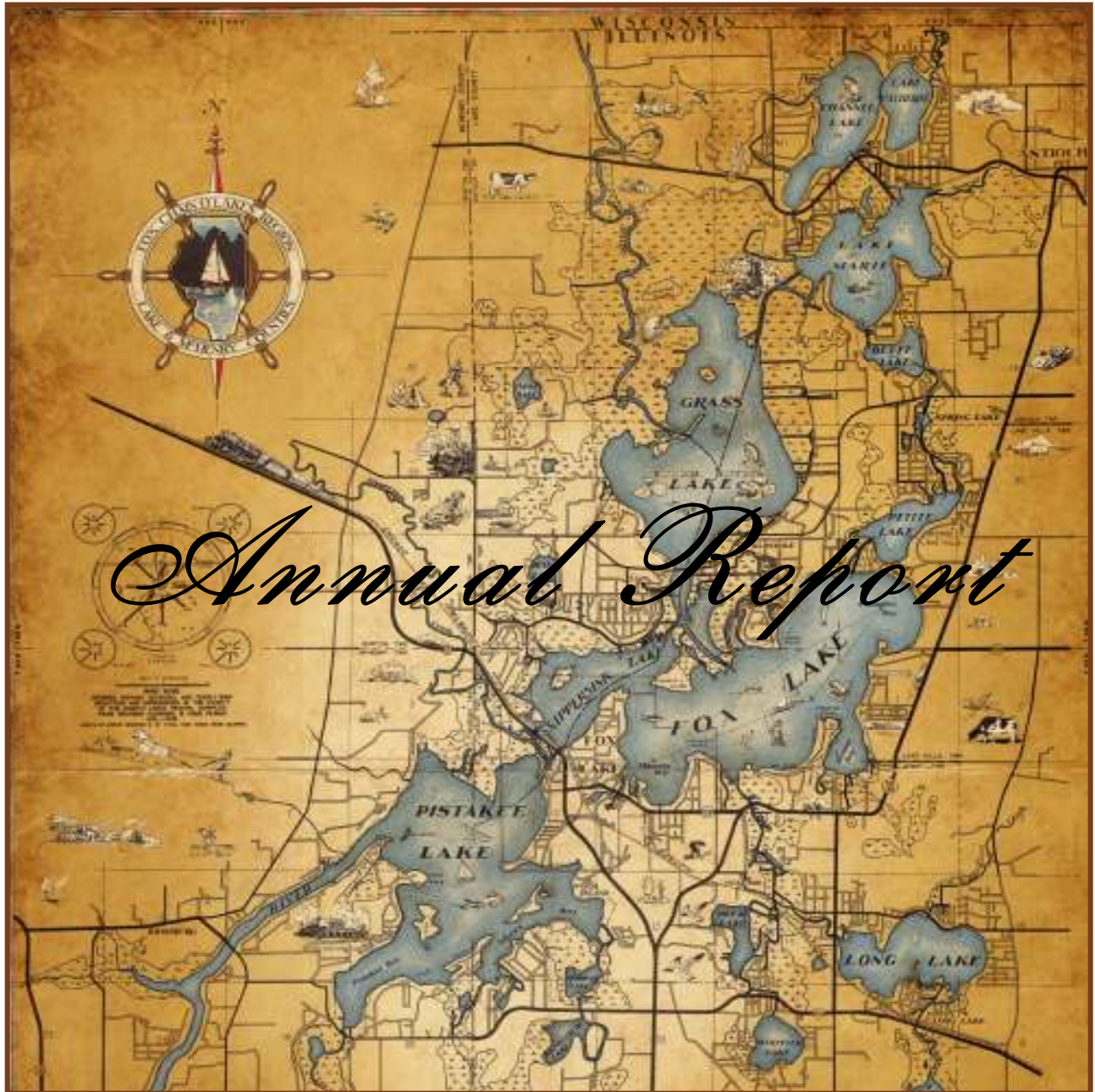


McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

Fiscal Year July 2019 - June 2020



Our Mission

We engage and educate current and future generations by preserving and sharing McHenry County history.

