



THE FINIAL

SUMMER 2014

**A NEW TOUR: TALLMAN'S
TECHNOLOGIES!**

**57th TALLMAN ARTS FESTIVAL:
ART IN NATURE**

**ROOTS IN ROCK CO:
MACFARLANE PHEASANTS**

**34TH HISTORIC HOUSE
TOUR: CIRCLING THROUGH
COLUMBUS CIRCLE**

**CRAFTING EXCELLENCE: PAULINE
POTTERY & PICKARD CHINA**

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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

Warm weather has finally reached Rock County! RCHS is taking advantage of this most beautiful time of year by expanding its traditional events in addition to introducing history in fun and exciting ways via new programming!

Whether it is taking a casual stroll through one of Janesville's neighborhoods by participating in an Historic Janesville Walking Tour, discovering a new art vendor at this year's Tallman Arts Festival, or learning about the Columbus Circle neighborhood's connection to Parker Pen during this year's Historic House Tour, the Rock County Historical Society is continually looking to make history relevant to the Rock County community.

The highlight of our summer is the unveiling of a new Lincoln-Tallman House tour, Tallman's Technologies. During the tour we offer visitors the opportunity to step back in time to discover the state-of-the-art amenities that made the Tallman house unique during the 1850s.

I encourage you to take in all of the energy and excitement that the Rock County Historical Society campus has to offer this summer season!

See you on campus!

Sincerely,

Michael Reuter
Executive Director

TALLMAN'S TECHNOLOGIES

The year is 1872. William Morrison Tallman, owner of the Tallman residence at 440 N. Jackson Street, has just put his house up for sale. Take the opportunity to tour his opulent home and view state-of-the-art amenities of domestic living that made the home unique: running water, gas lighting, an intercom system and more. Put in an offer to purchase this magnificent residence and change history!

Our new thematic tour, Tallman's Technologies, takes a closer look at the inner workings of the Tallman House: its innovative technology. By offering visitors the chance to role play as potential buyers of this Rock County icon, visitors will leave with a deeper understanding of how domestic technology of the 1850s changed daily life forever, while conveying the importance of preserving the Lincoln-Tallman house for generations to come.

Opening August 18th, this three-Act tour will be offered at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily until the end of September and at select dates and times through the end of 2014. For more information about this tour, visit www.tallmantours.org

TALLMAN'S TECHNOLOGIES TOUR

Where: Lincoln-Tallman House
Tours start at the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center, 426 N. Jackson St.

When: Opens August 18th - 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Daily

Cost: \$10 Adults, \$9 Seniors/Students
\$6 Children (ages 5-17)
\$5 Adult/Children Groups

Bookings begin on August 1st! To RSVP, visit:
tallmantours.org OR call RCHS at 608-756-4509



**ELEGANT MANSION
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AND

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- OF -

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installments with interest semi-annually.*

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Art in Nature

57th Tallman Arts Festival

In 2014, the 57th annual Tallman Arts Festival features the theme: **Art in Nature**, inviting artists and vendors alike that embrace nature's gifts to join us at the campus for this event!

Every year, the Tallman Arts Festival has something to offer everyone! Bid on a homemade pie at our Pie Auction, enjoy a diverse lineup of musical entertainment, indulge in our wine & cheese tasting and much more!

The Tallman Arts Festival is the Rock County Historical Society's largest fundraiser and supports the improvement of our educational programming.



Where: Rock County Historical Society
426-440 N. Jackson Street

When: Sunday, August 3, 2014
10 a.m to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$4 for entrance into the festival

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To register as a vendor or for more info:
rchs.us/tallman-arts-festival/

For a full listing of activities at the festival,
visit: www.rchs.us/tallman-arts-festival/



HISTORIC JANESVILLE WALKING TOURS

*Unlocking the History
Around You!*

**June thru October
9 a.m. on
Select Saturdays**

FREE to all ages

Take a casual stroll through one of Janesville's historic neighborhoods on one of our Historic Janesville Walking Tours!

All geographic areas of Janesville are represented by the walking tours. From Courthouse Hill to the Look West neighborhood, the walking tours will provide participants with the stories, architectural detail of homes and anecdotes about the people that lived there, showcasing the unique fabric of Janesville's local history.

These FREE, one hour tours, provide a relaxing and engaging glimpse of these distinctly different neighborhoods. Bring your family, friends and colleagues as you discover Janesville's commercial and architectural history through its Historic Walking Tours.

MAIN & MILWAUKEE STREET TOURS

Main Street • September 6

Meet at Amphitheater in Court House Park-Main St.

