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RCHS STAFF

Tim Maahs | Executive Director tmaahs@rchs.us

Todd Jacot | Operations Manager tjacot@rchs.us

Gretchen Wolfe | Development Manager gwolfe@rchs.us

Rachel Tidwell | Office Assistant

rtidwell@rchs.us

Kristin Arnold | Archives and Research Center Manager karnold@rchs.us

Dave Thompson | Campus Caretaker vwyman@rchs.us

Valerie Wyman | Historic Groundskeeper campuscaretaker@rchs.us

RCGS STAFF

Ruth Anderson | Librarian RCGS.Library@gmail.com

David Bradford | RCGS Chairperson RCGS.WI@gmail.com

Finial Editor: Terri Holznecht, Holznecht Marketing Design & Layout by: MaryTerryDesign



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Tim Maahs

As RCHS celebrates its 71st anniversary this year, I find myself reflecting back on our history and how far we've come. I am also energized as we look to the future of RCHS. There is something special about this organization and its nearly three-quarters of a century role in telling the important stories of Rock County.

This past year, we have been fortunate to share many interesting stories from those who came before us. They've included the tales of our founders who were drawn to the Rock River Valley because of the fertile soil; how the waters of the Rock River nourished our community and provided power to our communities; and the many entrepreneurs and burgeoning infrastructure that created family supporting jobs. These all laid the foundation for stories from more recent times of the many

terrific people who have chosen to make Rock County their home.

As we share these stories with our visitors, we are proud to highlight the many significant accomplishments of our commercial history, as well. Rock County has long been home to many businesses that have both a national and international impact. Beginning at the dawn of the century were the Sampson tractor company, Parker Pen, the Schlueter Company, JP Cullen, Ryan Incorporated and General Motors – to name a few. As we moved into the 21st century, some of the large companies that chose Rock County for their headquarters include Prent Corporation, Blain Supply, Goex, ABC Supply, and Mercy Health. We continue to draw in new businesses that share the desire to have a broad reach and improve the lives of so many through their products and services—Shine Medical and NorthStar Medical Radioisotopes are just two examples of our region's entrepreneurial spirit living on!

All this leads to ensuring a sustainable future for Rock County. People in generations to come will embrace our community, as our ancestors have done in the past. They will build upon the foundation set before them to continue making Janesville and greater Rock County a fantastic place to live, work, and play. We all have a stake in capturing and sharing the stories, photographs, and artifacts that make us who we are. Are you willing to share your stories, your knowledge, your legacy as resources for future generations?

The impact that RCHS has on our daily lives is realized in many different ways. Whether you are a student learning about educational practices in the 1850s, a historian seeking to research our community, or a genealogy buff studying your family tree, RCHS is a resource for you.

Because RCHS is a community resource, you and our visitors – and everyone in Rock County – are resources to us. We cannot do this work without you. I am so very grateful for the support that we receive from our members, donors, sponsors, the City of Janesville and Rock County, and our Board of Directors. In the last year almost 10,000 visitors have come to RCHS – thanks to all of you!

Help us continue this meaningful work in our community. Would you be willing to make a special year-end donation of \$50, \$100 or whatever you can afford to help us keep the momentum going in 2020 and beyond? For more information or to make a donation, please turn to page 14 or contact me directly.

Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude,



Timothy J. Maahs
Executive Director

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Welcome back to the joint newsletter of the Rock County Historical and Genealogical Societies. I am pleased to report progress on several fronts:

SCHOLARSHIP – Following the RCGS scholarship offering to all 2019 Rock County high school graduates, and the award to Jorge Jurado Garcia of Beloit Memorial High School, the Genealogical Society turned its attention to fundraising for the 2020 scholarship. On September 14, RCGS held a day-long conference which included four topics, from "DNA Family Research" (see: www.rcgswi.org/dna-article-201) to "Striking Gold at the Charles Tallman Archives" (see: www.rcgswi.org/research-help1). I am pleased to report that we've nearly doubled our target attendance and revenue.



David Bradford

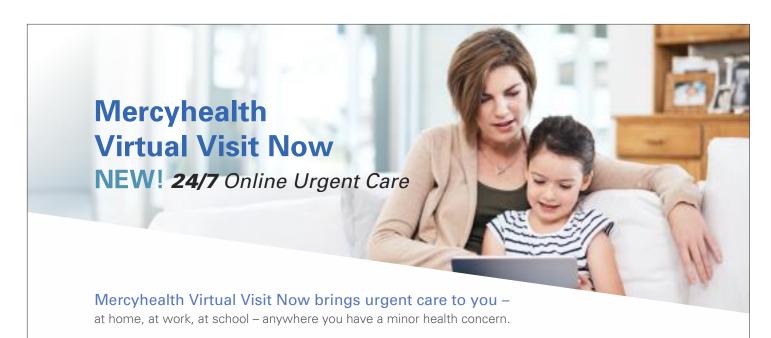
EDUCATION – The recent Oktoberfest-themed RCGS member meeting (mit bier und bratwurst) featured Antje Peti of the Max Kade Institute speaking on German Emigration & Research on both sides of the pond. To find out more about future speakers, see: www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers.

AFFILIATION - The Genealogical and Historical Societies continue to combine activities. We share similar missions, archive space, research holdings, research volunteers, cross-representation on boards, and this magazine. Increasingly we coordinate speakers and events. Shortly, we expect to merge social media platforms – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest. The collaboration is a benefit to both organizations!

