

# Monticello Area Historical Society



## Membership Picnic Planned for September 10th

Everyone is invited to the annual MAHS membership picnic to be held on Thursday September 10th at 6:00 pm in the Pool Shelter House. Beverages of milk, coffee, and soda will be provided by the society. Attendees should bring a dish to pass and place settings. With all the good Midwestern cooks in our society the picnic is sure to be a delight for all palates.

We have an informal program planned entitled “Monticello’s Memory Road show”. Along with the delicious dishes, please bring along favorite items or photographs to share with the group. We’d love to hear any stories that go along with your items as well.

We look forward to seeing everyone there and we encourage you to bring friends interested in joining the society.



- In case of rain the picnic will be cancelled



# August Program—Antique Bottles

Michael Seeliger discussed the collecting of old bottles at our August 27, 2009 monthly meeting. His discussion centered on old bottles from his personal collection and bottles collected over the period of the last 40 years. These bottles include black glass from the 1700s or earlier, historical flasks from the mid 1800s, figural bitters dating from 1860-1900, patent medicines from the 1800 quack medicine period, sodas, beers and whiskey bottles as well as ordinary bottles used before 1910. Mike brought many bottles to show the audience. Attendees are were encouraged to bring in old bottles for appraisal, dating and discussion.

Mike was an early bottles collector and purchased many items from the Woelfer's Drug Store in the early 1970s. Mike discussed early pharmacy collectables and advertising as well. He brought photos taken of the Drug Store in 1972 showing how it looked at that time. Mike is the author of "H.H. Warner His Company and His Bottles" 1974 which was the early authoritative volume on this patent medicine king.

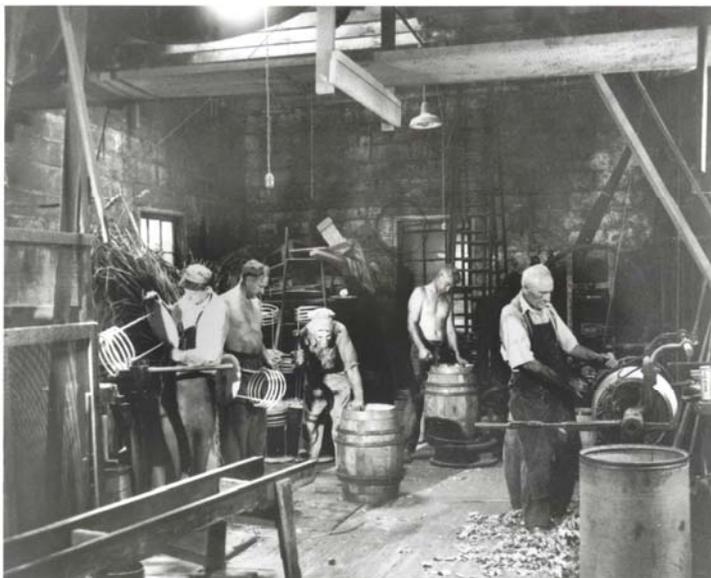


# **Frank J. Hess Cooperage- Wisconsin Largest Independent Cooperage**

Gary and Jim Hess spoke at a MAHS general meeting about the Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage. Closed in 1966, the Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage was Wisconsin's largest independent cooperage and the last cooperage in America to manufacture white oak beer kegs

Frank J. Hess Sr. was born in southern Bohemia on April 10, 1870. At age 14 he wanted to learn the cooperage trade. A cooper is a barrel maker. So he served a 3 year cooperage apprenticeship at the Pilsner Brewery in Pilsen, Bohemia. At age 19 he immigrated to America by ship and by train to Chicago. He worked as a cooper manufacturing white oak beer kegs for a short time in Chicago and Prairie du Chien. In Prairie du Chien he married, Anna Stluka, and started his family.

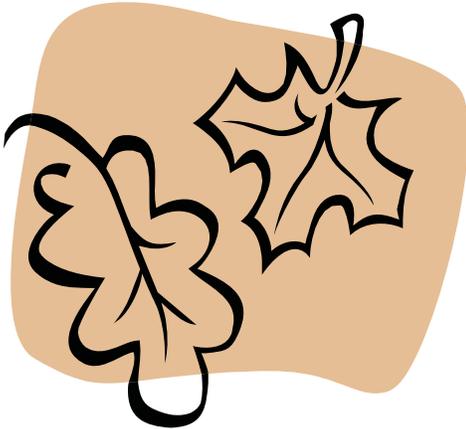
Then in 1904, Henry Fauerbach of the Fauerbach Brewery in Madison, persuaded Mr. Hess to move to Madison to start an independent cooperage business. That business, The Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage factory was on Schenk's corners for 62 years. They manufactured and repaired beer kegs for the Fauerbach, Hausmann, Breckheimer, Brunkow and Mueller, Potosi, Stork, Slinger, Rhineland, Portage, Baraboo, Sauk City, Columbus, Watertown, Wausaw, Janesville, Duluth, Jefferson, and Monroe breweries. Also the Star Brewery in Sioux City, Iowa, West End Brewery in Utica, New York, Hamm's Brewery in Baltimore, Maryland. They also manufactured and repaired wine and whiskey barrels.—



**Monticello Area  
Historical Society**

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*Where Monticello's Past  
meets the future*



## *Current MAHS Board of Directors*

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## **Messenger Minutes from the Past.....**

December 14, 1897 Issue....

“The Postmaster General has issued an order forbidding the renting of private boxes to minors. Postmasters are constantly receiving complaints from parents that sons and daughters are carrying on clandestine correspondence by means of private letterboxes.”

(Ahh... young love)



November 30, 1897 Issue....

The hopes entertained by the physicians in regard to the saving of Frank Milbrandts hand, which was badly mutilated in a corn husker, came suddenly to an end Thursday evening by the bursting of the main artery at the wrist. Dr. Jackson was telegraphed for immediately, but did not arrive until the next evening, and during the intervening time the patient was much weakened by blood loss. It was found necessary to amputate the hand just above the wrist, after which 1 1/2 quarts of salted water was injected into the arteries to keep up the circulation, which had almost been destroyed by the loss of blood. Since the operation Mr. Milbrandt has felt much better.”

(Early version of a 911 call?)

(Did they use rainwater or well water for the IV?)