West Milwaukee Street • September 20

Meet at Corn Exchange Park - W. Milwaukee & Franklin St.

This tour covers Janesville's historic core. Main and Milwaukee Streets have been the center of Janesville commerce since its founding. This tour shows architecture that ranges over 160 years, showing an evolving and ever changing streetscape.

COURTHOUSE HILL • September 26 & October 18

Meet at Jefferson Park - Corner of Van Buren & Atwood St.

Tour Janesville's best preserved Victorian neighborhood. Court House Hill, one of the highest points in the city, has attracted Janesville's wealthiest residents since the 1850s. The tour covers Janesville's first cemetery, the home of a Vice Presidential candidate, and the site of Wisconsin's first State Fair.

LOOK WEST • July 12 & October 4

Meet at Front Porch of Lincoln-Tallman House

You will stroll through a grand neighborhood on a bluff overlooking the Rock River. The Look West district has a grand diversity of Victorian architecture that includes Italianate mansions, Gothic styled homes, a small chapel and tobacco warehouses. The centerpiece of the Look West District is the Lincoln-Tallman House, a grand Italianate mansion once referred to as the "Wisconsin's finest residence" when completed in 1857 and then visited by Abraham Lincoln in 1859.

FOURTH WARD • August 9

Meet at St. Patrick's Church - 315 Cherry St.

This tour takes you through the most diverse and urban historic district. The Fourth Ward is the closest residential historic district to downtown. The district features homes of some of Janesville's early industrialists and the small cottages of factory workers. The Fourth Ward also features some of Janesville's most significant churches.

COLUMBUS CIRCLE • August 23

Meet at the Entrance to the Circle

One of Janesville's most charming neighborhoods is where this tour will take you. This neighborhood was largely constructed up from 1920-1940 and features a unique circular layout with homes constructed based on an eclectic "storybook" style. These were the homes of Janesville's middle class professionals who were able to build in this "suburb" because they had a streetcar nearby and this was the first generation to own cars.

**For full tour schedule and start times contact the
Rock County Historical Society at 608-756-4509 or visit,
www.rchs.us/jvlwalkingtours**



34th Historic House Tour Circling Through Time: Columbus Circle

In connection with Parker Pen's 125th Anniversary celebration, the Rock County Historical Society is unveiling the rich history of the Columbus Circle neighborhood for its 2014 **Historic House Tour. Circling Through Time: Columbus Circle** aims to tell the story of one of Janesville's most distinct neighborhoods.

Developed in 1916 by the Parker Pen Company as the Parkwood Addition, Columbus Circle differs from other subdivisions by its unique circular layout. During the real-estate boom of the 1920s, many middle-class families called Columbus Circle home, with the architecture of the residences being as diverse as the neighborhood itself.

Spend a leisurely Sunday afternoon seeing the interior of select homes while enjoying the character and charm of Columbus Circle's landscape! Unique elements of the tour include refreshments, historical personalities and a carriage ride will add a dimensionality to the tour, bringing the Columbus Circle neighborhood to life!

When: Sunday, September 28, 2014 • 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Columbus Circle Neighborhood

Cost: \$15 pre-sale, \$20 day of event

To purchase tickets & tour info: www.rchs.us/historichousetour



SUMMER 2014 EVENTS

JULY

12 - Historic Janesville Walking Tours - Look West District

MEETING PLACE: Front porch of the Lincoln-Tallman House.

The Look West district has a grand diversity of Victorian architecture that includes Italiante mansions, Gothic styled homes, a small chapel and tobacco warehouses. The centerpiece of the Look West district is the Lincoln-Tallman House.



14 - 18 - History Camp

Send your children to the RCHS campus to immerse themselves in a four-day camp that focuses on lessons in Architecture, Genealogy, Archaeology and Artifacts! The History Camp, hosted by the RCHS, is an official course in the Janesville School District Summer School Curriculum.

26 - Historic Janesville Walking Tours - Courthouse Hill

MEETING PLACE: Jefferson Park - Corner of Van Buren & Atwood St.

Courthouse Hill, one of the highest points in the city, has attracted Janesville's wealthiest residents since the 1850s. The tour covers Janesville's first cemetery, the home of a Vice Presidential candidate, and the site of Wisconsin's first State Fair.

AUGUST

3 - 57th Tallman Arts Festival: Art in Nature

Enjoy art, food, music and more at Wisconsin's oldest and longest running art festival! Over 100 art and food vendors are on campus for this one day festival!

9 - Historic Janesville Walking Tours - Fourth Ward

MEETING PLACE: St. Patrick's Church (315 Cherry St.)

