

SUMMER 2019

# FINIAL

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ROCK COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES



ROCK COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
WHERE PAST MEETS PRESENT



# IN THIS ISSUE

RCHS Director's Column .....	2
RCGS Chairman's Message .....	4
RECAP Workers Help Local Nonprofits While Learning Valuable Skills .....	6
What's Up With My DNA Ethnicity Test Results? .....	9
In Memory: Roy Eugene Graham.....	9
Native American Tribes: Janesville's Original Stewards .....	10
Why and Where to Find Rock County Obituaries.....	12
RCHS Board Co-Vice President Amy Badertscher Donates Talent and Treasures.....	14
Not Your Same Old Tallman Tours .....	16
Celebrate the 62nd Annual Tallman Arts Festival.....	17
RCHS Welcomes New Board Members .....	18
RCHS • RCGS Event Calendar .....	19

## RCHS STAFF

**Tim Maahs** | Executive Director  
tmaahs@rchs.us

**Todd Jacot** | Operations Manager  
tjacot@rchs.us

**Keighton Klos** | Historic Resources Manager  
kklos@rchs.us

**Nathan Fuller** | Community Engagement Manager  
nfuller@rchs.us

**Rachel Tidwell** | Office Assistant  
rtidwell@rchs.us

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

**Dave Thompson** | Campus Caretaker  
campuscaretaker@rchs.us

## RCGS STAFF

**Ruth Anderson** | Librarian  
RCGS.Library@gmail.com

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

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

Cover image: Megan Walker



# DIRECTOR'S COLUMN



Tim Maahs

Here we are at mid-summer, with so much to be grateful for and looking forward to!

Our 2019 season launch helped us showcase several new highlights on campus, including new tours, and new and refreshed exhibits. A specialty Mother's Day tour focused on our beautiful collection of Victorian fashions. On Father's Day, many visited to explore rarely seen Native American artifacts, and weaponry from the Tallman collection – while enjoying a beer from Rock County Brewery!

This year's History Makers Gala, held in April, was an evening filled with music, laughter, and dancing. As we honored deserving members of our community in five categories, it was gratifying to see many past award winners in attendance as a new group of people was recognized.

Over the winter, the main level of the Lincoln-Tallman House was refreshed, making a big impact on the visitor experience. During school tour season, the children were more engaged, appreciating the new, interactive activities. We've also received positive feedback from guests who have taken tours of the Lincoln-Tallman House. It is rewarding to know that the tour changes are helping us achieve our goal of providing a more engaging experience for all who visit.

This being our busy season, there is no rest for the weary! We are finalizing plans for the 62nd annual Tallman Arts Festival on Sunday, August 4th. It's a day filled with art, food and beverages, music, children's activities and more. We hope you'll attend!

As fall approaches, it's time for Sunday Dinner: A Farm to Table Feast. This year's event will be held on Sunday, September 8th on the RCHS campus, and will again highlight the rich agricultural heritage of Rock County. Watch for more information coming soon at [www.rchs.us](http://www.rchs.us), and on our Facebook page.

We hope you'll join us by visiting our new exhibits, taking a tour, and attending one or more of our upcoming events! Stop in, review our web site and social media pages, or give us a call. See you on campus!

**Timothy J. Maahs**  
Executive Director



# McCANN FLOORS

1614 PLAINFIELD AVE • JANESVILLE

608.752.0200

• TILE • WOOD • CARPET • RUGS • WINDOW TREATMENTS • INTERIOR DESIGN •



# RCGS CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Rock County Genealogical Society had a busy spring with many major undertakings.

After several months of fundraising – and coordinating with all Rock County high schools – the first RCGS high school scholarship was awarded to Jorge Jurado-Garcia from Beloit Memorial High School. The \$500 award was presented at a scholarship awards ceremony on May 22, 2019. Next year's scholarship will be funded by \$25 registration fees from a four- program genealogical seminar on Saturday September 14, 2019 at the UWW-Rock County campus. For more information, visit [www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers](http://www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers). Parking, conference fees, hand-outs, a boxed lunch and refreshments are included. Please support our scholarship program with your attendance.



David Bradford

Another endeavor, conducted largely by RCGS volunteers, is the development of a space plan to reorganize the shared RCHS Archives and RCGS Library. The new plan accomplishes three goals: creating work space for summer interns; indexing recent donations; and adding research pods to the public reading room while also restoring a period-appropriate appearance.

This past May, RCGS held its board elections. I'd like to recognize and honor the service of recently retired board members, including Julie Jacobs-Feingold, Arleen Bier, Jon Harrie, and Charles Bailey. Many of these folks remain active in other capacities. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the family of the late Jane Pennycook, who continues her family research from the "big archive in the sky."

## David Bradford

*Chairperson, Rock County Genealogy Society*

**AUGUST 8, 4-8 PM**  
 Join us for Downtown Janesville Market on the street at Grant & Adams. Local vendors selling their wares, and great live music at the Rock County Public Square.  
 Downtown Janesville  
**STREET FAIR**  
[DOWNTOWNJANESVILLE.COM](http://DOWNTOWNJANESVILLE.COM)

CONTEMPORARY WOMENS CLOTHING

**Velvet & Tulle**  
 BOUTIQUE  
 217 W. MILWAUKEE STREET  
 DOWNTOWN JANESVILLE  
 RCHS Members Save 5% Everyday By Mentioning This Ad  
 Cannot be combined with any other offer or discount.