Enclosed are reports from the following Standing Committees to be presented to the Society membership at the Annual Meeting, held this year on July 24, 2020, as directed by the McHenry County Historical Society 2008 Bylaws, revised July 2018:
Executive, Finance, Governance, Membership, Building, Historic Sites, Education, and Collections Committees

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019 - 2020

Paula Rieghns, President

Robert W. Frenz, Vice-President

Molly Walsh, Treasurer

Marianne Pigott, Secretary

Kathy Bergan-Schmidt -

Membership Secretary

Arlyn Booth

Ellen Brunschon

Rob Cisneros

Maggie Crane

Mary Ellen Heelan

Catherine Jones

Henry Kenyon

Dave Martin

Lonni Oldham

Karen Parks

Dan Ring

Don Rose

STAFF

Kurt Begalka, Administrator

Nancy Roozée, Office Manager

Kira Stell, Curator

**Karolina Kowalczyk, Volunteer and
Outreach Coordinator**

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info@mchenrycountyhistory.org

This report was issued on July 24, 2020

Administrator

Enveloped in a pandemic, it can be hard to recall what our lives were like before COVID-19. A week before everything shut down, we hosted our first Sampler lecture. We also logged a spooky Halloween drama that fall, a quilt lecture and drawing in November, a one-of-a-kind holiday celebration marking Frosty the Snowman's 50th anniversary, and a packed Antiques Appraisal in February ... when it was still safe to do that kind of thing.

The challenge now, before MCHS and many other historical societies across the country, is to reimagine ourselves in a world where distance learning and social distancing is the norm ... and do it in a way in which people find compelling and worthwhile. It is the latest – and unexpected – twist in a self-evaluation/self-improvement process we've embraced the past two years., as MCHS positions itself for the future.

Integral to that is finding a permanent, state-of-the-art space for our collection. The pending sale of the Schuette building and the relocation of large collection items to more environmentally friendly space is a big step in that process.

PRESERVATION • We've added to our roster of digitized newspapers, with the help of a \$5,000 grant from RAILS, or the regional library system – brokered by the McHenry Area Public Library. Consequently, microfilmed issues of the Woodstock Sentinel have joined copies of the Richmond, McHenry and Marengo papers. Genealogists now have a free, high-resolution and searchable database to peruse on our website. Special thanks to Arlyn Booth and Maggie Crane for spearheading this project.

A grant from the Polly Crandell Questers of Crystal Lake enabled the Society to preserve an early survey notebook from John Brink. Also, we had some success in preserving several historic structures around the county. They include Haligus School and the Catty Building in Huntley, the Schmitt Chapel in Johnsburg, the Fred A. Walters House in Woodstock and the county's first courthouse in McHenry.

PROGRAMMING • This arguably is our biggest challenge, as COVID has caused program after program to be cancelled or postponed. Still, we've done what we could to make lemonade from lemons. We've opened the museum for timed admissions – face coverings, hand sanitizer and logs for contact tracing mandatory.

Our Education Committee has been working hard to build up its roster of take-home experiential kits and we hosted our first Zoom online workshop in July.

Finally, we did manage to host a White Elephant clearance sale during three days in July. Coupled with a Garden Glitz sale and goodies from Skinner's Amusements in Marengo (psychologically essential), we earned nearly \$5,000! No small feat this year!!

FINANCES • Frugal management, a federal Payroll Protection Program grant, and grants from Illinois Humanities and Landmarks Illinois have helped keep the bills paid and staff working – much of spring from home.

The pandemic's impact on cultural organizations has underscored the need to diversify our revenue stream by re-examining such things as planned giving, business partnerships, artifact adoption and exhibit sponsorships.

ADMINISTRATION • This has been a tumultuous time for our board, as it has worked to readjust to still-unknown challenges. But we've hung in there – be it meeting via phone or on computer, or masking up in the Schuette Building to work a shift. Thank you.

Finally, I need to acknowledge my extraordinary staff – and valuable addition of Karolina Kowalczyk as volunteer and outreach coordinator. Keeping the wheels moving from a distance – via online conferencing, texts, emails and computerized schedules – represented a new approach for us. However, Nancy Roozée, Kira Stell and Karolina continued to communicate with members, continued to see to daily tasks and continued to prep new exhibits for the public ... even as virus fears and the death toll grew. You are fortunate to have them working on your behalf.

– Kurt Begalka

Executive

The Executive Committee is responsible for overall policy, planning, consideration and recommendation of Honorary Board Members, job applications for managerial positions, and may appoint ad hoc committees, and designate their duties. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing and updating the Board's roles and areas of responsibility.

