. This is a common theme with so many of our visitors that I feel that I should mention it from time to time. It is, of course, a direct compliment to our many volunteers who work so hard to put on our events and to maintain the buildings in the Park. They do it for the love of the Park, but the effect is to make our events memorable to all who attend. Hats off to the volunteers!

When you attend the Thresheree (and maybe the Art Fair in July), visit the Lillicrapp House and look at the new walkway leading from the house to the new parking area. You will see the new commemorative bricks that designate the many donors who have made significant financial contributions to RHS in support of the Mill Restoration Fund. Larger bricks represent larger donations; but what is important is not so much the size of the contribution, but the contributions themselves. Each brick represents a gift towards the preservation of our heritage, and we at RHS are very grateful to all who have helped us. Thanks to all represented there.

The other project you may notice is the new blacksmith shop that we are constructing near the Pioneer Village. We have accumulated antique building materials that we needed to use before they deteriorated. So we decided to put them to use in a structure that represents the village blacksmith – a craftsman that was essential to early pioneer life. Every crossroads village had a blacksmith shop. Hopefully, we will have this building up and running by the Thresheree. Stop and take a look.

Hope you all got through the winter in good shape. I look forward to seeing you at the Park this summer. And remember - Let's Get It Grinding!

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#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Sharon Lofy**

The "Traveling Trunk" visits are winding down. The trunk went to Vista Pointe Assisted Living at both buildings and the Arboretum. Next it will be going to Cedar Community Main Campus and the Germantown Senior Center. Thanks to the great volunteers for making the visits possible.

Our next focus will be to provide another educational, memorable and enjoyable "Education Days" for our area schools' third graders. We will be providing educational information about the mill, the families who lived and worked there, and the importance of the milling industry when wheat was “king.” Included will be many hands-on activities that would have been carried on in those early days.

This year we will again have a plant sale. The plants are grown at Sunny Point Gardens and will be sold at the Faust Greenhaus. Gift certificates for plants and plant supplies will be available for \$25 and \$15. (An order blank is enclosed with this newsletter.) Flowers bring happiness to all who receive them. It's also a great way to get your children and grandchildren interested in gardening. Remember special occasions like: Mother's Day, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Thank Yous and Get Well wishes. As plants grow, we want our plant orders to grow. A portion of the proceeds go to the Richfield Historical Society. If you don't plan to order, please pass the order blank on to a friend. Let your neighbors know that order information will also be on our web-site. ([www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org)).

If you are like me, you have saved tins that were filled with cookies, candies, etc. Now that spring has come, the problem of where to keep them becomes an issue. If you decide to discard them, bring them to our next Thursday meeting or give me a call. A RHS member is making Christmas ornaments out of them. She plans to sell them with a portion of the proceeds going toward the funding of the blacksmith shop.

Volunteering for Richfield Historical Society's activities is very rewarding. You meet fellow members, and it makes you a part of an ever growing organization. (RHS ranks above many other societies in all that it accomplishes.) Let us know about your interests, talents and the time you have to share with us. Volunteer with a friend and double the experience. Help is always needed throughout the year with volunteers of many skills and interests. A special thank you to all past and present volunteers. If you have any questions about volunteering, give me a call - 262-297-1546.

**EVENTS COORDINATOR**

**Connie Thoma**

Our events are certainly coming of age. We had increased attendance at the Antique Appraisal and Chili Lunch. We served over 130 servings of delicious homemade chili. We had almost \$900.00 worth of appraisals. Thank you to everyone who donated food to make this event successful.

Maple Syrup Family Day also had increased attendance and interest in tapping trees and processing the sap. Thank you to Del Schmechel, Dave Derrick and the Thursday Crew who have put in an incredible amount of time with this project. Syrup is available for purchase at the Park and at our General Meetings. For more info please consult our website.