*ABC's National Support Center on the banks of the Rock River, Beloit, WI*

# MAKING A *Difference*

Community involvement has always been important to ABC Supply founders Ken and Diane Hendricks, and they've instilled that value at ABC Supply, making volunteering and charitable support a vital part of our corporate culture. At ABC, we understand that with success comes the responsibility to give back.

Whether volunteering for an after-school mentoring program, delivering Meals on Wheels, raising funds for the United Way or partnering with Habitat for Humanity, ABC Supply and its associates can be found making a difference in communities nationwide.



*Roofing • Siding • Windows • Gutter • Tools • Accessories*



# RECAP Workers Help Local Nonprofits While Learning Valuable Skills

By Robert Spoden, RCHS Board Member

For many years, the Rock County Historical Society and Rock County Sheriff's Office have benefitted from a collaborative relationship, especially through the Sheriff's Office's RECAP program. RECAP, which stands for Rock County Education and Criminal Addictions Program, provides community nonprofits such as RCHS with donated labor from low-risk inmates in the program. The participants help with manual labor, working alongside volunteers and staff at no cost to the nonprofit.

At RCHS, RECAP participants have worked on everything from improvement projects on the campus grounds to assisting in yearly events such as the Tallman Arts Festival and Sunday Dinner: A Farm to Table Feast. Whether moving furniture or helping with set-up and clean-up, the RECAP workers provide valuable assistance throughout the year. In fact, from January of 2017 to May of 2019, RECAP participants donated 890 hours to the Rock County Historical Society.

RCHS is just one of many community organizations that aids from the RECAP program. It assists more than 47 different nonprofits throughout Rock County, including Edgerton's Chilimania, Beloit's International Film Festival, Rock County's Pork Fest and New Life Church.

The RECAP program participants benefit

as much as the organizations they're helping, according to Sergeant Jay Williams, who oversees the program at the Rock County Sheriff's Office. "By working at various nonprofit organizations, like the Rock County Historical Society, the participants get a sense of belonging, accomplishment and self-worth, as they accomplish the tasks assigned to them. Community service work has proven to be one of the highlights of the participants' programming. They are grateful for the opportunity to help where needed."

The roots of the RECAP program go back to 1992, when it began with a goal to provide education and rehabilitative services to Rock County Jail inmates. A collaborative effort between the Rock

County Sheriff's Office, Blackhawk Technical College, and the Cooperative Education Service Agency 2 (CESA2), RECAP program participants are males or females who are either sentenced to RECAP by the courts or referred by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. The program also accepts voluntary individuals based upon program space and the criminal history of the person. Participants typically spend less than six months in the RECAP program. Treatment components include substance abuse, anger management, victim empathy, restorative justice, and community service. Educational components focus on math, reading and writing skills, computer skills, employability skills, parenting and family relationships, and the importance of



continuing education. The goal is to provide a solid transition from jail to the community.

Prior to graduating from the program, inmates participate in numerous community service projects as a way of giving back. The ability to interact with community members has proven to be extremely positive for both the inmates and the community members with whom they work, Williams said.

One man, who participated in the RECAP program when he was 18 and again at age 40, summed up his experience this way. "I came to the program this time run down emotionally and looked long and hard in the mirror. I have accepted my alcohol problem and now am ready to begin my new life." He continued, "I have learned so much from this program and changed many ways of thinking. I am

very grateful for having been given the opportunity again to participate in RECAP. I'm taking full advantage of all the areas of this treatment. And I hope that someone out there is able to learn from my mistakes and make changes earlier in life. Thank you!"

Along with community service, the RECAP inmates also maintain a large garden of various vegetables. Working with community volunteers who are experienced gardeners, the inmates learn basic skills in planting and maintaining a growing garden. From spring planting and weeding throughout the summer, participants grow and care for numerous vegetables and fruits ranging from peppers, tomatoes and even pumpkins. At harvest, the vegetables and fruits are gathered and given to local charities in Rock County. In 2018, more than 10,000 pounds of

produce were donated. Inmates spend over 4,000 hours tending to garden and harvesting produce at summer's end. At the end of each harvest, program participants host an open house that allows the public to visit and tour the garden, tasting and sampling the many vegetables and fruits the inmates have planted and grown.

The RECAP garden participants, in cooperation with the Community Outreach garden volunteers and others, also host an annual Farm to Table Dinner. Produce harvested from the garden and served by the RECAP inmates is prepared by a local caterer and served to those who attend. This year's dinner is set for July 31st at 6 p.m. on the grounds of the Rock County Sheriff's Office. For tickets and more information, contact Barb Guse at 608-332-5741, or Deb Grams at 608-346-0595.

"Community service work has proven to be one of the highlights of the participants' programming. They are grateful for the opportunity to help where needed."

Sergeant Jay Williams, Rock County Sheriff's Department.

# TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**175 years of Mission  
and Ministry in Janesville  
Celebrating the Past  
Committed to the Future**

**Saturday, September 21st, 2019**

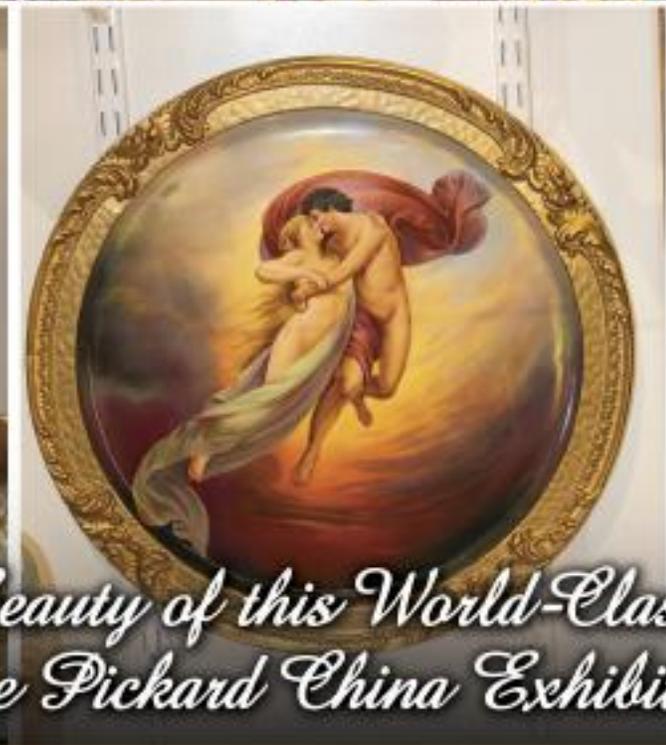
Choral Evensong 4pm  
Celebration Dinner 6pm \$15 per person

**Sunday, September 22nd, 2019**

10am Festive celebration with music by the First Brigade Band  
Picnic Lunch to follow service. Bring a dish to pass and a chair.  
Concert at 2pm by the First Brigade Band in the Garden.

In case of rain, picnic and concert will be in **Trinity's Ortmayer Hall**  
419 East Court Street in Janesville  
(Corner of Atwood and E Court St.)

For more information call the church office 608-754-3402 or visit our website at [www.trinityjanesville.org](http://www.trinityjanesville.org)



*Discover the Beauty of this World-Class Collection  
at the Pickard China Exhibit!*

**More than 800 pieces on display, each hand-painted.  
Includes artist profiles and a history of Pickard China.**

Free admittance to this stunning exhibit, located at the Rock County Historical Society  
For hours and more information, visit [www.rchs.us/exhibits](http://www.rchs.us/exhibits)

***Plan Your Visit Today!***



**HELEN JEFFRIS WOOD MUSEUM CENTER**

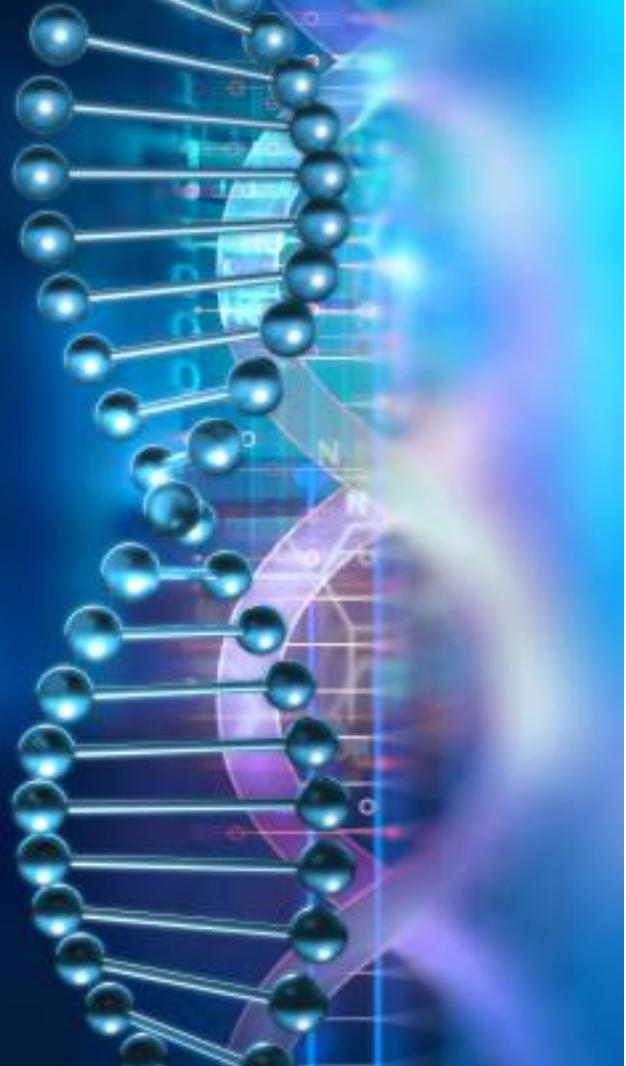
426 North Jackson • Janesville, WI 53548

[www.rchs.us](http://www.rchs.us)

# WHAT'S UP WITH MY DNA ETHNICITY TEST RESULTS?

**QUESTION:** My recent DNA test says I am 83% Western European (Germany/France/Belgium/Switzerland) and only 8% Ireland/Scotland/Wales. This is radically different than my mostly Irish ancestors and different from my paper research. My sister's results are different, too. What's up with that?