This year, the Executive Committee was marked by the unexpected and untimely passing of our President, Bob Wagner, and the unexpected move of our former President and current Vice-President, Mary Ott, to California. At the time, Mr. Wagner was the President, Ms. Ott was the Vice-President, Paula Rieghns was secretary, Molly Walsh was Treasurer, and Kathy Bergan Schmidt was Membership Secretary.

Upon Mr. Wagner's passing and Ms. Ott's relocation, Paula Rieghns was elected President. Mr. Robert Frenz, who was served as past president and vice president, and who is our keynote speaker for the Member's meeting this year, graciously agreed to resume his role as Vice President. Marianne Pigott, who was Mr. Wagner's assistant in "real life" became the Secretary in place of Ms. Rieghns. Ms. Rieghns has found the duties of President to conflict with the duties of running a business full-time, and is not seeking re-election as President. The remaining slate of Officers are all seeking re-election.

The last fiscal year marked the dissolution of an ad hoc Committee to investigate solutions for the Schuette building, which culminated in the pending sale of Schuette. An ad hoc Committee to advise as to reopening the Museum was appointed, as a result of the CoVid Crisis.

Respectfully submitted,

*Paula Rieghns,
Chair) President*



Buildings

1. The 2019/2018 year for the Building Committee was our first year with an official budget. Finance has also undertaken to create a fund specifically for building maintenance. This was a goal of the Building committee last year, to make sure that building maintenance was not done on an emergency basis, but was planned and budgeted for, to include preventative maintenance.

2. Mr. John Lewis was hired to evaluate West Harmony School and the Museum Building proper, as well as Gannon log cabin, so that maintenance and repair priorities could be established. The Building Committee then met to submit priorities for both the Finance Committee to budget for, and also as a policy or priority for the Committee.

3. The STEPs program progress has somewhat come to a halt, as the handicap accessibility portion of the STEPS goals is dependent on an expensive lift for wheelchairs to reach the stage in the museum building. A grant application was denied last year, and alternative funding has not been found. Many of the STEPS goals involve documentation for the buildings, such as applying for the National Register of Historic Places.

4. A stricter policy for building acquisition has been put in place, and the difficult decision has been made to sell the Schuette building, which will be in need of repairs and upkeep in the coming years and does not provide archivally sound storage. The Society also decided to divest itself of the Riley Methodist Church. The church has no land, no parking, no well or water, no restrooms and no place to add them, and has lost the zoning permissions necessary to operate as a church. Assuming a buyer is found for the church, the Society will be left with a more manageable portfolio of three school-houses, one log cabin, and a town hall building.

5. There is an ongoing discussion among the board about whether the Society headquarters should remain in Union or move elsewhere. An informal, anonymous poll of the board resulted in no clear quorum or direction for further action.

6. The Society's storage problem for collections is reaching a crisis, as it does every 10 to 15 years, which is also bringing the "stay-or-go" question back to the forefront. Prior to the COVID shutdown, the Building Committee and other interested persons spent significant time touring various buildings for storage or museum purposes. Ultimately, without clear direction, the Board finds itself in gridlock. The status quo is to continue to rent extra space for collections.

7. A policy of implementing "work orders" for repairs around the buildings was posited last year. It provides a written record of when repairs were made and the materials needed to do the job.

-- Paula Rieghns, Chair



WEST HARMONY

Looking good! Our little one-room school showing off newly painted clapboards and trim and professionally restored windows.

Financial

This certainly is a challenging time for our finances. In mid-March the museum was closed by the Governor's order and staff began working from home. Our first priority was keeping our staff fully employed. We were approved for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which is an SBA loan to be used for payroll and benefit expenses. We anticipate this loan will be forgiven if we maintain employment of our staff for the duration of the loan. We have also received grants from the Illinois Humanities COVID-19 Emergency Relief Grant (\$5,000) and the Landmark Illinois COVID-19 Organization Relief Grant Program (\$2,000). These funds will be used to cover our operating expenses. In addition, our members were very generous with our annual appeal (\$21,952). This has positioned us well as we go into the next fiscal year as we are unsure what the future holds with this virus.

The overall revenue for fiscal year 2019-2020 was \$357,110.97 and total expenses were \$365,678.10. The accompanying pie charts will give you an overview of the Society's revenue and expenses for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2019.

