



THE FINIAL

WINTER 2013

**A HOLIDAY
TOUR OF
ITALY**

**CHRISTMAS
WITH THE
TALLMANS**

**IS THE TALLMAN
HOUSE
HAUNTED?**

**IN MEMORY
OF RICHARD
HARTUNG**

**WHAT'S NEW
FOR 2014!**



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DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



As the holiday season approaches, it is a time to wind down from our busy lives, spend time with family and to be thankful.

We have much to be thankful for at the Rock County Historical Society. Our dedicated board of directors, staff and volunteers have embraced our new vision for the RCHS while community support for our new programs, events and exhibits has grown in 2013.

New relationships with businesses have allowed us to create new exhibits like Breadbasket: Seed to Spoon, the Irish in Janesville, & Making Their Mark: 125 Years of Parker Pen. Thank you to all who made our vision for these projects come alive.

All of our accomplishments in 2013 would not have been made possible without the support from our membership, donors and special constituents. Thank you!

As 2014 dawns, new goals face RCHS. With change come new faces and projects to our

organization. A few of our goals are:

- **Grand Opening of the new Charles Tallman Archives & Research Center.**
- **Restoration of the Lincoln-Tallman House Conservatory.**
- **Introduction of a new Lincoln-Tallman House tour: Tallman Technologies.**
- **Creation of a new special Living History event: Lincoln on the Lawn.**

Please join us in taking the next step in transforming the RCHS by supporting our annual appeal, giving the gift of membership or attending one of our events.

Happy holidays and a blessed New Year to you and your families. 🌟

Sincerely,

Michael Reuter-
Executive Director



NEW FACES TO RCHS

Mike Reuter: RCHS Executive Director

Two new staff members have joined the RCHS team! Both are filling new positions as our organization responds to the departure of two beloved employees, Joyce Dodge & Carol Herzig.

Andrea Miller hails from Madison, WI, where she served as a Collections Manager at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. She holds an M.A. in Anthropology & Museum Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She fills the newly created position of Operations Manager, which deals with the daily operations of RCHS such as volunteer relations and front-desk operations while working

with staff on event and campus support.

Meghan Walker is a Janesville native and has a B.A. in English Literature from University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her new role as the Marketing & Outreach Coordinator will allow the RCHS to continue to expand its mission through traditional forms of print, online and social media while adopting new marketing trends. She also serves as the editor of the new version of the RCHS newsletter, The Finial.

Welcome aboard Andrea & Meghan!



A Call to Volunteers

The Rock County Historical Society would be nothing without the incredible support from its docents and volunteers. As the holiday season approaches, more help is needed and there are still plenty of opportunities to lend a helping hand. A few of the events that are approaching are the Holiday Tours that will begin on November 20th for which volunteers are still greatly needed as well as House tour volunteers and front desk assistants. The Christmas with the Tallmans event on December 7th is also in need of volunteers.

If volunteerism interests you, please contact our Operations Manager, Andrea Miller at operationsrchs@gmail.com or by calling the Rock County Historical Society at (608) 756-4509 x 2.



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SAVE OAK HILL CHAPEL: PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF JANESVILLE



A number of individuals passionate about preserving the treasures of Janesville have dedicated their time and resources to renovating the Oak Hill Cemetery Chapel. The Chapel, built 114 years ago in 1899, is in danger of demolition by the City of Janesville due to lack of usage and poor upkeep. Among those individuals devoted to its restoration is stained glass artist and teacher Richard Snyder and co-president of the project Jim Crittenden. They are on a mission to raise \$40,000 to restore the chapel and have generously donated their own time and money to get the work started.

In the 1800s until the 1970s, the chapel was used for the storage of caskets over the winter season until the ground thawed enough to have them buried. The chapel was built to last, with limestone walls 2

ft. thick and sturdy floors. However, when Snyder and Crittenden went into the basement of the chapel, they found heaps of broken stained glass windows along with the original doors and gates. 44 windows in the chapel are in dire need of repair, and 60% of the original stained glass is missing. By looking at the windows that are intact, Snyder is able to recreate the stained glass that would have originally been there. With additional funds, storm windows become necessary to protect the newly renovated windows as well as the windows that are still intact. There was also a fountain, 10 ft. in diameter that would need restoration.