**ANSWER:** A DNA ethnicity estimate broadly reflects a person's entire family tree – but only the most recent ancestors. This is because the DNA of older ancestors is diluted with each successive generation, as each parent each randomly donates half of their genetic heritage to a child, while the other half is lost to future generations altogether. After 4 to 6 generations, whole branches of ancestors may no longer be represented. Ethnicity estimates reflect only the random parts of ancestors' DNA that survive. Unless a family's ethnicity is extraordinarily uniform (e.g., all 16 great grandparents are Norwegian), an ethnicity estimate will rarely agree with traditional paper research. Even a sibling's ethnicity test will differ, because of each person's unique dilution and other gene shuffling effects. Moreover, your ethnicity estimate will vary greatly from DNA lab to DNA lab, because each facility compares your DNA to its own proprietary "reference populations." The ethnicity test is a novel and interesting marketing concept, but it's rarely useful for family research. However, this same DNA test is well-suited to finding new "cousins" with whom you share a recent ancestor. Read more at [www.rcgswi.org/dna-article](http://www.rcgswi.org/dna-article).



## Rock County Roots: History of Local Businesses

Get an inside look at more than 70 local businesses in this full-color hardcover book. Discover the stories and photos submitted by each business. Makes an ideal gift.

**NEW Reduced Price of \$25.  
Get yours while supplies last!**

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

Get your copy at:

Rock County Historical Society's Gift Shop, 426 N. Jackson St., Janesville,  
or online at [rchs.us/campus-store/](http://rchs.us/campus-store/)

The Janesville Gazette, 1 S. Parker Drive in Janesville.

Also available at Stafeline News in Beloit, and at the Wedge Inn East in Janesville.



For more information, contact the Rock County Historical Society at  
608-756-4509 Ext. 300.

Or visit [www.rchs.us/campus-store/](http://www.rchs.us/campus-store/).



## In Memory: Roy Eugene Graham, 1936 – 2018

The Rock County Historical Society celebrates the life and work of Roy Eugene Graham, a nationally recognized pioneer in developing awareness, education, and standards in historic preservation.

Graham was a Captain in the US Army Reserve prior to starting a teaching career in 1968 at the University of Texas. He focused on architectural history and design, developing the first historic preservation courses as part of an advanced design studio. This experience allowed him to combine architecture, engineering, history and preservation, to which he dedicated himself throughout his life.

Chosen in 1991 to manage the restorations of the Lincoln-Tallman House, Graham left a mark on Janesville that has stood the test of time. The city also left a lasting impression on him. Graham once remarked that "Janesville has some of the most interesting and best examples of Victorian domestic architecture that exist in any city in this country."

Graham continued to make significant achievements in historic preservation throughout the United States and internationally. This included restoring the Texas State Capital, and serving as resident architect for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. As a consultant for the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property, Graham worked on a conservation project for the Taj Mahal in India, and on the earthquake-damaged St. Frances of Assisi Basilica in Italy.

It is quite remarkable that Janesville and the Lincoln-Tallman House are so fortunate to have benefited from the guidance and knowledge of Roy Graham.

# Native American Tribes: Janesville's Original Stewards

By Dan Fredricks, guest author



The most well-known and significant Native American in Janesville's history and folklore is the great Sauk Chief – Ma-ka-tai-me-she-kia-kiak – or more precisely, Black Hawk. His legend began essentially when he and his band of 200 warriors served with Tecumseh, the great Shawnee chief, in the ranks of the British to fight the Americans in the War of 1812. In doing so, Black Hawk had hoped to push the fast-growing American settlers away from the Sauk territory, which he felt had been unjustly taken away from his tribe through unfair treaties with the US government.

For the next few decades after the war, Black Hawk and his tribe would roam and live in relative peace throughout different locales in Iowa. This all changed, however, on April 6, 1832, when, with 450 warriors and their families, he crossed into Illinois in 50 canoes to live again in their cherished, ancestral homeland. This action distilled considerable fear in the settlers knowing of his previous warring exploits. Because of this fear, and their sudden intrusion into the territory, the government formed a volunteer militia of 1,600 men to fight Black Hawk and force the tribe out of the Wisconsin territory, thus beginning the Black Hawk War. (Interestingly, one of the volunteers was a young lawyer named Abraham Lincoln who was quickly chosen as a captain of the Army.)

While evading the pursuing army, Black Hawk and his tribe made camp for a brief time in what was referred to in Janesville as Black Hawk Grove (now the site of the club house of the aptly named Black Hawk Golf Course.) The unsuccessful rebellion ended with the defeat of the Sauk in the Bad Axe Massacre in July of 1832. After his surrender, the defeated Black Hawk was sent as a prisoner to the east coast for the citizens to see, firsthand, the romantic warrior that had captured their fancy during the reporting of the remainder of his days. Ironically, the Black Hawk War raised more public awareness of the newly opened territory and hastened an even faster influx of Euro-American settlers.