NEW BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

The budget for 2020-21 reflects an income of \$384,572 and expenses of \$355,859. This gives us a potential surplus of approximately \$28,000. We say potential because we are unsure if many of the events that are fundraisers like Cider Fest will take place. In addition, the Board approved a withdrawal of \$30,000 from the Anderson Bequest with half of that amount set aside to establish a capital fund for major building repairs and the other half to meet cash flow needs.

INVESTMENTS

All three of our investment funds, McEachren Charitable Trust, MCHS Endowment Fund and the Anderson Bequest are being managed by Northern Trust. Our investment strategy for all three funds is growth with moderate income.

McEachren Charitable Trust market value

June 2019	\$ 3,753,655.39
June 2020	\$ 3,554,453.60

MCHS Endowment market value

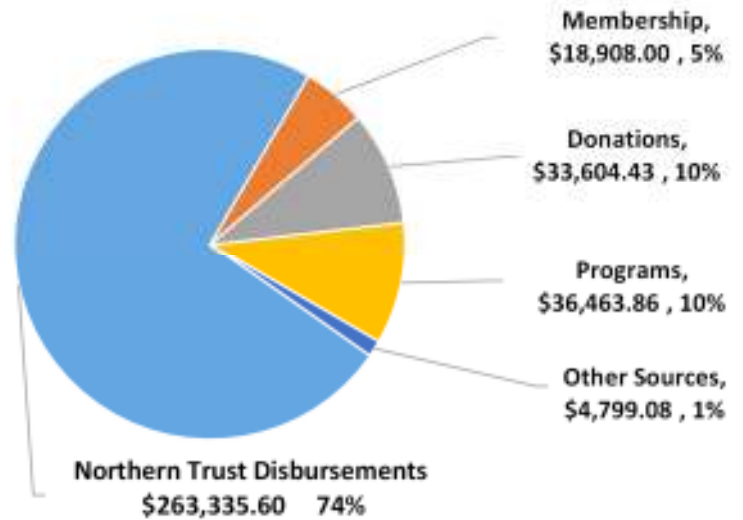
June 2019	\$ 1,895,605.08
June 2020	\$ 1,792,851.99

Anderson Fund market value

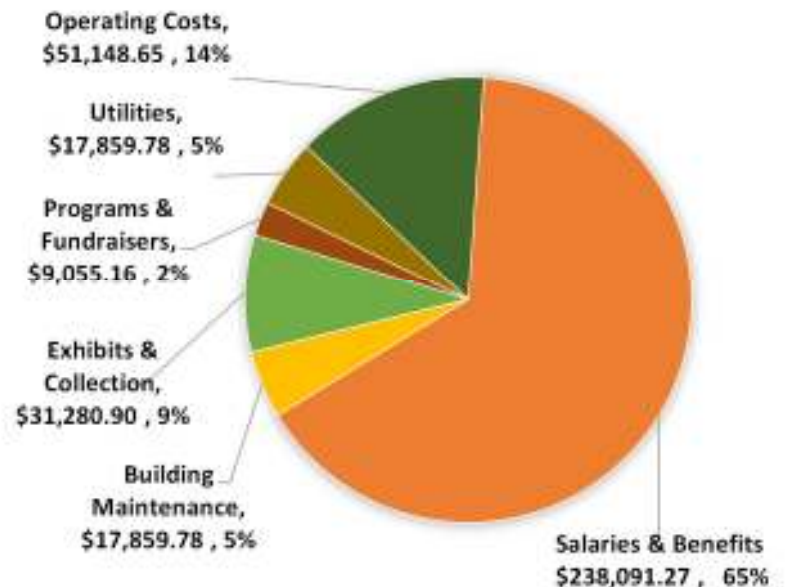
June 2019	\$ 857,883.91
June 2020	\$ 798,620.74

While there is much uncertainty at what the future holds, the one thing we can count on is the continued financial support of our members. Your donations are important for the success of the Society meeting our mission. THANK YOU!

Revenue \$357,110.97



Expenses \$ 365,678.10



Governance

The Governance Committee places in nomination for a three year term on the Board of Directors of the Society the following persons:

Debra Perkins Silker, Dorr Township

Deb grew up on a farm in Seneca Township that was purchased by her great great grandfather, Cyrus Perkins, 150 years ago. Being a part of a family with such deep roots in McHenry County has provided her with a rich family history and appreciation for local history.