The Fourth Ward is the closest residential historic district to downtown. The district features some of Janesville's early industrialists and the small cottages of the workingman. Some of Janesville's most distinctive churches are located here.

18 - Tallman's Technologies Tour Opens

Learn how 1850's innovations changed Janesville forever in this interactive new tour of the Lincoln-Tallman House.

23 - Historic Janesville Walking Tours - Columbus Circle

MEETING PLACE: Entrance to Columbus Circle

Columbus Circle is one of Janesville's most charming neighborhoods. This neighborhood was largely built up from 1920-1940 and features unique circular layout with homes built based on an eclectic "storybook" style.



23 - Exhibit Opening - Crafting Excellence: The History of Pauline Pottery & Pickard China

SEPTEMBER

6 - Historic Janesville Walking Tours - Main Street

MEETING PLACE: Amphitheater in Court House Park

This tour covers Janesville's historic core. Main Street has been the center of Janesville commerce since its founding. This tour illustrates the architecture character of the center of Janesville's commercial district.

20 - Historic Janesville Walking Tours - West Milwaukee Street

MEETING PLACE: Corn Exchange Park - West Milwaukee & Franklin Streets

Milwaukee Street has been the center of Janesville's commerce since its inception. This tour shows architecture that ranges over 160 years, showing an evolving and ever changing landscape.



28 - 34th Historic House Tour - Circling Through Time: Columbus Circle

Discover the rich and distinct architecture and history of the Columbus Circle neighborhood! This walking tour allows visitors to view the interior as well as the exterior of select homes in a neighborhood steeped in the history of the Parker Pen Company.

For more info on 2014 Rock County Historical Society events, visit: <http://www.rchs.us/calendar/>

Proud supporter of:
**Conservation and
preservation.**

BMO Harris Bank is proud to support
the Rock County Historical Society.

Volunteer Spotlight: Diane Toberman

Who do you get when you have someone who has dedicated one day a week entering data into the RCHS database for more than seven years? Diane Toberman, this issue's feature volunteer.

Diane has always loved history. Growing up in Prairie du Chien she loved the fact that there was a beautiful Victorian House, the Villa Louis, right in her hometown. When she moved to Janesville she was excited to learn about another Vicotiran House: the Lincoln-Tallman House. She loved the house's connection to Abraham Lincoln even more. When Diane retired, she was looking online for volunteer opportunities and saw RCHS listed. The volunteer group connected her to Laurel Fant, who had said she could use Diane's help. "I told her I wasn't a very good typist," but Laurel took her anyway, showed her how to use the PastPerfect computer program, and gave her a thick binder of documents to get started on.

Since then, Diane has been working to digitize the backlog of past donation forms into the PastPerfect database program. Diane started working with the late 1990s and moved backwards from there. She is currently working on records from 1974. Diane has inputted over 2,000 records and she plans to go until the very end, which would



be 1951. Having the records digitized makes finding information easier and more accessible for researchers.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication, Diane! "It keeps me out of mischief," she says, chuckling and then starts entering more information.

Andrea Miller
Operations Manager



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Summer is upon us at RCHS and we have a number of ways for you to get involved. We are continuously looking for volunteers for:

Special Events

- The Tallman Arts Festival (August 3, 2014)
- Historic House Tour (September 28, 2014)
- Lincoln on the Lawn (October 10-12, 2014)