David Bradford

Chairperson, Rock County Genealogy Society





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Navigating the Quandaries of Native American Family Research

By Kristin Arnold, RCHS Archives Manager, and Dave Bradford, RCGS Chairperson

Native American ethnicity estimates from DNA testing are fraught with controversy. The problems are both technological and cultural. DNA labs market ethnicity tests as an accurate measure of regional ancestral origins, but one's ethnicity estimates rarely match one's family's paper research. Moreover, siblings' ethnicity estimates are often quite different from one another. Even one's own results vary a great deal when submitted to multiple DNA labs. Because ethnicity estimates are so imprecise, they are sometimes referred to as the "horoscope of DNA tests."

For Native Americans, the cultural issues are even more complex and troubling. In the early 1800s, the United States required American Indians to enroll as members of a federally recognized Tribe, Band, Group or Nation. This compulsory membership was defined by a "Blood Quantum" of 25% or more, which was used at times to segregate, relocate and nearly eradicate these peoples. A thoughtful Native American, Lawrence "Butch" Roberts (Ret.), who assisted with this article noted, "Blood quantum (and by inference, DNA testing) is of no relevance to who you are. How you live with God, other people and the earth is what is important."

This very specialized genealogical research requires some background knowledge before diving in. Here are some basics that may inform your research.



General Timeline

While the history of the federal government's relationship to the native nations of this land is a long and complicated one, the timeline below provides a brief overview of important milestones for genealogists to consider when researching a native ancestor.

1787: US Constitution states that the Federal Government has reserved power "to regulate Commerce with... the Indian Tribes."

1789-1871: Federal Government uses treaties with tribes to coerce land cessation to white settlers.

1824: The Office of Indian Affairs, later renamed the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is created.

1830: Congress passes the Indian Removal Act, forcing Indians who live east of the Mississippi River to move west.

1850-1887: The US government confines native tribes to reservations.

1887: General Allotment Act passes, which assigns individual, rather than communal, land holdings.

1924: The Curtis Bill confers citizenship to all noncitizen Indians born within the territorial limits of the United States.

1934: Indian Reorganization Act passes, acknowledging tribal rights to have their own local government.

1946: US Indian Claims Commission is established to handle Native Americans' claims against the United States government.

1947: First termination timetables are submitted to Congress to begin the termination of some tribes.

1958: Termination without tribal consent is ended.

Tribes were terminated to end federal responsibility and cost, but most have regained their status. However, some terminated tribes continue the fight for recognition.

A Note on Records

The federal government holds jurisdiction over relations with native nations. Consequently, many of the records that genealogists will find useful are maintained by federal agencies. These records often include annuity rolls (land buyout payments) from the treaty era or removal (relocation) records. Most of the records came from the reservation period and include Indian census rolls, land allotment, school, health, and vital records. Non-agency records such as the general population schedules from the federal censuses, local deed books or military records may also provide insight to a native ancestor.

A researcher may access these records through the National Archives or through the local agencies of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The BIA's Great Lakes Agency in Ashland, Wisconsin, handles records for ten of the eleven federally recognized tribes in Wisconsin.

After the Indian Reorganization Act in 1934, tribes gained more control over their own enrollment and other records. Additional records such as oral histories were recorded in recent decades through university grants, but are most likely found with the tribe or family.

Wisconsin Tribes

Wisconsin is home to eleven federally recognized American Indian nations and tribal communities, and one that is not currently recognized. Of these communities, three were moved from their ancestral lands in New York and New England to Wisconsin in the 1820s. These include The Oneida Nation, Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians, and the Brothertown Indian Nation.



Each of the following nations and tribal communities in Wisconsin has a unique history. There are no federally recognized native lands in Rock County.

- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Forest County Potawatomi
- Ho-Chunk (formerly Winnebago) Nation
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Oneida Nation
- Red Cliff Band of Superior Chippewa
- Mole Lake (Sokaogon Chippewa Community) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Saint Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
- Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians
- Brothertown Indian Nation (not currently recognized by federal government)

This brief overview is just a starting point for those wanting to pursue research of a native ancestor.

To delve deeper into this subject, plan to attend the Rock County Genealogical Society's free November program: *Introduction to Native American Resources*. Led by Karen Weston of our Walworth County sistersociety, the program is set for 6:30 p.m. on November 19th at the Tallman Carriage House, 450 N. Jackson St. in Janesville.



General Native American Research Links

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Indians_of_North_America_-_A_Beginner%27s_Guide www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/American_Indian_Online_Genealogy_Records https://dpi.wi.gov/amind/tribalnationswi www.rcgswi.org/native-american-research

Wisconsin's Native American Stories

The Story of Madison Indigenous People - Madison Magazine 10 May 2017
The Story of Wisconsin's Unrecognized Nation - The Brothertown Tribe
The Ways: Great Lakes Native American Stories - Educational resources (grades 6-12)
Death by Civilization — The Story of Native American Boarding Schools
Custer to Casinos - One Native American Family's Story
Missing Threads Documentary — The Story of the Wisconsin Indian Child Welfare Act

Glossary of American Indian Terms

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Glossary_of_American_Indian_Terms

Native American Biographies

Indian biographies - Access Genealogy
Doris Duke Collection Oral histories across the U.S.
Indian biography by B. B. Thatcher ... Vol. 1, Vol. 2, e-book
Biography and history of the Indians of North America, e-book
Dictionary of Indian biography, e-book
Book of the Indians of North America, e-book
Indian biography . . . lives of more than two hundred Indian chiefs, e-book



Wisconsin Native American Photo Archives

J. Kingsbury Picture Postcards of Northern Wisconsin - Early 20th century mages of Ojibwe and Menominee Indians in northeast Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions - 1,800 images of Native Americans and related Catholic churches, schools, clergy, and religious leaders from across the United States Lucille B. Chapman Collection on the Menominee - Photographs and postcards of the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin and of Shawano, Wisconsin



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RCHS wants all schools to be afforded this unique learning opportunity. To help with this educational goal, contact Tim Maahs at 608-756-4509 Ext. 301, or at tmaahs@rchs.us.