Deb's interest in the McHenry County Historical Society started in the 1990s when her dad, Don Perkins was the board president. He encouraged family members to get involved by volunteering them for various projects and activities.

In 2007, Deb retired from a fulfilling and rewarding 33 year career as an educator and supervisor with the Special Education District of McHenry County.

Current volunteering projects include providing gardening and nature experiences for children through the McHenry County Master Gardener Program and assisting with the Garden Glitz plant sale at the Heritage Fair.

Deb has resided in Woodstock her entire life. She and her husband, John, have two children and three grandchildren. Just like her dad, she hopes to instill the passion for the McHenry County Historical Society in her family members as well as in others to carry on the tradition.



Perkins marker located under the museum office flag pole.

Dave Martin, Algonquin Township

Dave's interest in history developed at a young age, listening to his grandfather chronicle notable family events. He was eager to learn about his grandfather's experiences as a Marine during World War II. Moreover, Dave was particularly fascinated in the background of his grandfather's farm in north-east Iowa. (His grandfather's uncle won the family farm in a poker game!)

Growing up on the suburban side of the intersection between increasingly suburban and rural life in McHenry county, Dave became interested in the settlement and evolution of his native county, as a point of regional comparison to the rich stories his grandfather shared. Continuing to follow his interest in history ultimately led Dave to minor in it at the University of Iowa, and ultimately to teach high school history.

Currently he continues his career in education, in the capacity of an instructional coach for Harvard District 501. Dave is a performing musician, whose original songs are often drawn from historical events, including war history. He has a penchant for crafting musical narratives around particularly bizarre, sometimes comical, historical events. He is a native of McHenry County and lives with his wife, Lauren, in Crystal Lake.

Marianne Pigott , Dorr Township

Marianne Pigott was raised in Sleepy Hollow and has been a resident of McHenry since 1980, living in Cary, Crystal Lake and – for the past 30 years– in Woodstock.

Marianne was the assistant to Robert J. Wagner, past president of the McHenry County Historical Society Board of Directors. In that capacity, she assisted Bob with the membership drive and other programs for the Society. She has joined the board to continue with Bob's dream for the future of the McHenry County Historical Society & Museum.

She has been in the legal field since 1976 and worked as assistant to the Associate General Counsel of Morton Thiokol/ Thiokol Specialty Chemicals in Chicago for three years before taking off for 15 years to raise her children.

Marianne has volunteered for several organizations to include the Hooved Animal Humane Society, president of the Parents Association of Marian Central Catholic High School, Secretary of the St. Mary of Woodstock School Foundation Board of Directors, board member of the Woodstock North High School Boosters Club, just to name a few.

Marianne is married to Tom and together they have three adult children.

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The following current Board members: **Rob Cisneros, Bob Frenz, Daniel Ring, Don Rose, Kathy Bergen-Schmidt, Molly Walsh** are nominated for a new three year term.

Special thank you to outgoing board members **Maggie Crane, Mary Ott and Ellen Brunschon**. Mary joined the board in 2016, Maggie in 2017 and Ellen last year. Mary and Ellen moved out of the area. Maggie has agreed to remain on the Library Committee.

--Molly Walsh, Chair

Membership

The number of current MCHS members can be categorized as follows:

Individuals	
1 year.....	23
2 year.....	12
Family	
1 year.....	16
2 year.....	18
Senior Individual	
1 year.....	97
2 year.....	142
Senior Couple	
1 year.....	60
2 year.....	110
Student	
1 year.....	2
2 year	1
Life	
Life Individual.....	55
Life Couple.....	6
Governmental	
Cities, Villages, Townships.....	17
Business Partner	1
Organizations	
Deluxe Organization.....	2
Basic Organization.....	7
Current Memberships	569

-- Kathleen Bergan Schmidt, Chair



Santa Bob Wagner greeting new and renewing members during the December Holiday Open House

