

www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org

## MAHS

## **Board of Directors**

President - Mary Davis Vice-Pres. - Sue Rieder Secretary - May Burgy Treas. - Karen Brugger Member - John Casey Member - Teresa Dunlap Member - Hans Sulzer

## Coordinators

Docents - Kay & Bill Dickson Programs - Paul Rieder & Donna Fergerson Membership - Carol Schultz

**Collection Archivist** Jules Cappelle Jules.cappelle@gmail.com

## **Museum**

## Open

Saturdays May thru October from 10 am - 2 pm

#### **Our docent coordinators**

Bill & Kay Dickson welcome all volunteers. Call them at 938-4315.

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# RECOLLECTIONS

Monticello Area Historical Society News

Year 2018, No. 1

## Night at the Museum April 26th

Dear friends,

The display partitions and walls are painted. Ideas are flowing. Artifacts from our collection are being arranged to show what it was like in "Monticello of Yesteryear" We have a good start, but could really use some more participation els more accessible. We are enfrom any of you. We want to have the display ready for our evening event: "A Night at the Museum", April 26<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm. You will be treated to a sneak preview of our (your) new exhibit, and enjoy wine and cheese with fellow historians and museum supporters. Chairperson May Burgy is planning a festive evening to showcase our wonderful facility. We are suggesting a \$25 donation to help offset

the expenses of this "trip down memory lane". This is our regular April meeting night, so plan to attend and bring your friends.

The board of directors is actively investigating the installation of an elevator to make our museum levcouraged with the possibilities, and that there is interest in buying our old elevator.

And last, but not least, a very sincere THANK YOU to John Casey from the entire Monticello Area Historical Society for his very thoughtful and generous donation to us.

Happy Spring!

Mary Davis

## What You Need to Know

Promote our "Night at the Museum" as a way to achieve our Vision and Mission (p.2). Please share the time and date to as many people as possible. Your support is appreciated!!

Member Elda Schiesser passed away 11-26-17, our sympathy to daughter Linda. Monetary donations from: Edwin Frederick memorials, Geri Rufer and Harold Babler memorials, Sally Stenbroten, Fidelity-Tom Hefty and John Casey.

## Monticello Area Historical Society News

## **Graf's Chateau**

## By: KarenBrugger

Formerly the site of Breylinger Hardware Store, with possibly a little bit of it kept as a portion of the building, the Graf's had Karlen and Steinman Lumber Co. construct their new building at 244 North Main Street in 1933. The Graf's immigrated from Switzerland, beginning in America as cheesemakers and later managed the bar at the Monticello House when that structure was still a hotel. The new building would become their business as well as modern three bedroom living quarters. It would be interesting architecture characteristic of old world castles and chateaus. The Monticello Messenger "Jim Town" news September 1933 describes the new building as follows: There will be two units combined into one, tavern and home. Exterior and interior of modified French design and up-todate features. Exterior combination of brick, stone and stucco half timber work with dormered roofs, overhanging second story, balconies and towers. The entire mass of irregular shapes adds to the attractiveness of the design. One distinct feature is a round stone tower which projects to the front and serves as a "look out" of Main Street. This tower is surrounded with stone and a metal weather vane. Unique lighting effects, colored and plain will be used inside and outside. Tavern unit is divided into bar and card room, dance and booth room, beer porch, ladies and mens rest rooms on first floor leading down to a large private party or recreation

room in the basement. The basement will also contain a two-car garage, liquor cellar, laundry and heater room. A new fan-driven warm air system will supply residence and tavern units with heat in winter and cooled fresh air during summer months. The tavern unit will be treated as garden area enclosed by high stone walls with arched gateways and bracket lanterns. The booths will represent small garden houses in a setting of palm trees, vines and flowers. All tables, chairs, booths and bar of special design in black with silver trimming thus furnishing a striking contrast to the buff stone walls and ivory ceiling. Grand opening was October 5, 1933 with Tony Salerno entertaining. The Graf's were known for their chicken dinners and fabulous ham and cheese sandwiches. Food was served on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Margaret Blum used to work in the kitchen and said she and the other girls couldn't keep up with the demand for food and drinks. There would also be several bartenders. The south side where the bank now stands was a beer garden and lovely flower garden with flowing stream and goldfish pond. There was a small sheltered house in back where people would sit and drink beer on a warm summer evening.

George Graf passed away in 1972 at age 89 years. Lena continued to run the business with help. She died in 1982 at age 88. Upon her death the building was left to her good friend Margaret Blum, longtime Monticello school teacher. After an auction, it was put up for sale

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Monticello Area Historical Society is the acquisition, documentation, preservation and exhibition of artifacts relating to the history and culture of the Monticello area. This collection will be located in our museum, the former Woelffer Drug Store on Main Street in Monticello, Wisconsin.