So what happens to the chapel after all is said and done? Once the chapel is restored, it must be put to good use. Local pastors are

already reaching out to use the chapel to use for Sunday service, and it may also be used by the community for other events. The chapel can hold 100 people, and though there is no restroom on site, there may be access to the restrooms in the maintenance building nearby.

If you are passionate about the preservation of Janesville's history and would like to donate to the cause, please visit their official website at <http://www.friendsofoakhillchapel.org/>. Richard Snyder will also be teaching a 6-week stained glass course at Olde Towne Mall starting November 26th. 20% of the proceeds will go to the restoration of the Oak Hill Chapel. Contact Mr. Snyder with any questions at 1glassimpressions@gmail.com



WHAT'S COMING IN 2014?

Be sure to stay connected with RCHS so you can participate in some events that we have planned for 2014. Further information on these events will be available shortly on our website www.rchs.us:

Tallman 4 Two: Once again, The Armory's Chef Troy Cox has volunteered to create a delicious authentic Victorian Valentine's Day Dinner for a lucky couple on the evening of Friday, February 14th. Before dinner, the couple will enjoy a private tour of the Lincoln-Tallman House. Be sure to visit www.rchs.us soon for more information!

Created Equal: To mark the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, the Rock County Historical Society will share four films that highlight specific events in the Civil Rights Movement.

Father's Day 5K: After the success of this last year's 5K, RCHS is bringing back the fun of the Father's Day 5K. On June 14th, get ready to run while dressed in a top hat, fake beard, and a Lincoln t-shirt.

57th Annual Tallman Arts Festival: Our annual Tallman Arts Festival is back and we hope for it to be bigger than ever! Mark off your calendars on August 3rd to make sure you do not miss the fun! Visit www.rchs.us/tallman-arts-festival

Lincoln on the Lawn: Lincoln visited the Tallman family in early October of 1859, so, to celebrate this event, we are bringing Lincoln back! Come and say hello to him at the Lincoln-Tallman House on the lawn.



ROSE STERK: A MOST APPRECIATED FRIEND

Carol Herzig: RCHS Volunteer Coordinator

How do I describe Rose? We are going to miss her laughter, joking, dependability and hard work.

I first met Rose when I started working for RCHS; I noticed right away that she was someone that I was going to depend upon.

She staffed the front desk on Mondays during our off-season, greeting visitors as they arrived. Her easy laughter and smile were very welcoming to everyone. She answered the phones for us, mastered the new square cash register system, we just recently acquired.

She also served on the Tallman Arts Festival committee bringing laughter and dependability, and chairing the pie auction and artist hospitality sub-committees. Our committee meetings were filled with happy banter between committee members. Rose was always willing to go the extra mile taking on everything asked of her.

Rose was the fastest assembler of mailings I have ever seen! She could stuff envelopes, put on labels with such ease and skill, filling a box twice as fast as me.

In memory of our dear friend Rose, who passed on November 7th, we will be planting a rose bush on the Historical Society's grounds in May 2014.

Photo: The Janesville Gazette



CHRISTMAS WITH THE TALLMANS

This winter, the Tallman family invites you and the whole family to their home on December 7th to share in some magical Victorian Christmas fun. Upon entering, the Lincoln-Tallman House will alive with carols from the Edgerton High School Chamber Singers. Enjoy the beauty of the decorated Christmas trees, evergreen garland with red bows, and all of the other classic Christmas decorations adorning the home.

On the second floor, Father Christmas will be entertaining the children with holiday stories, and

the kitchen will have a multitude of holiday treats and hot apple cider prepared by RCHS volunteers.

Where: The Lincoln-Tallman House; 440 N. Jackson St.

When: December 7th at 7:00-9:00 pm.