Life Members

Grace Moline	Merton Sarvay	Peggy Palmquist	Judy Beth Hervert
John Moline	Arden Miller	Stanley Korwin	Carol Halma
Nancy Irwin	Melodie Archer	Charles Liebman	Don Rose
Barbara Weter Bennett	Donald Purn	Wayne Schwartzman	Tracie Rose
Libbie Aavang	Norma Purn	Sherry Mueller	Trudie Dreyer
Judy Porter	Kathleen Bergan Schmidt	L. R. O'Connor	Brian Sager
Josephine Elsen	Larry Schmidt	Lonni Oldham	Dan Powers
Nancy Hudson	Helen Anderson	Marlene Olson	Willis Johnson
Nancy Fike	Anderson's Candy Shop	Janice Perkins	Shirley Johnson
Stephen Fike	Judith Lovaas	Peter Perkins	Sean Foley
Linda Stengele	Michael Easley	Jude Schmidt	Peggy Hart
Carl Stengele	Jane Setzler	Ilene Wiedemann	Chuck Ruth
Ann Bormett	David Gervais	Susan Tauck	Theodore Thayer
Rick Bormett	Nellie Hohnsen	Aastri Cunat	Laura Rice
Cindy Thompson	Ann Hughes	James Tonyan	
Larry Thompson	Robert Hughes	John Eiockstadt	
	Dennis Johnson	Edwin Colton	

Deceased Members:

Richard Begalka, Mary Kearney, Carolyn Lillegard, Anne Puccini, Eleanor Setser, Mary Stompanato, Barry Valentine, Robert Wagner.

If you know of any other member who passed this past fiscal year omitted from the list, please phone or email the office.

Historic Sites

This has been an unusual year due to the COVID Pandemic so overall, we haven't done a great deal. Prior to March, we have been doing follow-up with 8 different people regarding their sites for plaquing. This has been ongoing now for several years. We do have 2 applications in the works that are currently incomplete, Anderson's Candy in Richmond as a site and the Howard Mass Barn in Wonder Lake. We did have a scheduled on-site evaluation for Anderson's which had to be canceled. The Howard Mass Barn didn't get that far yet. We have received no other new applications. We have had one plaquing.



On October 19, 2019, the Historic Sites Committee awarded their 91st plaque to the Chapel Hill Chapel site. The original log cabin chapel was built by

Fredrich Schmitt at 2500 N. Chapel Hill Road in 1843 on what is now the Chapel Hill Golf Course in Johnsburg. Fredrich Schmitt from Rhineland, Germany made a vow that if he and his family arrived safely to America, he would erect a chapel in honor of the Immaculate Conception in thanksgiving for his safe voyage. The chapel had been transformed from the original log cabin chapel on his farm to a 16'x22' brick chapel in 1853. In the early 1950's the brick chapel was encased in concrete block and a little later enlarged to 16'x28'. Services are currently held once a year. The chapel is always open.

On March 3, 2020 I did go to the first McHenry County Court House building in McHenry for a tour with Kurt Begalka, Nancy Fike and other people from the Historical Society, people from the city of McHenry and others who were invited. A development company is in the process of restoring the original part of the building. I documented the building with photos.

We had a fieldtrip scheduled in April which was cancelled due to the COVID 19 Pandemic.

In the coming year, we look forward to educating the general public and raising their consciousness of historic preservation while continuing to plaque new sites if we are able to do so.

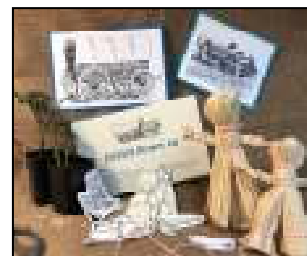
-- Grace Moline, Chair

Education

In September of 2019, 60 students participated in the museum tour from Husmann Elementary. In October of 2019 there were 92 students that participated in the West Harmony School House half day experience and 48 students that participated in the Native American in school program at Husmann Elementary School in Crystal Lake. Thanks to a grant from a Quester group, animal pelts were purchased for students to handle and docent Betty Miller developed posters to teach about Native American Homes, food sources, tribal names and cultures. January of 2020 brought 15 students from Prairie Elementary in Woodstock to do a museum tour.

The New Year brought a new face to the McHenry County Historical society and the Education Committee. We welcomed Karolina Kowalczyk as the Volunteer/Outreach Coordinator. Between Karolina and the COVID-19 crisis, the education committee has taken a different turn in delivering education programs to our county. In order to showcase the museum and what it has to offer schools, Karen Parks presented at the Harrison School in Wonder lake, serving two classrooms of 50 students total, a presentation that included images in a PowerPoint presentation of the West Harmony one room school house, as well as school artifacts that were passed around.