The new settlers that poured into the territory in the 1830s brought with them the demise of the Native American way of life as known, and changed history forever. For sustainable villages,



towns, and cities, as well as for farming, mining, lumberjacking, grain mills and a myriad of other industries and businesses, the early settlers required large tracts of available land. To them, the government hastily made numerous treaties with the remaining Native American tribes to purchase their land and relocate them to the West. This was also felt to be a good measure to help ensure peace between the two diverse populations.

The Winnebago, the last of the great Native American tribes in the Rock River valley, ceded all of their land west of the river around Janesville to the government on September 15, 1833. The Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi did the same 11 days later for their land east of the Rock. Although the Native American tribes ceded their lands, they would often return in small groups to their ancestral homeland that was so important to their culture. This caused the government on several occasions over the next few decades to send in troops to “keep the obedience,” and forcibly remove the groups back to their reservations and keep peace.

The coerced reduction of the Native American land and their forced removal from the area greatly aided

and encouraged the influx of settlers and growth in the new territory. These actions by the government, for all intents and purposes, officially opened the door for the settlement of Janesville while closing it to the indigenous tribes.

The Janesville community remains heavily influenced by its Native American predecessors and has continued to honor and celebrate its connection to the early growth and development of the community in many ways. For instance, the city is replete with streets named after Native American tribes like Sauk Ct., Iroquois Ct., Blackhawk St., Mohawk Dr. and Winnebago Dr., to name but a very few. It’s also hard to miss the many businesses, groups and organizations bearing the Black Hawk name or other Native American references like Arrowhead and Sinnissippi.

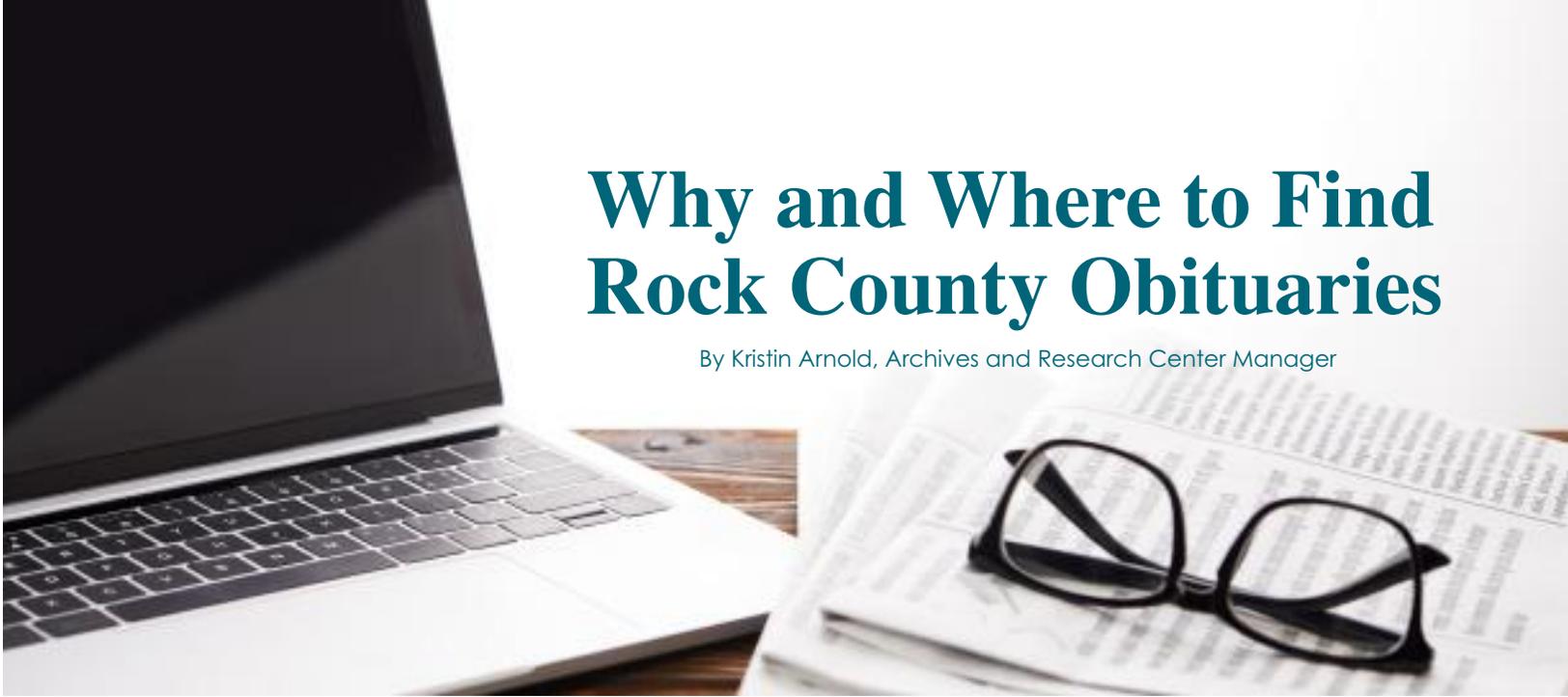
A final tribute to how respected the culture original caretakers of the “city on the rock” was to the newly arriving citizens is evident in how Janesville – as an afterthought – got its name. Henry Janes, the self-proclaimed city planner of Janesville, wanted to establish a post office. In 1839, he petitioned the government to name the city Black Hawk in honor of the great Native

American chief. Unfortunately, another community has a post office with that designation in Wisconsin (which is now part of Iowa) therefore the post office, instead, was assigned the name Janesville.