Cost: \$5. Free for children under 5 and RCHS members

Website: www.rchs.us/christmas-with-the-tallmans



A Holiday Tour of Italy

This winter marks the very first year of the new annual winter fundraising event: A Holiday Tour of Italy. The Rock County Historical Society and Aglio Ristorante invite you to step out of the snowy streets of Janesville and into the brick-walled and warmly lit dining room of traditional Italy. Aglio Ristorante, located at 12 S. Main St. charms all who eat there and Chef Terry Carner's Italian cuisine, complete with carefully paired house wines, is perfect for our new winter fundraiser. It is sure to warm the soul on a cold winter evening.

Tickets to A Holiday Tour of Italy are \$75 a piece and include a traditional Italian 6-course meal, with carefully chosen wine pairings. With the serving of the different courses, manager of Aglio and world traveler Jeff Navarro will share about the regions of Italy that produced the dish and the holiday traditions from the area.

Where: Aglio Ristorante; 12 S. Main St.

When: December 8th at 5:00 pm. Dining begins at 5:45.

Cost: \$75; Purchase tickets at Aglio, the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center at 426 N. Jackson St. or online at rchs.us/a-holiday-tour-of-italy



IN LOVING MEMORY OF RICHARD HARTUNG: DIRECTOR OF RCHS FOR 25 YEARS.

Janesville, Wisconsin is a home of many gems. Its parks, walk paths, gardens, historical homes and buildings and magnificent graveyards with charming chapels prove just how beautiful the city of Janesville can truly be. Dedicated to preserving that beauty was former Rock County Historical Society Director, Richard Hartung, who passed away on Wednesday, October 30th. In fact, when Richard passed through Palmer Park and the brick buildings on Milwaukee Street, he said to his wife, Ilah, that "Janesville is the most attractive small city I've ever seen in the Midwest" (Hinkel).

The Rock County Historical Society will never forget the immense progress that took place in the Society when Hartung was the director. In 1964, Hartung put his doctoral studies on hold so that he could move to Janesville to become the director of RCHS. twenty-five years later, he left a legacy here that would never

be forgotten and brought his incredible leadership to Evanston, Illinois, to become the director of the Evanston Historical Society.

When Hartung came to RCHS, "most of the county's history was collected in a file cabinet, a few drawers, and the Tallman House and its horse barn, which doubled as an office" (Halverson). At the time, the RCHS' headquarters were located inside of The Armory, now a local restaurant. What began as a few drawers and a filing cabinet expanded to enough local historical materials and records to fill the entire second floor of restaurant. The Armory also was able to provide a floor and a half of exhibit space so that the Society was able to maintain a flow of materials to display to the public.

To honor Mr. Hartung at RCHS, donor William Wartmann is providing a memorial that will be displayed at the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center. The

memorial will include a framed picture and plaque. Our greatest sympathies to the family of Mr. Richard Hartung and a sincere thank you to the memory of the man who helped bring RCHS to what it now is today. We would not have been where we are today without him. 🕯️

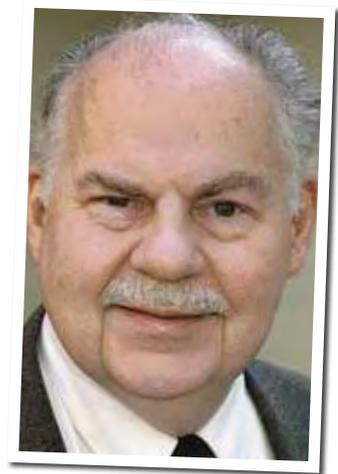


Photo: The Janesville Gazette

Hinkel, Dan. "Hartung secures spot in Rock County Hall of Honor". The Gazette 20 May 2006: pages unknown. Print.

Halverson, John. "Under his guidance, history came out of the file cabinet." The Gazette 12 May 1989: 1A, 8A. No.268. Print.

Holiday Tours of the Lincoln-Tallman House

November 20-December 30th.

Where: Lincoln-Tallman House 440 N. Jackson Street, Janesville

Hours: Daily, 7 Days a week. Tours start on the hour from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.
Closed Christmas Day, Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve

Cost: \$8 Adults, \$7.50 Seniors, \$5 college students with student ID., \$4 Children ages 6-17, FREE for veterans and RCHS members.