Sharon Lofy is in charge of our annual Flower Sale. Gift certificates are available for \$15.00 and \$25.00 for purchases at Faust Greenhouse, 4729 Pleasant Hill Rd., Richfield, WI. An order form is enclosed with this mailing, and additional information is available on our website or by calling Sharon at 262-297-1546. Proceeds benefit Richfield Historical Society. Shop Away!

Art Fair plans are underway and actually have been underway all year. Once again Lois Hessenauer and committee members have put in many hours planning a bigger and better Art Fair, July 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 4:00 PM. The Plein Aire Contest hours are 8:00 – 12:00. Come to the Park and watch these talented artists at work. Paintings are available for purchase. Admission is FREE! There will be a small fee for Mill House and Mill Tours, food is provided by Bilda's, and music from Hannah Mrozak and the Frank Miles Band will be heard.

The Vintage Baseball and Car Show is August 16<sup>th</sup>. Daryl Grier has been working hard with all the details. Why travel far and wide to view classic cars when you can see many beautiful restored cars right here at the Historical Park while enjoying a relaxing afternoon watching baseball as it was played in the 1860s?

The Annual Thresheree is September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow in our next newsletter or on our website - richfieldhistoricalsociety.org.

Why not volunteer at all or any of our events. It's a good opportunity to make new friends and help a good cause at the same time. We really do have a lot of fun at our events.

**HISTORIC SITES**

**Herb Lofy**

Chris Marks and I will install the first round of donor recognition bricks at the Richfield Historical Park. This will be the first installation to recognize individual, family or business contributions to the

capital campaign fund started at the 2011 Thresheree. Each brick will be engraved with verbiage supplied by the donor, and the first bricks installed will include the phrase "Mill Fund 2015." Bricks are sized by the amount of the donation. There will be annual installations to acknowledge future donations. Please consider making a donation to the continuing capital campaign fund. For more information contact the Richfield Historical Society or Herb at 262-297-1546 / [hsl1725@yahoo.com](mailto:hsl1725@yahoo.com)

Support of this campaign has made it possible to complete Phase I of the mill foundation repair which included removal and rebuilding of the west wall and repair of the north and east walls. This work was done in 2013. It will also fund Phase II which includes an east wall door to improve access to the mill basement. This improvement will make basement tours possible in the future. Plans are to complete Phase II this year.

Phase III will be the final and most expensive of the foundation rebuilding. The south end of the building has two walls between which the pressure box and turbine to water power the equipment were installed. In previous articles I have explained that because of the height of these walls, extensive excavation will be necessary to remove and rebuild this area. Funds still need to be raised to complete Phase III. When all four walls have been completed, we can move forward on getting the mill grinding. This project is the most expensive and most important undertaking by the Richfield Historical Society to date. We have come a long way since Town Chairman Ralph Schulteis and the Richfield Town Board approved the purchase of the mill property. I feel even Ralph could have never imagined "what a gem" the Richfield Historical Park would become. I know it has gone far beyond what I envisioned years ago. Unfortunately Ralph has passed away. However, along with everything else Ralph did for his beloved Richfield, his legacy lives on in the Richfield Historical Park. Without his and the Township's Board's vision, the mill property would have probably vanished from the landscape of Section 9, Village of Richfield.

The Sites Committee has been busy planning the blacksmith shop to be constructed in the RHS Park. Funding for this project is completely separate from the Mill Fund. Most of the clearing of the area is finished and will be graded as soon as weather permits. Building should start in April. Another project is the parking lot at the Welcome Center (Lillicrapp House). Construction on that should also be completed early this spring.

We never run out of projects in the Richfield Historical Park. The Sites Committee meets at our home at 4434 Pleasant Hill Rd. on the third Tuesday. Let us know if you plan to attend at 262-297-1546.