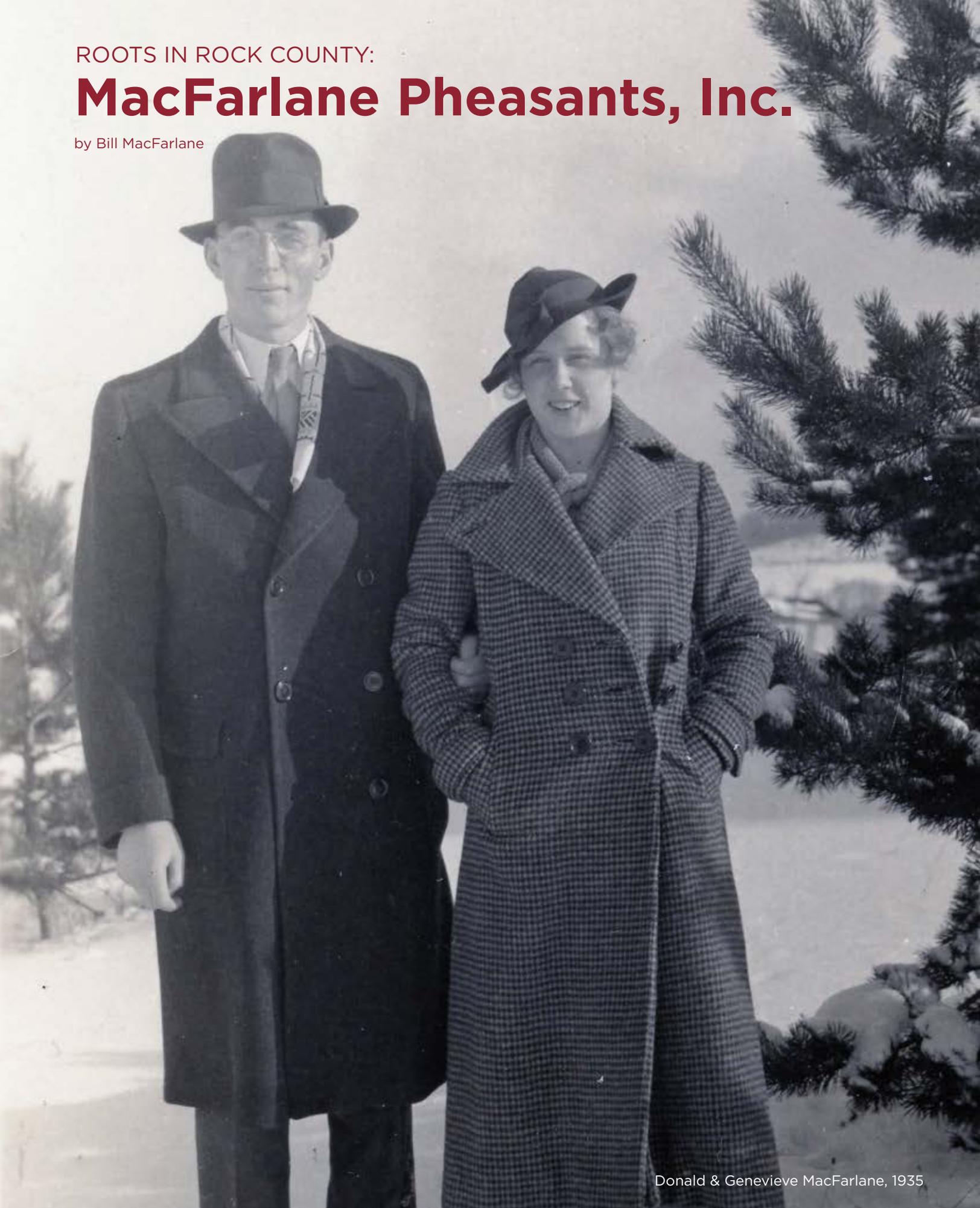
General Areas

- Front Desk Help
- Lincoln-Tallman House Tours
- Historic Janesville Walking Tour Guides
- Maintenance and Campus Care

ROOTS IN ROCK COUNTY:

MacFarlane Pheasants, Inc.

by Bill MacFarlane



Donald & Genevieve MacFarlane, 1935



Aerial photograph of MacFarlane Pheasants, 1960.

It is hard to believe a Janesville farm that currently is spread out over 500 acres, began in a single-family dwelling located on the corner of Ruger Avenue and Forest Park Boulevard. Ken MacFarlane established what we now know as MacFarlane Pheasants, Inc. in 1929. The farm quickly outgrew its original location and established itself on the east side of the 1400 through 1600 blocks of Center Avenue during the 1930's. It was during this time that Ken's brother Don joined his brother in running the farm.



Delivering pheasants by truck, c. 1940.

The two brothers successfully managed the farm until Ken was tragically killed in the Armistice Day Storm in 1940, while on a hunting trip on the Mississippi River. As the City of Janesville closed in around the farm, Don moved the farm to its current location on the south side of Janesville during the 1950s. Don and his brother-in-law, Jim Adamson, managed the farm until the earlier 80s when Don's son Bill took over.

One continuing aspect of the farm is the sale of MacFarlane pheasant genetics. Sales have increased to where the farm is now shipping over 1 million chicks and 600,000 pheasant hatching eggs annually. The farm's largest source of revenue is the sale of live pheasants and partridges to farmers and hunt clubs for release. In addition to MacFarlane's live pheasant sales, the farm also increased the production of dressed pheasants, or pheasant meat. Not only can you now purchase pheasant meat from our on-site store, but you can also find

our pheasants in a variety of stores nationwide, including Whole Foods.