#### VISION STATEMENT

The Monticello Area Historical Society strives to promote an interest in the uniqueness of the Monticello area by collecting and displaying artifacts that tell our community history. We further endeavor to enrich the community by connecting them to the past and saving the present to enhance the future.

and eventually purchased by Mark Rupnow, 28 years of age who had worked as a bartender in New Glarus. The inside the Chateau remained much the same but Rupnow with the help of volunteer friends and relatives cleaned it up and painted. The old tin ceiling was repainted and strangely enough some names came through the new paint. In times past, people used to climb the center pole in the bar room and write their names on the ceiling. A hint of the past here it seems! Booths still remained. Unfortunately Rupnow passed away soon after and the bar was again for sale. Former Browntown resident Larry Marty and wife Cindy purchased the business, but were operating a tavern and convenience store in Ohio and would need sometime to wrap up business affairs, so did not operate it immediately. Sharon Hraben was new owner June 1995, now named "Ravens", a play on her last name. The next owners were Dave and Lois Morris of Reedsburg. She had worked in food service and beverage business. They chose "Chateau Memories" as the name and offered daily specials. Thursdays were Mexican fare and traditional Fridaynight fish fry. They converted the main floor of the home connected to the bar and offered party facilities for groups of 40-50 people, also catering birthday and wedding rehearsal dinners. They also fixed up a youth center in the basement with video games, fast food and specific hours for the youths. The next owner would be Terry "Koolade" Broge in 2006. It was now named The Kooler with nightly drink specials and "Happy Hour"4:30-6 P.M. Terry passed away 2010, the business isnow operated by his widow, Kari Jacobson Broge. They were married in 2009. Breakfast is served daily, Kalberwurst on Wednesday, and Friday fish fry. Pool tournaments take place in winter and fundraisers for Gilda's Club which fights cancer.



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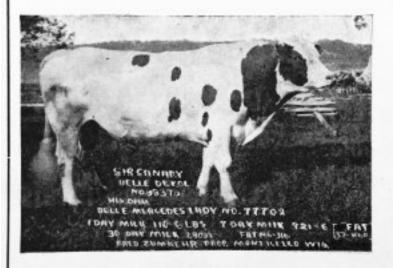
WIS.

## N. A. LOVELANI Attorney and Counselor at Law

Phones-Office 71, Residence 74. MONTICELLO, - WIS.

## Sir Canary Belle De Kol

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# The Monticello MESSENGER

S. Earle Richards, Editor and Publisher

(ESTABLISHED 1896)

A live local newspaper with a large and constantly increasing circution. No other paper so thoroughly covers Central and Northern Green County.

MONTICELLO, -

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Monticello Area Historical Society Presents:



# A Night at the Museum

Be first to see our new exhibit, "Monticello of Yesteryear"

## Thursday , April 26th

## 5—7 pm

## Enjoy wine and cheese with fellow historians and museum

supporters. Suggested donation of \$25 per person.

Museum located at 204 N. Main St., Monticello, WI

## March Meeting of the Monticello Area Historical Society

The Monticello Area Historical Society (MAHS) will meet at 7 pm Thursday, March 22 in the Zwingli UCC Lounge, 416 E. Lake Ave., Monticello.

Following a short meeting, Gary Tipler will present an illustrated review on John W. Steinmann

Gary Tipler, a historic preservation consultant, began his work in the mid-1970s in advocating for historic preservation in Madison's Marquette Neighborhood. He's called the neighborhood his home and is still involved there.

He worked for numerous developers over the years as a designer of new urban buildings, rehabs of existing white elephants in many communities throughout Wisconsin and four other states. During the past few years he's continued his work in preservation advocacy and stepped up research and preparing nominations for buildings to the National Register of Historic Places. His research in his-

toric architecture including the work of Conover & Porter Architects, Madison (1887-1899); Claude & Starck Architects, Madison (1896-1929); and John W. Steinmann Architects, Monticello (1939-1974).

Gary's interest and new connections with the Steinmann family began by meeting Howard and his daughter Sue when promoting a Steinmanndesigned Bennett-Prouty House (1957) on Waucheeta Trail on Lake Waubesa in 2011.

Gary has a wealth of images from the Steinmann collection and of his own of the many buildings designed and built by the Steinmann family for three generations of architects.

This is a free presentation and will start about 7:15 pm. Come join us; the Public is welcome to attend both activities.



TO BECOME A MAHS MEMBER	Cash	□ CHECK PAYABLE TO MAHS
them to our membership	NAME:	
chairperson. Membership year: May—April	Address:	
Individual dues - \$20/yr	EMAIL:	
Family dues - \$30/yr	PHONE:	

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN

## THE MONTICELLO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH, **EXCEPT** JULY, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, IN THE NORTH ROOM OF ZWINGLI CHURCH AT 7:00 PM IN MONTICELLO,

## P.O. Box 463

204 N. Main St. Monticello, WI 53570 Phone: (608) 938-4216 Email: mahs@tds.net

## **Hours of Operation**

The museum will be open May 5 until October 27, 2018 but can be open by appointment for anyone or a group wishing to stop by.

For special group or individual tours, call the museum at (608) 938-4216 or send your request to mahs@tds.net. Admission to the museum is free and a quarterly newsletter from your home town is included.

Please consider including the Monticello Area Historical Society in your will.

A guided tour of the museum can be arranged for all groups anytime.

MAHS Museum P.O. Box 463

204 N. Main St. Monticello, WI 53570