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2020 Non-Profit Recipient:



Gretchen Wolfe Joins RCHS as New Development Manager

Gretchen Wolfe joined RCHS in July as its new development manager, to assist the organization in grant development. She has more than 30 years of experience working in educational systems and community organizations.

With a comprehensive road map of where RCHS is headed, Gretchen works to align all potential and current funding sources to ensure the organization can realize its goals for serving the greater Rock County area.

"The best part of organizational planning and fundraising is that I get to meet stakeholders who are deeply committed to supporting RCHS' long-standing presence in this community," Gretchen explained. "I am constantly meeting new friends, volunteers, board members, and community partners who are extremely welcoming and helpful to me in this role."

Originally from Potosi, Wisconsin, Gretchen was raised by parents who were invested in their local community.

"My parents had a passion for genealogy and local history, and my four brothers still meet up and invite me to join the family team for local trivia competitions!" She added, "I guess you could say that 'growing knowledge' has been a passion and source of entertainment from as far back as I can remember."

Gretchen earned her undergraduate degrees in Education and English at UW-Platteville and UW-LaCrosse, then worked in K-12 classrooms with many outstanding teachers. This led her to co-write and publish a manual for gifted and talented instruction through the Department of Public Instruction in 2005, launching her interest in professional grant writing.

In 2012, Gretchen completed her doctoral degree from UW-Madison while being actively involved in the school, church, and community activities of her three children. She has lived in Janesville since 2007, and now – as an empty-nester – operates an Airbnb from home, allowing her to meet countless world travelers.



"Of course, the Rock County Historical Society campus is at the top of my 'must visit' list for all newcomers," Gretchen added with a smile.

"The best part of organizational planning and fundraising is that I get to meet stakeholders who are deeply committed to supporting RCHS' long-standing presence in this community."

GRETCHEN WOLFE

Makes a Great Stocking Stuffer!



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Get an inside look at 70 local businesses in this full-color, hardcover publication. Discover the stories and photos submitted by each business.

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Published by Bliss Communications, Inc. All proceeds benefit the Rock County Historical Society.

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To purchase, call 608-756-5409 Ext. 302, OR order online at www.rchs.us/campus-store/



Help RCHS to Protect its Collections and Building

The beautiful Lincoln-Tallman House is in need of a dehumidifier to help protect and preserve the collection items, and the building itself!

The most effective model for our needs is the Santa Fe Classic

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Basement Package, at a price

of \$1,766.99.

Can you help RCHS to purchase this item? Donate the entire amount, or whatever you can. Help ensure the Lincoln-Tallman House is at its best. A dehumidifier would make an ideal Christmas gift!

To help with this purchase, please contact Tim Maahs at 608-756-4509 Ext. 301 or via email at tmaahs@rchs.us.



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50 Years Ago: Local US Navy Pilot Flew Moon Rocks Off Navy Air Craft Carrier

By Patrick Gasper, Guest Writer



In a home nestled on the banks of the Rock River in Janesville, Wisconsin, Stephen Clouse lives with his wife, Linda. Clouse has a unique first-hand connection to one of the world's mostwatched and well-known events – the Apollo 11 Moon Landing of the summer of 1969.

After the Apollo 11 Command Module Columbia returned astronauts Aldrin, Armstrong, and Collins safely to Earth, they were retrieved by a flotilla of US Navy ships. Stephen was a navy pilot, attached to a squadron tasked with the mission of providing logistic support to aircraft carriers.

"Our squadron was selected by the navy to take part in the recovery operation, and I was named the Officer in Charge of our small detachment of three aircraft and two flight crews (pilot, co-pilot and flight crewman) plus support personnel," said Clouse. "While only two aircraft and crew were required for our mission, the third aircraft was along as a back-up in case of mechanical problems."

The mission Clouse refers to is quite spectacular. On board the USS Hornet (CVA 12) aircraft carrier, his primary mission was to transport the lunar samples (moon rocks) from the ship to a location where they could be handed off to the U.S Air Force for shipment to NASA. Clouse said that as a precaution, the moon samples were divided equally between two planes in the unlikely event of the loss of one of them.

"On the day of the recovery, my aircraft

was launched with moon samples on board, and we headed for Johnston Island, a small atoll about 860 miles southwest of the island of Hawaii where the transfer to the air force took place."

Prior to the recovery of the command module, Clouse's crew was tasked with the transport of various VIP's and other personnel to and from the recovery ships. Since the lunar landing was so novel – scientists really didn't know everything to expect – there was a concern about quarantining the lunar samples. Precautions were taken, and the aircraft in Clouse's command were positioned on the two forward catapults of the Hornet during the recovery to be ready to evacuate VIP's and other critical personnel in such an event.

"The recovery was attended by President Richard Nixon, who had his own dedicated helicopter," said Clouse. "As it turned out, I had nearly as good a view of events as he did since I was able to watch it all sitting on top of my plane."