As a business in Rock County, we are proud to employ 60 full-time employees, and utilize our local resources. In 2013 alone, we purchased over 6,500 tons of feed from the nearby Cargill Animal Nutrition production plant (located on Highway 59 just east of Milton). As the largest pheasant farm in North America, we love to share our knowledge and passion about pheasants. Schedule a visit or visit us online at either www.pheasant.com or www.pheasantfordinner.com for more information.

MacFarlane Pheasants, Inc.
Founded: 1929

Where: 2821 South US Highway 51
Janesville, WI 53546

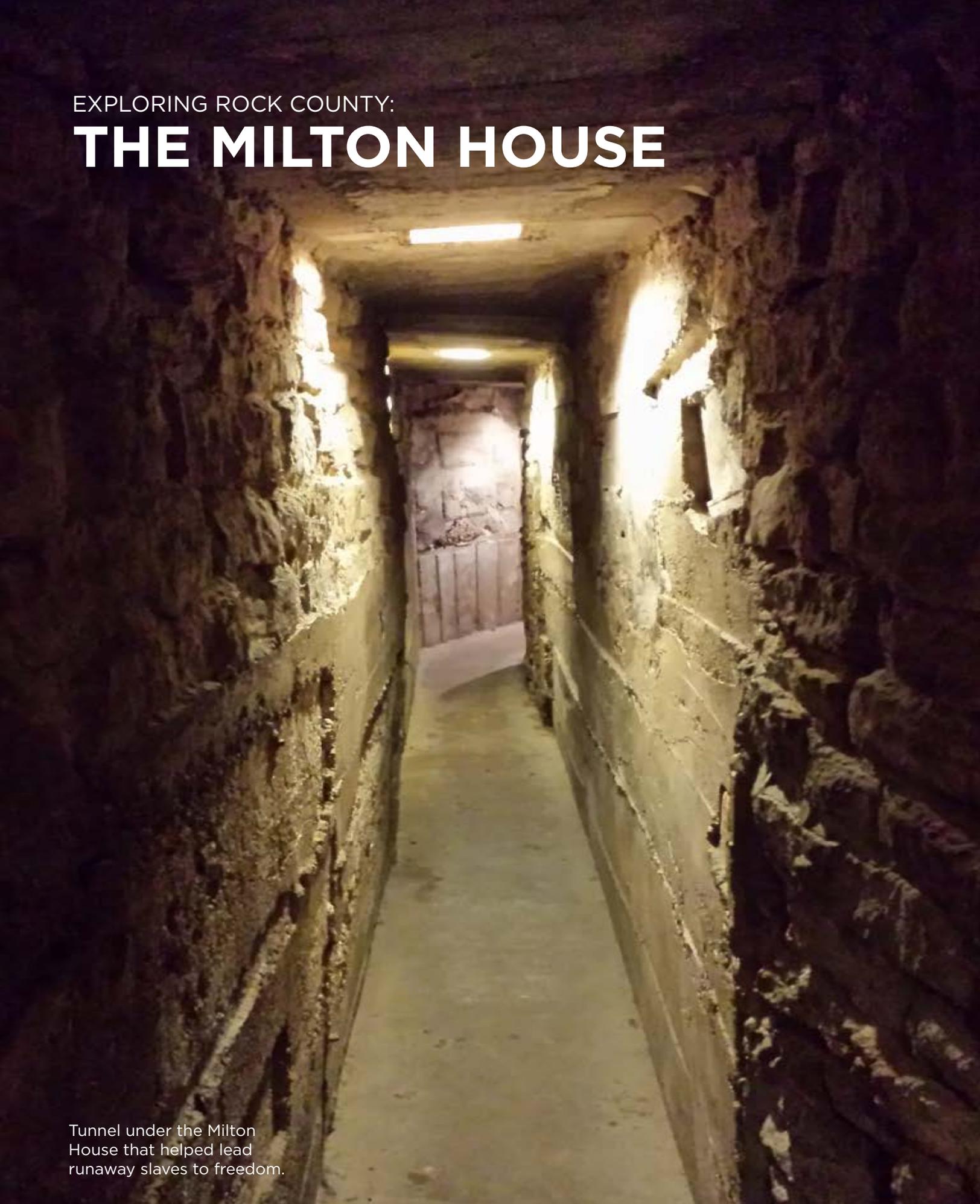
Phone: 608-757-7881

Web: www.pheasant.com



EXPLORING ROCK COUNTY:

THE MILTON HOUSE



Tunnel under the Milton House that helped lead runaway slaves to freedom.

\$200 REWARD!

Ran away from his owner [a Lady residing near Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Md.] on or about the 12th inst. of this month, a bright Mulla-tto man named Frank, a carpenter by trade, he is about five feet 9 or 10 inches high, light grey eyes, slow in speech, and very good personal appearance, about twenty-five years of age, his clothing good.