#### Coming Shows and Events:

- "Ixonía Vintage Tractor Expo" held May 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> (Memorial Day Weekend) at Ixonía Firemans' Park.
- "Old Falls Village Days" to be held May 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> at Old Falls Village, N96W15791 County Line Rd., Germantown.
- The annual Washington County Dairy Promotion Committee "Breakfast on the Farm" will be June 13<sup>th</sup> at Cheeseville Dairy, 7660 Trading Post Trail, West Bend.
- "Wisconsin Antique Power Reunion 22nd Annual Show" will be July 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> at Ozaukee Pioneer Village, Hwy I, Saukville.
- The "47th Annual Dodge County Antique Power Show" will be held July 31<sup>st</sup> - Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> at Burnett Corners.

#### LIBRARY/PROGRAM/NEWSLETTER

Marge Holzbog

EMILY DICKINSIN'S HERBARIUM a facsimile edition (created in the times when "wheat was king.") – excerpted from "Emily Dickinsin's Herbarium," The Belknap Press, 2006.

Emily Dickinsin's herbarium was her first attempt as a child to address a subject that would permanently absorb her as a woman and as a poet: flowers. The beauty of their color and design, their complex origins on this earth could be compared to poetry. All were themes suggested to Emily by the flowers she grew, gathered and pressed for her herbarium while very young.

Assembling a herbarium was an exercise meant to encourage young botanists to identify the names of plants and flowers at a time when botany was an important subject in schools. Some of the earliest herbariums were made in Europe in the 1600s; and under the influence of Charles Darwin, who himself maintained a specimen book drawing on his explorations, the practice intensified.

Emily was almost twelve when she wrote of helping her mother, a dedicated gardener, cultivate the annuals and perennials at their North Pleasant Street home in Massachusetts. In later years, she would be glimpsed behind the hedge of her father's mansion off Main Street working among her violets and peonies, heliotrope and verbena, phlox, dahlias and impatiens, lilies and narcissi, tulips and carnations, fushias and asters, fox glove and lilacs.

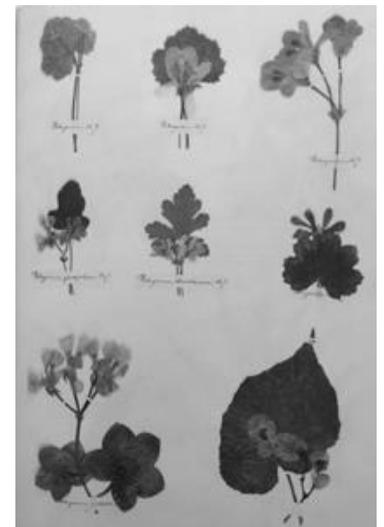
Her cousin and sister Frances were themselves avid gardeners with whom Emily exchanged seeds, bulbs, cuttings and even sample vegetables in the custom of nineteenth century women. Her personal letters make clear that collecting specimens for her own herbarium and those of her schoolmates occupied much of her time. She was generous in supplying floral samples to others that might not be able to locate them themselves. From her early years on, it was Emily's custom, certainly encouraged by her studies in school, to send flowers to her friends – often a single flower and often accompanied by a short poem. Research has identified thirty-three such poems ranging in dates from 1854 to 1884.

Shakespear is said to have had the “widest botanical vocabulary.” Emily Dickinsin, who called Shakespear's plays the only book she needed, was like him - a country child. In her herbarium, many appear with their wonderfully aromatic provincial names suggesting, like Shakespear, her intimacy with a native countryside. The Butterfly-Weed and the Musk Mallow, Dutchman's Breeches and the Bedstraw Bellflower, the Skullcap and Grass-of-Parnassus, the Venus Looking Glass and the White Sweet Clover, each attesting to the poet's early fascination with the products of nature's artistry.

However, she was more concerned with her flowers' purity and the inspiration their form and scent provided than with the categories botanists placed them in. Indeed, her herbarium's chief revelation appears to be the range and loveliness of the specimens she preserved. The scientific value of her album is somewhat limited because young Emily did not record the circumstances of her collections or impose an overall scientific order on the collection or the groupings on each page. But, she did make a serious effort to identify each plant carefully and to arrange the pressed flowers in such a way as to show their peculiar grace of form.