While being in shutdown from April through June, 127 Pioneer Activity Kits geared toward 3rd through 5th graders were picked up. Pioneer Activity Kit surveys have been sent out



and we have received positive feedback. The participating children were engaged in the activities and the parents found it easy to follow the script and directions. 100% of the responding parents thought the activities were applicable to the children's age group, would recommend the kit to a friend and are interested in other activities covering different historical topics.

In accord with our Outreach Goal of the McHenry County Historical Society's Strategic Plan, (Engage people of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds in the rich history of McHenry County by enhancing our program offerings to widen our appeal) we look to increase our take home kits and activities to all ages from children through adults. In addition, our lessons for teachers on various McHenry County Historical topics will be available on our website.

-- Karen Parks, Chair

Collections

2019-2020 Projects

The Collections Committee initiated a housekeeping plan for the Collections storage areas. Members of the Collections Committee met to clean artifacts and shelving units several times this year.

The doll collection was inventoried and rehoused in storage boxes using funds from the Norma and Glenn Anderson bequest.

Two storage cabinets were purchased to rehouse textile accessories which include jewelry, watches, cuff links, hand fans, hair combs, fraternal ribbons, badges and pins, and civil service artifacts.

The remaining 40 items in the Schuette building were cataloged and are waiting to be relocated to offsite storage.

Adopt-an-Artifact: Several John Brink survey notebooks in need of restoration were chosen for this year's program. 6 survey notebooks were selected. Also, a Tyron plat book containing several maps of McHenry County in 1890s. The McHenry County Civil War Roundtable and MCHS Board member Bob Frenz donated funds to adopt one of the John Brink survey notebooks that includes a roster of Civil War soldiers. Visit gothistory.org too view the list of adoptable artifacts.

Collections Assistant Lisa Solak was hired to audit the Personal Artifacts in the 3-D storage collection (Cold Storage). From August 2019 – December 2019, Solak audited 478 Personal Artifacts. After Solak finished the Personal Artifacts she audited the Household Décor and Art Artifacts and began auditing the Sporting Goods Artifacts. Her project report is inserted below:

Solak Project Report: I began cataloging the boxes of personal artifacts found in the first two shelving units of the third aisle in Cold Storage. 16 boxes and 7.5 shelves of Personal Artifacts were audited. The audit included, accessioning, cataloging and photographing objects as needed. Descriptions, locations, condition, dimensions, nomenclature were checked, entered and updated as needed. All objects were also checked against the accession ledgers for accuracy. In addition to cataloging I assessed the collection for duplicated and/ or damaged objects. Objects were also retagged as needed and repacked in boxes to minimize damage.

2019-2020 Accessioned Artifacts: 795

Sample of Artifacts: John Brink's field notebooks; 10th Anniversary quilt from Country Quilts, 1995; Floyd Eckert family photographs; Anderson Candy Shop 100th Anniversary souvenirs; Richmond Garden Club scrapbooks, 2000s; Ringwood Schoolhouse painting, 1986; Oak Manufacturing newsletters, 1960s-70s; Bowman Dairy potholder; Villa Bleu Tavern & Restaurant sign; American-made doll, 1905-1910; Pocket watch manufactured by T.H. Gill of Marengo; Western Electric wall telephone, 1912; Woodstock soapbox derby memorabilia, 1950s; Terwilliger family photographs; Hicks Gas business memorabilia



John Brink Field Note Book

2019-2020 Deaccessioned Artifacts: 305

World War II scrapbook (digitized); Hoy Pharmacy botte (duplicate); National Zip Code Directory (Non-McHenry Co.); Obituary scrapbook (digitized); Doll dress (poor condition); Greeting cards (duplicate); Two hair curlers (poor condition); Hospital Volunteer service pin (duplicate); Broken apothecary jar (poor condition); Woodstock Telephone Directory, 1972 (duplicate); Marengo Republican Newspaper, 1875 (digitized); Oliver Typewriter baseball photograph, 1902 (duplicate); Black silk umbrella (poor condition); 3 yellow plastic hangers (duplicate); 11th Regiment muster roll, Civil War (Non-McHenry Co., donated to Marshall County Museum).

-- Kira Stell, Curator