One Hundred dollars will be paid if apprehended within thirty miles of home, if more than thirty, the above reward, provided he be secured in Jail so that his owner gets him again.

W. D. BOWIE,

for the owner,
Buena Vista Post Office, Prince George's Co. Md.
thruar 4th, 1853.

Posted reward poster for the capture of runaway slaves.

In 1838, a man by the name of Joseph Goodrich came from Buffalo, New York to Milton, Wisconsin. Joseph, his wife Nancy and their son Ezra built a large hexagonal stagecoach inn that served as a store, bedrooms for rent and apartments. Upon walking through The Milton House, one may notice stark white walls, plain china, simple décor and modest architecture built from a family that believed in a life of simplicity but had an incredibly rich spirituality. While the house itself and the belongings of the Goodrich family were modest, a priceless treasure can be found under the house: a tunnel that was part of the Underground Railroad.

Housing fugitive slaves or helping them to travel onwards was a criminal act and the Goodrich family knew the consequence was imprisonment. Regardless, Joseph Goodrich felt a strong responsibility to act upon his beliefs and provide safe passage for those in need. The Milton House property holds both the hexagonal inn and a small cottage next door that played a role in helping runaway slaves pass north to Canada. In the basement of the house is a narrow tunnel that leads underground and into the cottage where slaves would stay until they were picked up by a carriage

where they could hide and travel onwards. All of this was kept perfectly secret from the inn's guests and the Goodrich family was never suspected.

Individuals taking the tour of the Milton House will experience this tunnel themselves if they choose and will have the opportunity to pass through from the basement of the Inn to the cottage like those before who depended on the Goodrich family for safety and passage.

Tours of the Milton House last around 75 minutes long and are handicap accessible. For tour prices, visit www.miltonhouse.org.

Meghan Walker
Guest Writer



Collections Corner

by Laurel Fant - Collection's Manager

The Carrie Jacobs Bond Questers recently received a grant for the conservation of the engraving, "The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation Before the Cabinet" at the Lincoln-Tallman House. The 1866 engraving was created by A.H. Ritchie after a painting by F. Carpenter and hangs in the second floor hallway of the Lincoln-Tallman House.

Conservator Len Lassandro noted that the wood panel backing caused severe burns on the print, evidenced by the vertical brown lines on the engraving. Additional

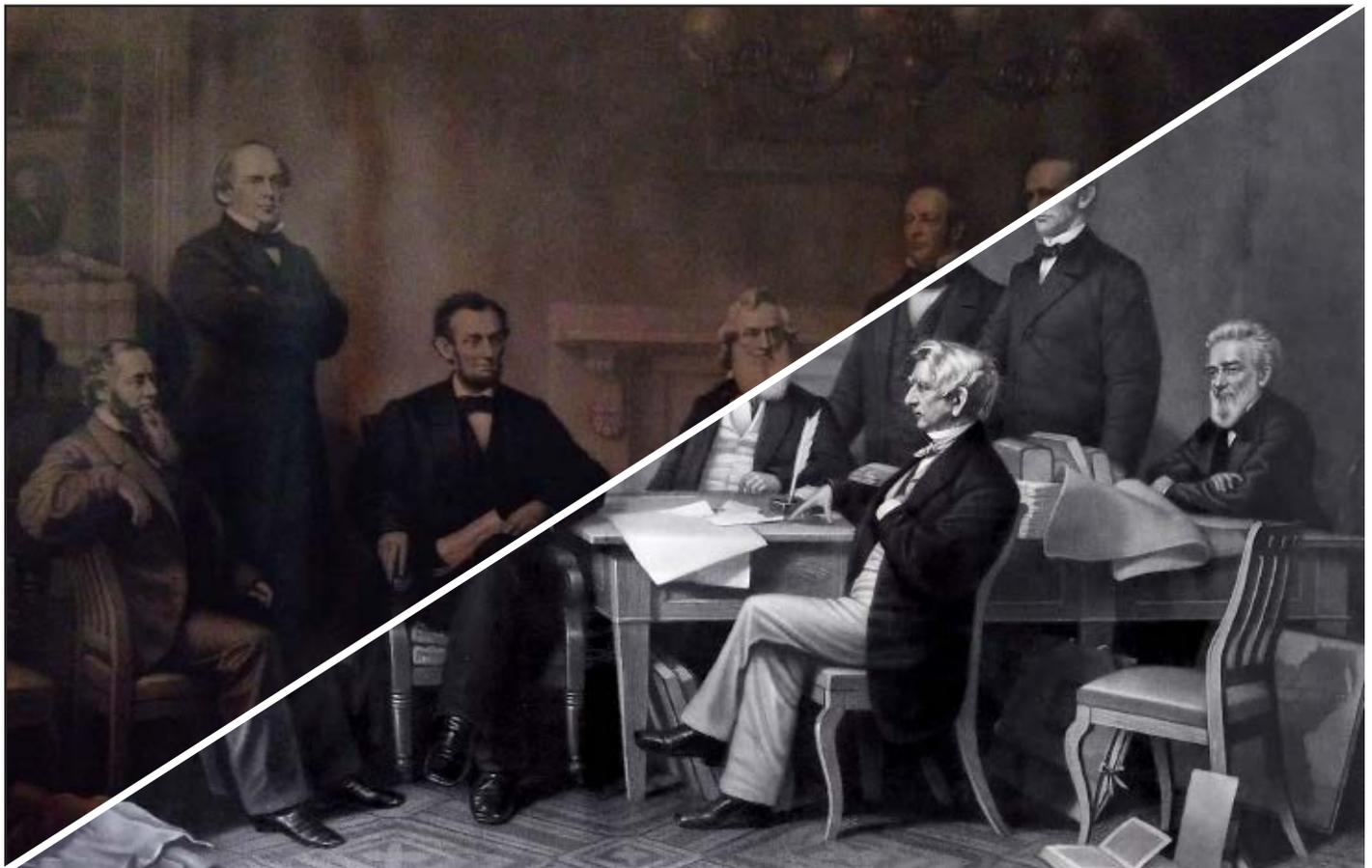
damage was brittle paper, fungus stains, water tidelines, foxing and a small tear. All were successfully treated, allowing visitors to view the engraving in almost new condition.