Discover Victorian holiday traditions and customs through the eyes of the Tallman family during a holiday tour of the award-winning Lincoln-Tallman House! Tours last approximately one hour and offered to all ages! RSVP today by calling 608-756-4509.



SPIRITS OF THE LINCOLN-TALLMAN HOUSE REVEALED!

IS THE HOUSE REALLY HAUNTED?

Meghan Walker, RCHS Marketing and Outreach Coordinator

Did you ever hear the rumors of the hauntings at the Lincoln-Tallman House? How could an old Victorian mansion complete with 80% of its original furniture and no modern families to call it home not have spirits around? Having been to the home earlier in the summer, the Society for Anomalous Studies (SAS) once again offered to come inside the Lincoln-Tallman House and perform a professional paranormal investigation. This time, ten individuals were able to do the investigation with them, including myself.

The SAS used a tool that they call a spirit box which is a device that quickly flips through radio frequencies so that spirits may use the white noise to communicate to the living. The SAS, during their

summer investigation, asked the question "what was Mrs. Tallman's name" through the spirit box. Three different voices answered back: "Emma." They asked this question again during the October investigation and again, the name "Emma" came through the box. Mrs. Tallman's first name was Emeline.

So, is the Lincoln-Tallman House haunted? According to the SAS and the guests who spent the night, certain unexplainable things did occur like tapping, orb spotting and voices. However, the site was and continues to be a peaceful place and any spirits that may still be lingering continue to be welcome... as long as they remain on their best behavior.



TALLMAN FOR TWO

Make history for you and your loved one this Valentine's Day at the Lincoln-Tallman House. Generously catered by The Armory, Chef Troy Cox will prepare a magical 5-course authentic Victorian meal. Dine in splendor like the Tallman family in the Lincoln-Tallman dining room on Pickard china. Prior to dinner, you and your loved one will receive a private tour of the Lincoln-Tallman House.

The 5-course meal will feature a roasted pumpkin soup topped with cream, a tuna and watercress wedge salad drizzled with cucumber dressing, roasted pheasant with sautéed spinach, stewed carrots and peas, a wine

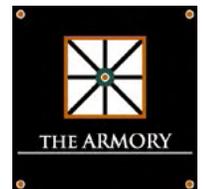
and cheese course featuring an Irish Cahill wedge and your choice of port, sherry, or an alternative red wine, and then the meal will finish with a delicious honey goat cheese apple tart.

Where: The Lincoln-Tallman House; 440 N. Jackson St.

When: Friday, February 14th at 6:00pm

Cost: \$20 a raffle ticket. Purchase your raffle tickets now at the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum Center; 426 N. Jackson St. Winner will be revealed on Friday, January 31st!

Website: rchs.us/tallman-4-two



WANTED: BEVERLY THEATER IMAGES AND RECOLLECTIONS

Ted Schaar; October 3rd, 2013:

When I was a boy in the 1950s, my dad, then a driver for W.R. Arthur Company (most recently known as Allied Automotive Group), took me to the movies at a theater in downtown Janesville that stood on the east side of Main Street, just south of Milwaukee Street. I'm working on a story about the outing and am hoping to find photographs of the theater and to interview people who attended movies or other events there.

My memory of the theater is vague, but it has stuck with me, possibly because the building was razed not long after I visited and that early exposure to impermanence left a lasting impression. Years later, I asked other Janesville residents if they remembered the place; at first, I just wanted to learn its name. None did until I mentioned it to the oldest brother of a long-time friend who immediately replied, "That was the Beverly!"

I've searched through The Janesville Gazette at an online newspaper archive without finding an image of the theater, although I did come across some interesting tidbits, including a January 11, 1930, article that noted: "The four Janesville theaters—Jeffries, Apollo, Beverly, and Myers—underwent repairs and improvements during the year...At the Jeffries and Beverly theaters changes were made to accommodate 'talkies.'" (Note: The Apollo, which I don't recall, was located near the Jeffries on West Milwaukee Street; on June 27, 1956, the Gazette reported it had been purchased by the Cullen Realty Company and would be converted to an office building.)