While Clouse flew the lunar samples off the Hornet, because they were carefully secured in hermetically sealed containers, he never saw nor touched the actual samples the day of his mission.

Clouse left the Navy briefly after the Apollo 11 mission to join TWA as a pilot,

but returned to military service in 1970 to the same squadron he commanded previously. In December of 1972, he took part in the recovery of Apollo 17, the final Apollo-manned mission to the moon. This recovery mission took place in the vicinity of American Samoa in the south pacific. While Clouse was on board the carrier USS Ticonderoga for this mission, their task was limited to logistical support.

Later that year, Clouse left the Navy and went to Chicago, working with his father in a distribution business involved in the



electronics industry. In 1997, he and Linda were looking for a weekend retreat, and found their place on the banks of the Rock River in Janesville. Eventually, they sold their home in Chicago and moved to Janesville full time.

"My involvement in the Apollo mission was a minor but necessary part of the whole effort," said Clouse. "I still remain astounded that in the end, given the enormous effort and expense involved in the program, I was honored with the responsibility for the safe transport of this precious and priceless cargo."





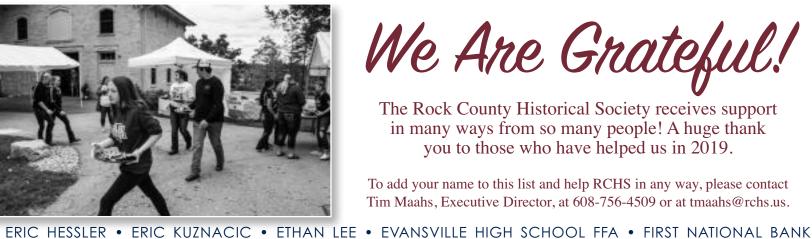
"The recovery was attended by President Richard Nixon, who had his own dedicated helicopter. As it turned out, I had nearly as good a view of events as he did since I was able to watch it all sitting on top of my plane."



STEPHEN CLOUSE

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We Are Grateful!

in many ways from so many people! A huge thank you to those who have helped us in 2019.

The Rock County Historical Society receives support

To add your name to this list and help RCHS in any way, please contact Tim Maahs, Executive Director, at 608-756-4509 or at tmaahs@rchs.us.

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 KIM MANNY BROWN ar outdoor advertising • larry & Sandy Stover • larry & SuSan Barton • laura cullen huibregtse LISA KIM • LISA SYMPSON • LOIS COOK • LOR MAO • LORNA HELLING-SPODEN • LOST & FOUND FARM SSER • MARGARET HALL • MARILYNN JENSEN • MARK & CAROL CULLEN • MARK BOBZIEN • MARK FREITAG (AAY THOMPSON • MARY TERRY • MATT & MOLLY RYAN • MATTHEW & JACKIE OLSEN • MCCANN FLOORS, INC. JANE BLAIN • MIKE BOYD • MIKE HEACOX • MILISSHA MEICHER • MILLIE BABCOCK • MILTON HIGH SCHOOL FFA ilas • nancy Suárez Jiménez • naomi hackbarth • nate fisk • nathan burkhart • nathan fuller am aschauer brott • pamela Graper • pamela mcGill • patricia heupher • patricia liberatore Paul Benson • Paul Murphy • Paul Romanelli • Paul Ryan • Paulette Melvin • Peter & Denise Skelly Y SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECAP PROGRAM • RENE BARRIER • RENE BUE • RICH FLETCHER • RICHARD & DIANE MILLER ROB AND JODY IGL • ROBBYN H NOVAK • ROBERT & GAY YEOMANS • ROBERT & HELENE RAMSDELL EERT GURITZ • ROCK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY • ROCK COUNTY SHERRIFS OFFICE (Quilters Guild, Inc. • ron & margaret delaney • ron ochs • ron Sutterlin • russ podziln ALTON • SANDRA ELFERING • SANDY HEUERMAN • SANDY KRAFT • SARA KRONBERG • SAUL BRODKEY PF • SKETCH URBAN • SONIA WINKE • ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE OF NURSING • ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AN MERRICK • STEPHEN PICKERING • STEVE & LARISSA LYON • STEVE PEASE • STEVE SCACCIA • STEVE WAGNER 'er • Susan reimund • Susan thompson • tamara mcmillan • tamara tsurkan • tanner beggs OUNDATION • THE LATINO SERVICE PROVIDERS GROUP • THE PARKER FOUNDATION • THE STUDER FOUNDATION ner • thomas m. Jeffris • thomas taylor • tia kropf-beringer • tim bremmel • timber hill winery • TOM CLIPPERT • TOM EDWARDS • TOM MORAN • TRICOR MECHANICAL • TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH TEAL • WCLO • WEGNER CPAS • WENDELL SISSON • WHITON HOUSE CONSULTING • WILLIAM WRIGHT

Interested in Sponsorship Opportunities?

Look at RCHS' Reach in the past 12 Months!



RCHS offers annual and event sponsorships at a variety of levels. For more information, contact Tim Maahs at 608-756-4509 Ext. 301, or at tmaahs@rchs.us.



4,189 **† † † EXPERIENCED** an RCHS SPONSORED TOUR

9,250 VISITED the RCHS campus



224 Visited the CHARLES TALLMAN ARCHIVES, and 1,689 EMAILED or CALLED the Archives



Helped recognize local history-makers while dining and dancing at the 2019 History Makers Gala

200 Enjoyed a meal while honoring local agricultural businesses at

Sunday Dinner: A Farm to Table Feast

189 1 6,250 hours



Helping shape the future since 1881.