Lassandro of Conserve Lab commented that this is one of the best images of this work he has ever seen. It was an early strike so the printing plate was in prime condition. "There is a vivid image with strong lines and depth" he explains.

Another engraving "Snap Apple Night or All Hallows Eve" which hangs in the first floor hallway

was restored by the Monterey Questers through a grant as well. The damage to this engraving was less severe and responded well to treatment. It was engraved by James Scott after a painting by Daniel Maclise and published in 1845.

The Rock County Historical Society thanks the Carrie Jacobs Bond Questers and the Monterey Questers for their interest and support in preserving Rock County's history. These recent conservation projects are among many that the local Questers have funded since 1998.



Before and After conservation of "The First Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation"

Stories from the Stacks – Help Tell the Early History of the Janesville 99

by Ruth Anderson, Archives Manager



Soldiers play a game of cards during down time at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, c. 1941.



An A-3 tank gets stuck during basic training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, c. 1941.

The story of those who served in Company "A" of the 192nd Tank Battalion (a group also known as the "Janesville 99") is a story of bravery, tragedy and disbelief that takes us from Janesville, Wisconsin to the South Pacific during the Second World War. These men fought bravely to defend the Philippines from invading Japanese forces at the beginning of the war.

After the surrender in April of 1942, the 99 men of Company "A" endured the infamous Bataan Death March and three years of imprisonment within the Japanese Empire. Those among the Janesville 99 who survived (a total of 35), brought home stories that would amaze and horrify local residents, and the nation, for generations to come.

The Charles Tallman Archives is working closely with researcher Anthony C. Meldahl who aims to write a book to recall the Company's training and off-duty life at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Rock County Historical Society is looking for any oral histories, memoirs or photographs that the general public is willing to share in order to complete this historic narrative.

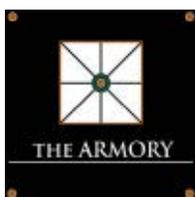
For more information, please contact Archives Manager Ruth Anderson at 608-756-4509 or via email at rchruthanderson@gmail.com

Thank you to our 2014 Sponsors!
Your support allows us to expand
existing programs and create new
events this year!

Legacy Circle



Historic 100



BLAST FROM THE PAST: Camp Janesville

By Meghan Walker

On June 21, 1944, 240 German prisoners of war and their guards arrived in a railroad car to an enclosed camp near Rockport Road and Crosby in Janesville. This place was known as Camp Janesville. At the camp, an ambush was said to be waiting for the Nazi POWs and five young boys sat with their bows and arrows strung and ready to fire. When the six railroad cars pulled up and the Germans filed out, "five abreast and singing," the boys with their arrows were seen by Janesville police and were warned to leave.