# Why and Where to Find Rock County Obituaries

By Kristin Arnold, Archives and Research Center Manager



It's not news to genealogists that obituaries are incredible resources. A good obituary may state where one was born, where an individual lived, details about his or her career, how the person died, and a list

of relatives. However, accessing those obituaries can be somewhat tricky. With the abundance of online resources available to genealogists, it can be easy to think everything is online. Not all newspapers are online yet, though, and even if they are, the database's search function may not catch an obituary if the print or font is difficult for the program to read.

When searching for a Rock County obituary, it is easiest to use *The Janesville Gazette*. This paper is widely available online. Obituary indexes can be found both at the Rock County Genealogical Society's library in the RCHS Archives building, on the RCHS campus, and at Hedberg Public Library in Janesville. Other Rock County papers, such as *The Beloit Daily News*, are more difficult to find on the web. For papers other than *The Janesville Gazette*, visit or contact your community's local library.

RCGS' indexes range from 1845, when *The Janesville Gazette* was first published, to 1913. Hedberg's cover the 1980s to the present. An entry from the RCGS index looks like the image below.

JANESVILLE WISCONSIN GAZETTE DEATH INDEX 1845 - 1991				
NAME	RESIDENCE	DATE	AGE	ROW/PTG
MCCORMACK, JAMES	MILTON	1873 APR 05	46y 02m 07d	16 APR 1873 2-3 23 APR 1873 4-4

This entry provides a few key points of information to identify the individual, but the real gold is the publication date and page and column numbers. When searching *The Janesville Gazette*, the archives staff uses two main resources:

1. Newspapers.com—This database typically requires a subscription, but through BadgerLink, Wisconsin's Online Library, Wisconsin residents may access it for free by using only a library card. However, BadgerLink does not have as many years of *The Janesville Gazette*'s publication as NewspaperArchive.com does.



2. NewspaperArchive.com—This database requires a subscription. However, it offers more dates for *The Janesville Gazette* than Newspapers.com does. The RCHS/RCGS Archives subscribes to this resource, so visit the archives to check it out!



Though both databases are useful, it should be noted that neither has a full collection of *The Janesville Gazette*. If the needed date is unavailable online, try going to the Hedberg Library to look at the microfilm.

The RCHS/RCGS Archives team has recently started its own obituary indexing project, starting with 1914 and moving forward. The team is looking for more indexes to help the project along! This job is ideal for those who love reading historic newspapers. The work can be done at home at any time. If interested in indexing or just finding an obituary, please contact the archives manager, Kristin Arnold, at [karnold@rchs.us](mailto:karnold@rchs.us) or 608-756-4509 ext. 312.



# LAMAR

## ADVERTISING COMPANY

INNOVATING FOR OVER 100 YEARS



Established in 1902, Lamar continues to help both local and national businesses reach broad audiences while staying true to the family values upon which our company was built.

**LAMAR**

Lamar Advertising of Madison, WI - Rockford, IL

(608) 754-6141 | LAMAR.COM

# RCHS Board Co-Vice President Amy McCann Badertscher Donates Talents and Treasures

By Patrick Gasper



The Rock County Historical Society Board of Directors consists of twenty-four unique individuals who all share the common goal of preserving and telling the history of Rock County. Board Co-Vice President Amy McCann Badertscher, owner of McCann Floors, recently went beyond the traditional duties of a trustee by donating a substantial amount of materials and labor to completely re-carpet the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum & Visitor Center. An interior designer and business owner, Amy is often front and center at RCHS events. Let's learn a bit more about her!

## **WHY JANESVILLE/ROCK COUNTY?**

I was born and raised in Rock County. I took over my father's flooring business, decided to stay and raise my family. Janesville was a great place to grow up in. I wanted my family to be in a safe, convenient, and fun neighborhood. We get that in Janesville!

## **IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT IS THE TRUE DEFINITION OF ART/DESIGN?**

That's difficult, but, ultimately, it comes down to whatever floats your boat! It can range from simple to mind-blowing. Art and design are such personal matters that grow and change as you do.

## **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE RCHS EVENT?**

I love the Tallman Arts Festival! I have attended and/or worked this event for many years.

The quality of artists, vendors and entertainment keeps improving. The event is the definition of a perfect summer day of fun for the whole family!

## **WHAT ITEMS/ELEMENTS OF THE LINCOLN-TALLMAN HOUSE DO YOU FIND INTRIGUING?**

I have always loved architecture and history, so the actual Tallman House's privy (aka, bathroom) intrigues me. We certainly have progressed a lot since those were built. I think the Tallmans – and definitely Abe Lincoln – would LOVE some of my bathroom designs!

## **WHAT HISTORICAL FIGURE DO YOU FEEL YOU HAVE MOST IN COMMON?**

Amelia Earhart. The Adventuress!

## **OF ALL THE PLACES YOU'VE TRAVELED, WHICH WOULD YOU SAY HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE?**

In the U.S., I would say that I loved Asheville, N.C. My parents took us to see the Biltmore Mansion/Estate when I was young. I thought it was magical.

As an adult, I loved touring the city of Paris with my husband, Barry. Our trip to Ireland was also a favorite.