Emily Dickinsin's herbarium consists of 424 pressed specimens arranged on 66 pages of a hardbound volume with green covers. Of these, approximately 250 specimens are species that are known to be native or naturalized in the Amherst, Massachusetts vicinity.

The rest are almost all garden, yard or houseplants. Five species in the herbarium are on the Massachusetts rare plant list. All but 63 specimens have a name appended to them which with few exceptions is the scientific name. Most of the names also have a set of numbers that identify the class and order of genus according to the Linnaean system of classification. Although the specimens are all arranged neatly on each page, there does not appear to be an overall order to the collection or an order to a given page.



**LILLICRAPP HOUSE**

**Aerona Smith**

It has been a long cold winter. But, the Lillicrapp House/Welcome Center is receiving a good spring cleaning, and the rooms are beginning to come alive with much activity. The main floor dining/parlor area will now feature a “general store” theme. In the early days the “general store” was one of the main locations in town where people gathered for information, communication, and socializing. Harry Niemann is building a “general store” counter for us. Different antique displays, along with historical information on the 1860s Lillicrapp Homestead, will be incorporated in the “general store” theme. We are always interested in obtaining items for the “general store”- especially items like a large double wheel coffee grinder and a small brass or nickel cash register. If you know of anyone willing to donate, or loan one, please contact me - 262-628-9909.

The large sunny room west of the dining/parlor area was the summer kitchen. The focus there will be on Richfield’s beautiful lakes. This room will give you that “summer-time” feeling. Also new this year will be the Library Room located on the west corner of the old summer kitchen. This room will be used to show literary works by both state and local writers and offer access to the Society’s large collection of historical magazines and genealogical materials.

We will be open for the 2015 “Art at the Mill” and the “17<sup>th</sup> “Annual Thresheree.” Our location is just a few steps north of the Mill and the Mill House. Please stop in.

**LONG TERM PLANNING**

**Jim Metzger/ Jeannie Engle**

**Leave a Legacy** - Leaving a legacy often means handing down what we value most. For many of us, that includes making certain that our children and grandchildren will inherit our precious history and heritage. As you prepare your estate plans, you are probably thinking about the legacy you will leave. To be sure that your history is collected, preserved, and shared for generations to come consider including the Richfield Historical Society in your estate plans with a “planned gift.”

This type of gift can help you gain peace of mind, reduce income and/or estate taxes, reduce or avoid capital gains taxes, make a gift when you no longer need the assets, and make a larger donation than you otherwise could – one that costs you nothing during your lifetime.

Whether it’s a simple bequest to RHS, a gift of life insurance, or naming RHS as the beneficiary of an IRA, any of these planned gifts can make a difference in the future. Imagine how much good can be done if many of us remembered RHS in our estate plans. The impact would be immeasurable.

**MARKETING**

**Kathy Weberg**

The (relatively) newly formed Marketing Committee is making strides in generating thoughts and ideas which will be helpful in increasing attendance at events and boosting involvement in the Society in general.

Members of the Committee will be visiting Wade House in April to hear how their marketing plan to encourage more interest in their new Visitor’s Center and Carriage House was planned and carried out.

Already in place is an arrangement with Conley Media in which RHS receives considerably more

advertising than in the past at a discounted rate for all our 2015 evens. Conley Media will be featured as a media sponsor in our ads. Look for our ads in the Washington County Daily News, the Sunday Post, the Times Press and other Conley-owned newspapers.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Judy Lehman**

This will be an exciting new year! Thank you for renewing your membership. Your membership is vital to the Society in furthering its main goals - the education of Richfield and the surrounding communities, and particularly children, about the Richfield area history and stories of the past. Your Society means bringing together people who care about the area, the past, the present and the future.

What are the benefits of membership?