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MEMBER FDIC

Holiday Tree Show Brings 21 Days of Joy

By Terri Holznecht

Bright, festive, and uniquely decorated each year, the Holiday Tree Show – themed Home for the Holidays – features more than 30 Christmas trees adorned by local businesses, nonprofits and individuals. Adults and children alike will wonder at the creativity while strolling throughout the mansion.

From a tree dressed like a ballgown by a local designer, to an evergreen bejeweled with hats, scarves and ribbon by a downtown hair salon, the unexpected greets each visitor.

In partnership this year with the Rotary Botanical Garden's Holiday Light Show, the Lincoln-Tallman House Holiday Tree Show offers 21 days of tours, corresponding with the Holiday Light Show. Plan an afternoon or evening strolling through the house while enjoying cider and Christmas cookies, before or after visiting Rotary Garden's Holiday Light Show.

New this year, a ticket to the Holiday Tree Show may be may be used on any of the tour dates. All tours are open-house format, allowing guests to view at their leisure.

Opening day is November 29th, with the season running through December 30th. Days and hours are: Thursdays and Fridays: Noon – 7 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays: Noon – 4 p.m. On Monday, December 23rd and Monday, December 30th, hours are Noon – 7 p.m. Closed December 24th, 25th and 31st.

Tickets are available online at www.rchs.us/event/ or by calling RCHS at 608-756-4509 Ext. 302. Ticket prices are \$10; \$5 for children age 10 and under; and free for children age 4 and under.



Meet our Holiday Tree Sponsors at the Antlers and Cheer Holiday Party Thursday, December 5th • 6 p.m.

From a meet and greet with this year's tree sponsors, to fun and games in the Carriage House, the Antlers and Cheer Holiday Party is a merry event for all! On Thursday, December 5th, the evening begins at 6 p.m. with an hour in the Tallman House, where guests may enjoy a cocktail while viewing all the creatively decorated trees, and meet the sponsors who trimmed them. Take part in the scavenger hunt, too! The party continues at 7 p.m. in the Tallman Carriage House, with music, appetizers, holiday trivia and cash bar. Enjoy holiday-themed cocktails while mingling with friends.

Tickets are \$25.

Order yours at www.rchs.us/event/antlers-and-cheer/, or contact RCHS at 608-756-4509.

Help Us Do More Because of You!

ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN

EVENTS. EXPERIENCES. STORIES.

Making an impact on Rock County's people, culture and history.



RCHS' history experiences have made an impact on thousands of people through events, programs and community outreach.

Our Annual Appeal seeks to fund, expand, and customize our history programming to you, sharing Rock County's stories to more people in 2020.

OUR GOAL: \$40,000

Will You Help Us Do More Because of YOU?

Your Gift of Any Amount Makes an Impact!

Pick a level below to further the Society's mission and help us do more because of YOU!

\$50

Provides period supplies for the FRANCES WILLARD SCHOOL PROGRAM \$100

CAPTURES AND RECORDS ONE ORAL HISTORY in Rock County

\$250

Funds CHILDREN'S ART PROGRAMS during the Tallman Arts Festival \$500

Provides CAMPUS
BEAUTIFICATION
to welcome guests
to RCHS

\$1000

Provides an
INTERNSHIP
OPPORTUNITY for
one student

New this year – donate \$250 and receive a complimentary one-year family membership. That's a \$75 value!

Ways to Give!

Help the Society Make an Impact in one of these Four Easy Ways:



MAIL YOUR APPEAL CARD to the Rock County Historical

the Rock County Historical Society, 426 N. Jackson St., Janesville, WI 53548.



Call RCHS at 608-756-4509 Ext. 301.



Web – Visit www.rchs.us/appeal via Paypal



Make a monthly donation. To donate monthly, please contact Tim Maahs at 608-756-4509 Ext. 301.

If you'd like an appeal form, please call RCHS at 608-756-4509. We'll get one right out to you. It makes giving easy!





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

When Texts Were Mailed

By Jim Lyke, Guest Writer

"Having the time of our lives."

"Arrived here safe"

"We camped at Shawano Lake. It's a beautiful place."

Sound like text messages? Or quick emails? You would be right about the "mail" part. But those are some of the complete messages written on postcards to my family members in the early part of the 20th century.

My mother's recent discovery of a treasure trove of old postcards dating between 1906 and 1960 reveal a lot of interesting insights, not just about my family but about how postcards were once used.

Postcards had been around since the early 1870s, but their popularity really took off in the 1890s when postage on privately published cards was lowered to a single cent. According to US Post Office figures, by 1908 more than 677 million postcards were being mailed per year – nearly eight for every man, woman and child in the nation.

Before their numbers steadily declined in recent years, postcards were generally sent to loved ones from vacation destinations. But at one time, postcards were used for nearly any and every message you could think of.

Like today's communication methods, postcards were quick to write and inexpensive to send. They were even easy to address; many simply had the recipient's name and city. Even as late as 1950, the decade before the advent of zip codes, a card to "Mrs. Robert Lyke Sr., Edgerton, Wisc." found its way into the right hands.

For birthdays, holidays, or birth announcements, they were cheaper to send than a greeting card. The truly enterprising could cover multiple occasions in one card. A New Year's postcard with the standard Hallmark-type poem was sent to my grandparents in 1924, the sender adding Christmas wishes and their own handwritten rhyme on the front.