According to the book "*Stalag Wisconsin: Inside WWII Prison-of-War-Camps*" by Betty Cowley, Camp Janesville was equipped with a shower, bathrooms and floodlights for the camp—which covered about 10 acres. There was also a cookhouse, dining tent and around 125 two-man tents surrounded by barbed wire and a snow fence. Escape from the camp was not common and only was found to happen once when a soccer game was being held nearby. The POWs hid in a nearby cornfield but were soon found and returned to the camp.

The camp served a number of purposes in Janesville: First, several hundred thousand German soldiers were being held in England as





prisoners of war. The United States agreed to take all POWs in Great Britain after 1942. Janesville was one of many camps in Wisconsin to accept prisoners. Second, the prisoners served a great economic purpose for Janesville and its agriculture. Prisoners in the camp were put to work canning peas, tomatoes and sweet corn.

Residents of Janesville had a number of reactions to the new visitors. Some, like the five boys with arrows, felt defensive about enemies of war living in their town. Others snuck to the fence and—with their own loved ones

away in the war—spoke German with the prisoners .

In time, the prisoners began to blend in with the locals. German soldiers' personal loyalty to Hitler and the Nazi party varied and those who were open to assimilating with the Americans and began to find a small place of belonging in Janesville. They had skills that the Janesville locals appreciated: they were good farmers, skilled with machinery, and knowledgeable about the care of animals.

In 1945, Camp Janesville closed its gates and passed into the

collective memory of Rock County. After the war, some former POWs returned to Wisconsin to settle after their release.

Information on the camp may still be found in the Charles Tallman Archives as well as in *“Stalag Wisconsin: Inside WWII Prison-of-War Camps”* a book by Betty Cowley which is held at the Beloit Public Library and at the Hedberg Public Library.

For a full bibliography and to share your own personal stories about Camp Janesville, please visit www.rchs.us/camp-janesville.



Anniversary Accolades - St. Mary School

In 1913 St. Mary School was established in the former church building which had been moved to the corner of Wisconsin Street and Prospect Avenue. During the first year of enrollment, ninety six students were placed in grades first through sixth. Two years later, seventh grade was added followed by eighth grade the very next year. In 1921, ninth grade was added along with plans to add a High School program once a new building was erected.

An adjacent plot of land was purchased for the boys' playground and for future expansion. Substantial and sustained growth by 1919, made it necessary to convert the third floor of the school building, currently being used as the church hall, into additional classroom space.

In 1927, plans were developed to build a new school and on May 12, 1929, the new school building located at 307 East Wall Street was dedicated. Kindergarten was added in 1930; however, it was abandoned in 1932 when General Motors moved its plant to Kansas City, MO. Enrollment at the school grew from 458 students in 1947 to its peak of 568 students in 1952. That year there were seventy-four students in first grade alone (all in one room)!

In 1949 the school playground was blacktopped, which was a welcome relief after twenty-two years of gravel. With classes averaging fifty students per grade by 1959, it was decided to renovate one half of the auditorium into classroom space. Continued overcrowding finally forced St.

Mary to eliminate ninth grade.

By the 1970s many Catholic schools faced declining enrollment and imminent closings. Despite its own declining enrollment, St. Mary's Parish strongly supported maintaining our beautiful school, and their support has been unwavering since.

St. Mary's School is now one hundred years old, still going strong and is committed to excellent academics in a Catholic faith-filled environment.

Families interested in learning more about St. Mary's School or wishing to enroll their child should contact the school at 608-754-5221 ext. 22.

¹ Ancestry.com. (boards.ancestry.com/localities.northam.usa.states.wisconsin.counties.rock/10035.3.4/mb.ashx) Usernames: lathamterry)

² (boards.ancestry.com/localities.northam.usa.states.wisconsin.counties.rock/10035.2/mb.ashx) Username: YourRCGS

³ www.examiner.com/article/world-war-ii-pows-wisconsin). June 22, 2009. Ed Pahule

NEW EXHIBIT OPENING
AUGUST 23, 2013



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October 10th - 12th

for more information:
web: www.rchs.us/lincoln-on-the-lawn
call: 608.756.4509

He's Coming...

A three-day event of everything Lincoln



 **VIP Dinner** {October 10th 6pm-8pm}

 **Tallman Open House** {October 11th 11am-4pm}

 **Lincoln Car Show** {October 12th 11am-3pm}

brought to you by: 

THE FINIAL

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Bill MacFarlane
Meghan Walker

THE ROCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ENRICHES AND ENGAGES THE COMMUNITIES IN ROCK COUNTY WISCONSIN THROUGH PRESERVATION AND DISSEMINATION OF THE UNIQUE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF OUR AREA