- First, we have this awesome and informative newsletter
- Then, fun, interesting, and informative presentations at our General Meetings
- And, of course, all of our awesome events
- And, all the on-going work and maintenance of the Park which brings us together giving us time to catch our breath from the daily business of today's lives

Then, we ARE the Richfield Historical Society. We are an integral part of the task of keeping alive the love for this area - the land, what has happened here, and what the future will bring. One of the ways we do this is by being a connected and caring community.

I am wondering whether, as members, you would like to get together to trade past and present-day stories affording time to appreciate one another and our beautiful Park - perhaps an outdoor pot-luck supper or an afternoon picnic at the Mill? Just a thought. Are there things you would like to see happen? Please contact me, and I will bring your suggestions to Board member - 262-623-6071 or [judithlehman@mac.com](mailto:judithlehman@mac.com)

**MILL HOUSE**

**Clara Birkel/Cindy Schmechel**

Do you love historic buildings? Genealogy? Antiques? Well, we have the perfect opportunity for you. Please join us in becoming a tour guide at the Messer/Mayer Mill House, a beautiful late 1800s/early 1900s farm house loaded with original furniture and personal items that belonged to both the families who lived there for well over 100 years, a rich family history that you share with our visitors.

If you are willing to become a tour guide, we will gladly give you all the training and information you need to make visiting the Messer/Mayer Mill House a wonderful experience for guests of all ages helping to make their visit to the Richfield Historical Park a memorable one. Please consider becoming a tour guide at the Messer/Mayer Mill House today. We need you!

Contact Clara Birkel at 262 622 3191 or Cindy Schmechel at 262 628 0919 for further information.

Noted below is the Tour Schedule for the remainder of 2015 for the Mill, Mill House, Log Cabin and Log Barn located in the Richfield Historical Park.

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>HOURS OPEN FOR TOURS</u>
Richfield Art at the Mill	July 25	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.
Vintage Baseball & Car Show	August 16	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Thresheree – Day 1	September 19	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Thresheree – Day 2	September 20	10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Old Iron Swap Meet & Craft Fair	October 4	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Christmas at the Mill House	December 5	12 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Tours at the Mill and Mill House take about 30 minutes per building and typically begin every 15 minutes. Tours of the Log Cabin and Log Barn take less time. The Threshere is typically the busiest event, and there could be a wait to tour the buildings on these days. For times other than those noted above, private group tours are available between May 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. For details, visit our website or contact Sharon at 262-297-1546.

**MILL RESTORATION**

**“Buzz Carr**

The historical significance of this small milling business cannot be overstated. It presented a focal point for the social life of the agricultural community that it served. Farmers came to the mill to get their grain ground but visited with their neighbors while they were waiting. Farm life was arduous and essentially lonely due to the long hours and distance between neighbors. A visit to the mill presented an opportunity to take a break and enjoy some conversation.

The fact that George Mayer chose not to dismantle the Messer/Mayer Mill, as was common when these sort of operations were shut down, means that we now have a wonderful opportunity to view all of the machinery as it was when the mill was running. Three generations of milling technology dating from early stone grinding to the modern roller mill, three generations of power from the early use of water to modern electricity are all represented in this small building. The Messer/Mayer Mill just happened to be built and operated when all these changes in technology were occurring. By some wonderful happenstance, George Mayer chose not to dismantle the mill and its machinery, and it sustained itself just long enough for the Town of Richfield to save it in 1998. The result of all these random events is why we can today witness the rare opportunity to see, not a simulation, but the real means by which some of our early Wisconsin pioneers worked and prospered.

**MUSEUM**

**Jean Happel/Norb Berres**

We are anxiously looking forward to the completion of the new blacksmith shop. Over the years, we have collected a few blacksmith tools; and, recently, we have had the good fortune to receive many more. We have one forge and at least one more promised (possibly two) along with numerous hammers, about three anvils (one coming from near Oshkosh,) an assortment of tongs and special tools, many handmade by blacksmiths that we haven't learned the names of yet. It's beginning to look like we'll be able to outfit several work stations and perhaps inspire even more donations once people see the shop developing.