Another attempt at multitasking would be known in today's vernacular as a "fail." A

friend of my grandmother's sent her an Easter card - in October - with the following message:

"Dear Mary & Bob – We all send you hearty congratulations on your baby boy. So glad it is a boy." (Oct. 12, 1912)

Except it wasn't a boy. It was my Aunt Marion.

In some cases, no message was too personal to include on a card that anyone could read. A curious postman could find some drama lurking among the postcards.

"Dear Mary, It is a long time since I've heard from you. Are you never going to write any more?" (March 7, 1909)

"Dear Mary: I dreamed of you last night. Hope my dream is not true. Write soon. I think of you all the time." (Oct. 8, 1912)

It hardly rises to the level of a typical Facebook post, but for the time, this was practically *General Hospital*.

A common theme of postcards was that it was just a short note until the sender could write a letter – almost like the trailer of a motion picture. "Coming Soon to a Mailbox Near You!" Indeed, one postcard has the legend "Busy To-Day, Will Write Later" with a comic of a fisherman being pulled into the lake by his catch.

Besides being practical for nearly any type of message, postcards came with just about any image you could imagine. There were photos of businesses – everything from hospitals to factories to the Country Kitchen in Sparta; and photos of natural disasters, like a washed-out bridge in Kewaskum. There were mildly naughty jokes, like the illustration of a mechanic telling a woman he "don't see nothin' wrong with your rear end."

During World War I, cards featured scenes of military training. One has photos and details about machine gun brands ("splendid weapons"), how three-man machine gun squads operate, and their effectiveness in "the present war." These images were juxtaposed

with a nice handwritten note from my aunt asking if the sick children are better.

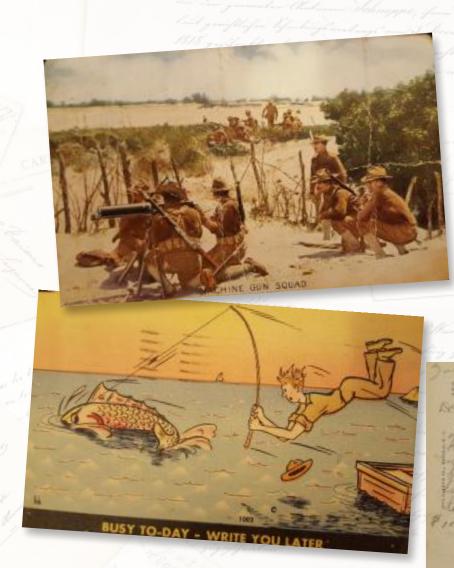
Beyond those examples, however, you see many postcard images that qualify as works of art. Through a process called photochrom, black and white photographs were colorized into images that often made them appear to be paintings rather than photographs. Even mundane buildings like National Cash Register in Dayton, Ohio became a stunning postcard image with a beautiful blue and pink sky behind it. Local structures like Janesville High School (now the Marshall Apartments) received a similar treatment to impressive effect. Some postcard publishers were obviously more skilled with this process than others. By comparison, a 1911 photo of a Stoughton tobacco harvest has dull green leaves, trees and clothing, along with untinted images of humans.

The jewel of my grandparents' stash is a card sent from Niagara Falls. To me, this one is the essence of vintage postcard perfection. It is from 1937, during an era when cards were very distinctive, with saturated colors, soft focus, white borders and a "linen" surface texture. The image is of twilight over the falls, a brilliant cascade of lemon yellow, bright pink and light blue with an equally colorful sky. On the front, the description has the kind of airy verse you'd read on an herbal tea package:

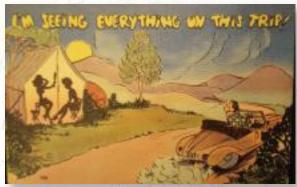
"Ever beautiful, Niagara Falls is always gorgeous at twilight. The air is still, the mist rises directly upward and becomes tinged with sunset colors. The world is quiet, but Niagara roars on."

And the kicker? It was mailed from the Honeymoon Capital of the World by my aunt and uncle on their honeymoon. (They reported that they were "having a grand time.")

Today, total postcard mailings have plummeted, another casualty of modern technology. But these collectibles that remain offer an interesting peek into the way friends and family communicated a century ago.











Postcards had been around since the early 1870s, but their popularity really took off in the 1890s when postage on privately published cards was lowered to a single cent.

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Why did you Choose to Become an RCHS Board Member?

I was asked by the Rock County Genealogy Society (RCGS) to serve as a Board liaison for RCHS. I joined RCGS ten years ago to utilize the archives to find my Rock County family, and did so. To show my appreciation, I have helped rehab the Charles Tallman House – now the Charles Tallman Archives. I intend to continue to help improve the campus and to promote understanding and coalition among the two groups and memberships.

~ Daniel Emery~

As a museum studies graduate student and history lover, I hoped to become a board member to gain experience in the field and bring new perspectives and knowledge to the board. I am a Janesville native who worked and volunteered at RCHS from 2016-17. I enjoyed my time at the organization and wanted to get involved again. I am hoping that my education in the museum field will bring useful information to the board, especially while I serve on the archives and collections committee. I also hope to represent a younger crowd of visitors. I am excited for this next year as the new student board member and look forward to growing alongside this fantastic organization!

~ Sam Bomkamp~

SAVE THE DATE!2020 History Makers Gala

Janesville Country Club · Saturday, April 25th, 2020, 6 p.m.

Help recognize local achievers while dining and dancing to live music!

Nominations open in January! Watch for details coming your way.