The building that housed the Beverly

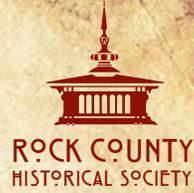
The Beverly Pharmacy, long housed in the Janesville Medical Center at 2020 Milwaukee Avenue, originally was in the same building as the theater, evidently the source of its name. An advertisement the pharmacy ran in the February 28, 1958, Gazette announced the relocation: "After 27 years in our small quarters above the Beverly Theater, we are now able to expand..." It also stated the new store would be open, "Effective Monday, March 3" and feature, "Plenty of free parking."

I have contacted the Gazette; the Janesville Public Library; Johnson Bank, the current occupants of the building on the lot that held the theater; longtime Janesville Theater manager William P. Lalor's family; and the Rock County Historical Society but haven't found any photographs.

My hope is readers will have images or remember the Beverly enough to answer a few questions. Thanks to The Final for publishing this appeal. Please e-mail ted@schaarcommunications.com.



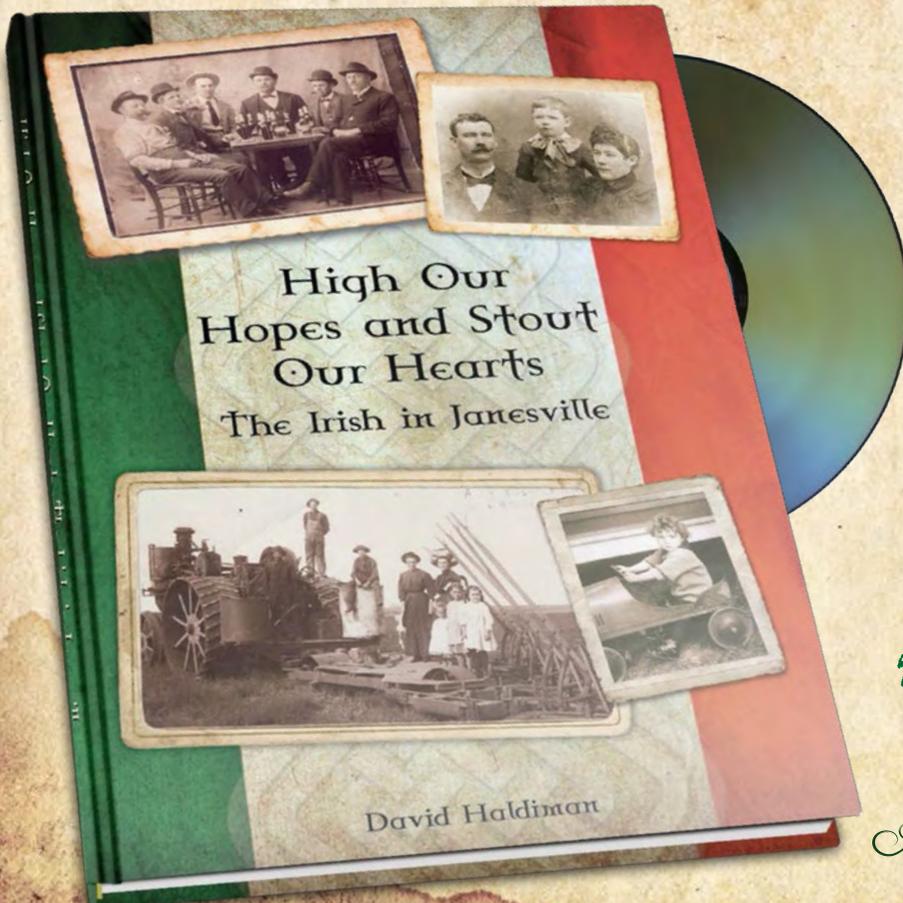
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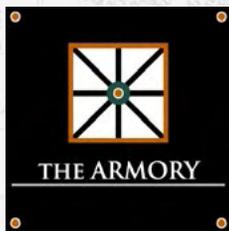




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RCHS Staff:
Michael Reuter - Executive Director
Laurel Fant - Curator/Collections Manager
Andrea Miller - Operations Manager
Meghan Walker - Marketing and Outreach Coordinator
Ruth Anderson - Archives Manager

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.