Several of our members already have blacksmithing skills, and I have a feeling there will be others who are looking forward to clanging a hammer on some hot iron. It will be a whole new and fun experience for a lot of us. The added building will be a big draw for our visitors and provide an interesting tour.

**PROJECT COORDINATOR/PIONEER HOMESTEAD**

**Del Schmechel**

**News of the Thursday Crew activity:** Three men are working on installing a stairway to the basement of the mill. Those are Chris Nagy, Conrad Hannula and Harry Niemann. Harry Niemann and Edward Kyle installed two of the basement windows in the Mill. Jerry Perkowski is painting the library shelves for the Lillicrapp House. Corey Wilcok has agreed to refinish the desk that is original to the second floor of the Mill House. (That will be quite a project!) Don Robb and Walter Kaufman have built storage racks for all of our event signs. George Piontek has put his talents to work upgrading some of the equipment we use in our sugar shack. Bob Laubenheimer, along with several helpers, will be adding white trim boards to dress up our Granary to match the sugar shack. Jeff Bocher donated 10 sap bag holders to increase the number of trees we are able to tap for our syrup season.

**MAPLE SYRUP DAY**

It was a sunny, brisk day that didn't get much above freezing, but it didn't stop the hundreds of families that came out to enjoy Maple Syrup Day. Kids of all ages saw first-hand how the trees are tapped, the sap is collected and then cooked down to make our delicious maple syrup. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. It wasn't long before all the syrup that had been produced and bottled this last month was sold out. Hot dogs cooked in maple sap were served up as well, along with hot chocolate and lots of homemade treats.

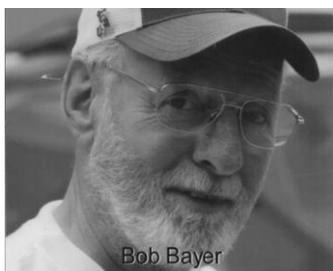


**Left – The Crowd**



**Right – Del Schmechel demonstration**

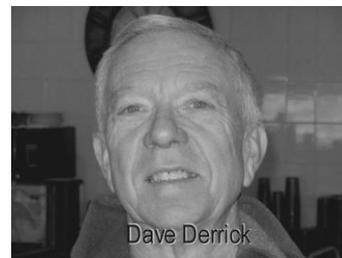
Another great family event at the Richfield Historical Park made possible by the efforts of the Thursday Crew! Now, let's meet the Thursday Crew .....