I know it may not be fair to have more than one favorite place, but, for each of these, I'd definitely go back!

## **DO YOU GET MORE SATISFACTION FROM CREATING OR DESIGNING SPACES YOURSELF, OR FROM TEACHING OTHERS TO DO SO?**

I am somewhat impatient with explaining, and it can be tough for me to get my thoughts across as to what I want to be done – to express my vision. We all know that it sometimes is easier to do it yourself. Therefore, I'd say designing is more fulfilling and not so frustrating to me.

## **WHAT HAS PROVEN TO BE THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'VE EVER RECEIVED?**

KISS-Keep it Simple Sam (or Stupid) OR Keep it Stupid Simple. This is appropriate for so many aspects of our lives!

## **WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF SERVING ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RCHS?**

Wow, this may be the most difficult question to answer. I was honored in 2016 to be asked to serve on the board. I have met so many wonderful people – other board members, RCHS members, participants at events, and event volunteers. They are essential to creating/developing and hosting the quality events offered by RCHS. They impress me, and serving as a board member has opened my eyes as to how lucky I am!

# We're proud to support the Tallman Arts Festival.

At RSM, we're pleased to support **the Tallman Arts Festival**. We believe that the arts are a vital part of every community, and we're committed to helping them flourish.

[rsmus.com](https://rsmus.com)

**THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD**  
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING





# Not Your Same Old Tallman Tours!

By Terri Holznecht, RCHS Board Member and *Final* Editor



When the Lincoln-Tallman House opened for tours this season, visitors discovered new interactive experiences, freshly curated rooms, and more stories about life and customs in the Victorian era.

From playing the piano or sketching a vase in the parlor, to lounging in the library while knitting, reading or playing a board game, activities are designed to help visitors feel what it was like to live in the mid-1800s Tallman home.

“We want visitors to walk into the house and fully experience what life was like in this Victorian mansion,” said Tim Maahs, Executive Director of the Rock County Historical Society.

“Take a seat, touch the artifacts, read a book. While tours will still be led by interpreters, guests set their own pace and, for the most part, choose how to spend their time in the house.”

Several rooms have been freshly curated this year, including a parlor in which women would have gathered, often sketching or sewing. The drawing room, where men would have retired, now highlights artifacts such as taxidermy and weaponry, and artwork of a masculine nature.

The Traditional Tour is one of two tours running through the season. Another is the Help Wanted Tour, designed for people to learn about Victorian life through the eyes of a servant. This

interactive tour experience encourages guests to don an apron and join in a variety of 19th-century chores and activities.

Tours, which last approximately one hour, run Wednesdays through Sundays until September 1st. For detailed hours and prices, please visit [www.rchs.us](http://www.rchs.us). Tickets are available at the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum & Visitor Center on the RCHS campus, 426 N. Jackson Street in Janesville.

“Take a seat, touch the artifacts, read a book. While tours will still be led by interpreters, guests set their own pace and, for the most part, choose how to spend their time in the house.”



## Celebrating 62 years of Art and More!

Sixty-two years ago, the Tallman Arts Festival began as an ice cream social. Today it is a celebration of local arts, including pottery, painting, photography, music, and more! Join us at the RCHS campus on **Sunday, August 4th, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.** to shop for that perfect piece of art or grab a drink and enjoy the music.

As in years past, the festival's main attraction is the wide variety of artists who will display and sell their wares. There's much more, too! Enjoy a variety of food, bloody marys and beer. An eclectic range of musical acts will take the stage throughout the day. Families, bring the kids! Children are invited to make their own artistic creations in the free kids' area.

At the Lincoln-Tallman House, travel back in time to the civil war era, as the home is transformed into a civil war hospital.

That's just a sampling of the day's events. For more information, visit [www.rchs.us/tallmanarts](http://www.rchs.us/tallmanarts). Mark your calendar for August 4th and experience all the fun!



### Community Need

A portion of the proceeds from this year's Tallman Arts Festival will benefit Art with Heart, which supports youth in Rock County through the sale of art created by young artists. TAF also supports the programs and historical buildings at the Rock County Historical Society.



### CIVIL ENGINEERING

- TRANSPORTATION
- MUNICIPAL
- STORMWATER
- WASTEWATER
- SITE DEVELOPMENT
- GRANT WRITING
- SURVEYING & MAPPING
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



For over 100 years we have been listening to and understanding our client's needs. Our goal is to help you turn your ideas into **reality**.

### LAND SURVEYING



- ALTA/NSPS Land Title Survey
- Survey (Plat of Survey)
- Subdivision Platting
- Certified Survey Map (CSM)
- Construction Staking
- FEMA Elevation Certificates
- Topographical Survey
- Rezone Map
- Drone Mapping

[www.rhbatterman.com](http://www.rhbatterman.com)

Beloit, WI

608.365.4464

# Welcome

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



RCHS new board members attended the RCHS Annual Meeting in April. Pictured from left to right: Stephanie Losching, Terri Holznecht, Robert Spoden, Angie Denewellis, Genise Brandt, Sam Bomkamp. Not pictured: Dan Emery.

### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BECOME A PART OF THE RCHS BOARD?