Digitizing History

The Charles Tallman Archives volunteers have been working hard to scan historic photographs and documents to make them more accessible. RCHS is aiming to put more of its amazing resources online—but we need help digitizing artifacts to make that happen! If you are interested in scanning these treasures, contact archives manager Kristin Arnold at karnold@rchs.us or 608-756-4509 to learn more.





RCHS EVENTS

Through December 30th* Two Notable Women of Rock County Exhibit

Helen Jeffris Wood Museum & Visitor Center

426 N. Jackson Street, Janesville Free and open to the public

*Dates and Hours:

Until Nov. 10th, by appointment only.

Nov. 29th - Dec. 30th:

Wednesday - Fridays, Noon – 4 p.m. www.rchs.us/exhibits/two-notable-women/

November 23rd Photos with Father Christmas

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Lincoln Tallman House

440 N. Jackson Street, Janesville

\$20 reserves your spot and includes one photo with Father Christmas, in front of a beautifully decorated tree. Up to two additional photos for \$10 each.

www.rchs.us/event/photos-with-father-christmas/

November 29th – December 30th Holiday Tree Show

Thursdays and Fridays, Noon – 7 p.m.
Saturdays and Sundays, Noon – 4 p.m.
Dec. 23rd and Dec. 30th, Noon – 7 p.m.
Closed Dec. 24th, 25th and 31st
Experience the warmth and joy of the
Tallman House while viewing more than
30 trees, each decorated by a local
business or nonprofit. New this year: All
tours are open house format. Purchase a
ticket and use it any day you choose!

Lincoln-Tallman House 440 N. Jackson Street, Janesville Adults: \$10; Children 10 and under: \$5;

Children 4 and under: Free

www.rchs.us/event/home-for-the-holidays/

December 5th

Antlers and Cheer Holiday Party

6 – 7 p.m. at the Lincoln Tallman House 440 N. Jackson Street, Janesville 7 – 10 p.m. in the Tallman Carriage House 450 N. Jackson Street, Janesville \$25, includes Holiday Tree Show and scavenger hunt in the Tallman House, followed by music, appetizers, holiday trivia and beverages in the Carriage House.

www.rchs.us/event/antlers-and-cheer/

December 19th

Must be age 21+

Ugly Sweater Murder & Mayhem Party

7 - 9 p.m.

Tallman Carriage House

450 N. Jackson Street, Janesville

\$25, includes holiday murder and mayhem stories from Rock County's past, plus appetizers. Cash bar with special festive cocktails.

*Must be age 21+ www.rchs.us

April 25th, 2020 History Makers Gala

6 p.m.

Help recognize local achievers while dining and dancing to live music! Location and more information coming

Location and more information coming soon.

Questions on any of the above events? Please call RCHS at 608-756-4509 Ext. 303

RCGS EVENTS

NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Intro to Native American Family Research

Karen Weston, Walworth Co. Genealogical Society at 6:30 p.m. Tallman Carriage House (upper level) 450 N. Jackson Street, in Janesville, WI Free and Open to the Public www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers

DECEMBER 17, 2019 Holiday Celebration

Details online. 6:30 p.m.

Tallman Carriage House (upper level)

450 N. Jackson Street, in Janesville, WI
Free and Open to the Public

www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers

January, February, March – New Schedule No RCGS Member Meetings

Become a Member of the Rock County Historical Society

Enjoy many benefits while supporting RCHS:

- Free Traditional and Help Wanted tours at the Lincoln-Tallman House.
- A subscription to The Finial magazine.
- Discounts in the RCHS Archives, with hundreds of photos, records, maps and more.
- Advanced tickets to many popular events that sell out quickly!
- Discounts in the RCHS gift shop.

Annual Membership Rates

Educator:	\$25
Individual:	\$50
Family:	\$75
Over 65 Individual:	\$45
Over 65 Family:	\$65

For more information or to become a member, VISIT www.rchs.us/membership, CALL 608-756-4509 or EMAIL membership@rchs.us.



Join the Rock County Genealogical Society Standard Membership:

- \$22 per year includes newsletter via email (add \$3 for postal delivery)
- Join online at: www.rcgswi.org/join-rcgs

Membership Benefits:

- Finial magazine minimum 16 pages plus extra RCGS digital content
- *Members-Only Content* an exclusive web area for unique local records
- Free admission to the Charles Tallman Archives & Research Center
- 50% discount on photocopies at the Research Center
- 10% discount on Society Publications
- *Priority Research Response* requests go to the top of the stack!
- Genealogy JumpStart one free annual search of occurrences of a single Rock County surname in the card files and major indexes of the Research Center.

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50 YEARS AGO IN JANESVILLE HISTORY:

Cindi Morgan Dyke Crowned City's First Miss Wisconsin

By Lois Smith

Fifty years ago, Janesville's Cindi Morgan reigned as Miss Wisconsin. She celebrated a year bursting with community events, emceeing, and miles of travel.

Cindi's family moved to Janesville in 1960. Her father, Lewis, was a construction financial estimator for T. S. Willis. Her mother, Bette, and three siblings, Pam, Ed, and Tom, settled in comfortably until three years later, when on New Year's Eve, Lewis died of a heart attack at age 44. Cindi was 12 years old. His death would have a profound impact on the value she ascribed to each day

While her mother supported the family as a secretary for the Janesville Public Schools, Cindi thrived by having the lead in three Craig High School musicals: Bye, Bye, Birdie; How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying; and Fiorello – all under the direction of Larry LeFevre and Russ Carter.