Bob Bayer



Jeff Bocher



Dave Derriok



Conrad Hannula



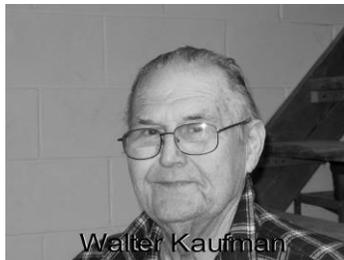
Jerome Hansen



Dennis Kanten



Tom Jordens



Walter Kaufman

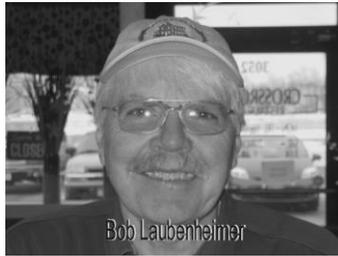


Ken Kuenzi

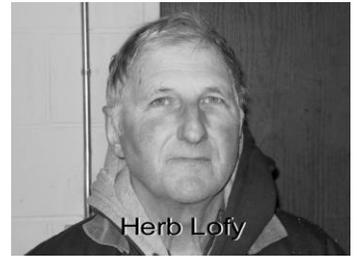
SOCIETY NEWS



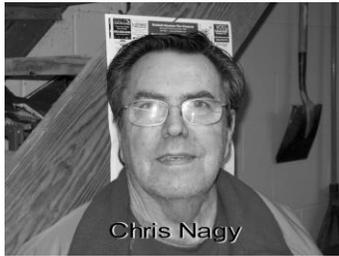
Edward Kyle



Bob Laubenthal



Herb Lofy



Chris Nagy



Harry Niemann



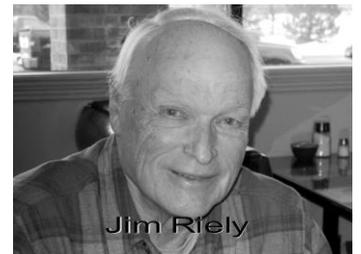
Jerry Perkowski



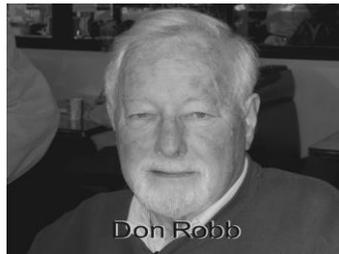
George Plontek



Dave Reich



Jim Riely



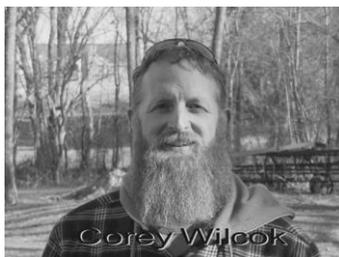
Don Robb



Del Schmechel



Mike Shutz



Corey Wilcock

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**SOCIETY SPRING PROGRAMS - Richfield Village Hall – 7:00 p.m.**

**(Programs are open to the public at no charge and all are welcome!)**

**Note: No programming June, July, and August**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> – The Farm at Ten Chimneys – Speaker: Erika Laabs**

**May 28<sup>th</sup> – Harley Davidson Family Memories – Speaker: Jean Davidson**

**SOCIETY COMING EVENTS - Richfield Historical Park**

**Check our website ([richfieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://richfieldhistoricalsociety.org)) for information**

**July 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Art at the Mill**

**August 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Vintage Baseball and Car Show**

**September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>st</sup>**

**Thresheree**

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Swap Meet & Craft Fair**

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas at the Mill**

**MILL HOUSE BOOK CLUB - Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday every month at 1:00 p.m. at the Java Dancer's on the corner of Hubertus Rd. and State Highway 175. All are welcome**

**May – “Maya’s Notebook” – Isabel Allende**

**August – “The Headmaster’s Wife” –**

**June – “Pygmalion” – George Bernard Shaw**

**Thomas Christopher Greene**

**July – “Tracks” – Louis Erdich**

**September – “The Narrow Road to the Deep North” -**

**Kent Nerburn**

***2015 Sponsors & Donors***

***Sponsors/contributors for our events and In Kind 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. A Thank You to all the many businesses that have purchased ads for our 2015 Events Program and everyone who has donated to the Messer/Mayer Mill Restoration Fund.***

***Wheat (\$500 or more)***

***Dehumidifier Corporation of America (Art Fair)***

***E. H. Wolf & Sons, Inc. (Thresheree)***

***Oarsman Capital (Art Fair & Thresheree)***

***Wissota Sand and Gravel, Co. (Thresheree)***

***Rye (\$499-\$250)***

***Monches Farm (Art Fair)***

***Rebecca Richardson (Thresheree)***

***Oats (\$249-\$100)***

***BMO Harris (Thresheree)***

***Gehring Sales & Service, Inc. (Thresheree)***

***Horsch & Miller Plumbing and Heating (Thresheree)***

***Landmark Credit Union (Thresheree)***

***United Cooperative (Thresheree)***

***Waddell & Reed – Germantown/Pete Heimerman (Art Fair)***

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***Graphic Edge (Printing)***

***Museum of Wisconsin Art (Art Fair)***