*I chose to become a part of the RCHS Board as I am born and raised in Janesville, Wisconsin, and want to ensure that the rich history of this County is preserved and its story is told. Moving away for twelve years and returning to further my legal career as an attorney, I realized just how special and unique Rock County is. I care deeply about Rock County's preservation of its historic buildings and artifacts and hope to assist in stimulating interest in the public surrounding the complex heritage of Rock County. I look forward to serving on the Rock County Historical Society Board and adding to its already established dynamic team.*

~ Stephanie R. Losching ~

*After being involved with RCHS as a volunteer and in a marketing capacity for the past four years, I've seen first-hand how much this organization does to capture, preserve, and share the history of Rock County. I'm impressed with how the staff and Board work to constantly evolve the many exhibits, events and tours. The passion is contagious!*

~ Terri Holznecht ~

*Rock County is full of so much local history with stories yet to be told. I am honored to learn and promote that history by being a part of the Rock County Historical Society's Board of Directors.*

~ Robert Spoden ~

*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 ~

*I was interested in joining the board because I believe the organization's mission is of great importance to our community. I also feel the vision for the campus and being a part of bringing that vision to the community is exciting!*

~ Genise Brandt ~

*I believe our journey is much easier when we learn from the past, live in the present and prepare for the future. The Rock County Historical Society helps us do just that, and I am honored to be a part of this organization's Board of Directors.*

~ Angela Denewellis ~



# RCHS • RCGS EVENT CALENDAR

## RCHS EVENTS

### AUGUST 4

#### 62nd Annual Tallman Arts Festival

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Rock County Historical Society campus,  
440 N. Jackson St., Janesville

\$5.

[www.rchs.us/tallmanart](http://www.rchs.us/tallmanart)

### AUGUST 16

#### Plants Aren't Your Friends: The RCHS Poison Garden Premiere

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Lincoln-Tallman House,  
440 N. Jackson St., Janesville

Free. RSVP encouraged

[www.rchs.us/events](http://www.rchs.us/events) or call 608-756-4509

### SEPTEMBER 8

#### Sunday Dinner: A Farm to Table Feast

Rock County Historical Society grounds,  
440 N. Jackson St., Janesville

\$40 early-bird tickets beginning July 22nd.  
\$50 beginning August 5th.

More info coming soon at [www.rchs.us](http://www.rchs.us)

### SEPTEMBER 28

#### Pokémon Go Historical Walk

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Hedberg Public Library,  
316 S. Main St., Janesville

Free

[www.rchs.us/events](http://www.rchs.us/events) or call 608-756-4509

## Become a Member of the Rock County Historical Society

Enjoy many benefits while  
supporting RCHS:

- Free tours of the Lincoln-Tallman House
- A subscription to the *Finial* magazine.
- Discounts in the RCHS Archives, with hundreds of photos, records, maps and more.
- Discounts in the RCHS gift shop.
- And more!

For more information or to join,  
VISIT [www.rchs.us/membership](http://www.rchs.us/membership),  
CALL 608-756-4509 Ext. 300,  
or EMAIL [membership@rchs.us](mailto:membership@rchs.us).



## RCGS EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 14

#### All-Day Seminar, 4 Topics: DNA, Google Alerts, Archives

#### Research "Gold," & Succession Planning for your Research

8:30 a.m. registration.;  
speakers 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Allen Hall, UW Rock County,  
2909 Kellogg Ave., Janesville

RCGS members: \$25 (\$30 non-member).  
Includes parking, handouts & box lunch

Register at: [www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers](http://www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers)

### OCTOBER 1

#### Spooky Stories Vol 1: The Salem Witch Trials

Presentation by Tom Skinne

6:30 p.m.

Tallman Carriage House (upper level),  
450 N. Jackson Street, Janesville

Free and Open to the Public

[www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers](http://www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers)

### OCTOBER 17

#### Leaving for the New World: German Emigration Documents

#### OKTOBERFEST - mit bratwurst und bieren!

Presentation by Antje Petty, Assoc.  
Dir. Max Kade Inst.

6:30 p.m.

Tallman Carriage House (upper level),  
450 N. Jackson Street, Janesville

Free and Open to the Public

[www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers](http://www.rcgswi.org/events--speakers)

## 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](http://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.



**Rock County Historical Society**

426 N. Jackson Street  
Janesville, WI 53548

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
Paid  
Janesville WI  
Permit No. 354

Welcome to an  
*Exciting Season of  
Events and Exhibits*  
at RCHS!



# TALLMAN ARTS FESTIVAL



**Join the Fun at the 62nd Annual  
Arts Festival!**

**Sunday, August 4th • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Enjoy a day of art, food and drink, live music,  
children's activities, and more!

**On the grounds of the  
Rock County Historical Society  
440 N. Jackson Street, Janesville**



## SAVE THE DATE

**For Sunday Dinner: A Farm to Table Feast!**

Break bread with friends. Savor fresh food donated by  
local growers and prepared by professional chefs. Help  
us honor Rock County's agricultural community!

**Sunday, September 8th**

**Outdoors on the RCHS Campus  
440 N. Jackson Street, Janesville**

Get your early-bird tickets beginning July 22nd and  
**SAVE!** Tickets will be available at [www.rchs.us](http://www.rchs.us)