In 1968, as a high school senior, Cindi competed for the first time in a pageant, and won the title of Miss Teenage Janesville. The award was based primarily on students' engagement in activities and academics. Cindi then progressed to the Miss Teenage Wisconsin competition, where her fellow competitors voted her Miss Congeniality.



Because Cindi wanted to attend university, she looked for scholarships. Pageant competitions were a means to that goal. Soon after the Miss Teenage competition, Cindi saw an opportunity to compete in the Miss Janesville pageant. It included an interview, along with talent, gown, and swimsuit competitions. Singing I Enjoy Being a Girl, Cindi used her experience in Acapella Choir, Spotlighters, and musicals. On February 22, 1969, Cindi Morgan was crowned Miss Janesville. Upon earning this title, she resigned the Miss Teenage Janesville crown.

The rush to graduate from high school and prepare for the state competition for Miss Wisconsin culminated on June 20, 1969. In the week preceding the Miss Wisconsin Pageant in Oshkosh, contestants' days were packed with rehearsals, luncheons, photo opportunities and preparation for a televised two-hour show.

Judges divided the forty Miss Wisconsin contestants into three groups. Beginning on a Wednesday evening and continuing for three consecutive nights, each group rotated through talent, evening gown, and swimsuit competitions. Judges recognized winners for each category leading up to the final pageant. For this talent competition, Cindi sang *Hallelujah*, *Baby!* from the musical of the same name.

As a top five contestant, Cindi was asked by judges to think about the experience that most influenced her life. After a moment, she said that her father's death taught her "to value each day." Cindi's mother, Bette, wept.

"What a remarkable group of people I had the honor of being with for a week," Cindi said recently. "The unique experience we shared was something we could all take with us."

After being crowned Miss Wisconsin, Cindi danced at the coronation ball with Governor Warren P. Knowles. The next morning, she addressed the awards breakfast as Miss Wisconsin – the first Miss Janesville to be crowned Miss Wisconsin and to move on to the Miss America Pageant.

Preparing for the upcoming competition and ongoing obligations filled Cindi's summer.

Choosing a wardrobe was an important aspect of this preparation. A Wisconsin designer named Frances Kosbab worked with Cindi to create three unique gowns for the Miss America Pageant. Kosbab drew the designs, chose the fabrics, beads, and trim. She sewed each bead by hand.

Cindi was the youngest competitor at the 1969 Miss America Pageant, held in Atlantic City. She performed the jazzy show tune, *Old Devil Moon*.

While there, Cindi recalls, she received something especially touching from home.

"When I was in Atlantic City, there was a telegram being created here in Janesville. It was the largest telegram ever received there at that time. There were hundreds of names on it. Many names I recognized, but... [many I didn't]. To have so many people extending their friendship and encouragement to me like that was truly humbling."

Although she wasn't crowned Miss America on September 6, 1969, a crowd welcomed her home.

"There were all of these people out at the Rock County Airport waiting for that little plane to come in," Cindi remembers fondly. "I was just blown away and



overwhelmed by the kindness of the people in our community. It was an honor to represent them for a year"

Festivals, races, events, local pageants, and ribbon cutting filled that year. A snowmobile, three tiaras and eleven convertibles later, with her mother by her side as her chaperone, Cindi completed her reign as Miss Wisconsin and enrolled at UW-Madison as an education major.

In 1973, Cindi married Gary Dyke, a childhood friend. Together they raised two sons, Nate and Kevin. They still reside in Janesville.

Cindi credits her mother as her inspiration. "My mother always counted her blessings instead of her losses. Always. Watching the way she chose to live, I learned the importance of gratitude. Of her many gifts, this is the one that most influenced my life."

See the costumes and memorabilia from Cindi's pageant days in person at the Two Notable Women exhibit running through December 30th at the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum & Visitor Center, 426 N. Jackson St., Janesville. The exhibit celebrates Cindi and the late Sherry Thurner, well known as Janesville's "cemetery expert" and a longtime historian and friend to RCHS. Many of Sherry's historical, interpretive costumes and study materials are on display. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For hours and more information, please visit www.rchs.us/exhibits/two-notable-women



62nd Annual Tallman Arts Festival Attracts Artists, Community Members

More than 1,500 people strolled the grounds of the Rock County Historical Society on August 4th, appreciating a diverse range of art at the Tallman Arts Festival.



Tamara Tsurkan was awarded first place in the Jewelry category.



Hallie Kohn won the award in the best 2-Dimensional category.



Thomas Sicilano was named Best in Show.



Terri Tacket won the award in the best 3-Dimensional category.



Susan Reimund won the award for Fine Arts, Mixed Media.



Diane Adam was awarded Honorable Mention.



Calling All Artists!

Plan now to exhibit at the 2020 Tallman Arts Festival on Sunday, August 2nd. Early bird registration opens in January. Please check www.rchs.us for details coming soon!

Finial Winter 2019 23



Rock County Historical Society

426 N. Jackson Street Janesville, WI 53548 Non Profit Org. US Postage Paid Janesville WI Permit No. 354

Happy Holidays from all of us at RCHS!



Host your Holiday Events at the Tallman Carriage House... AND LEAVE THE FUSS TO US!

Choose the Carriage House for your holiday party, corporate meeting or special event and impress your guests.

On the grounds of the beautiful Rock County Historical Society, 450 N. Jackson Street, Janesville.

For more information on the Tallman Carriage House or other RCHS venues, please contact Todd Jacot via email at tjacot@rchs.us or by phone at 608-756-4509 Ext. 302.



