



CABIN CHRONICLES

Newsletter of The Reedsburg Area Historical Society Pioneer Log Village

Winter 2020 Edition

Events 2020:

**Reedsburg Area
Historical Society**

**Chicken BBQ:
Sunday of Memorial
Day Weekend:
May 24th**

**Heritage Day
Rendezvous
Fourth Weekend in
August:
August 28th-30th**

**May through
September 2020
Prisoners of War
Traveling Exhibit**



President's Voice...

Hello, Members and Reedsburg Historical Society Supporters!

The Reedsburg Area Historical Society just finished another busy summer! Our two largest events of the year were the Chicken BBQ in May and the Heritage Day Rendezvous in August. Both were very successful and together drew over 1,300 visitors to the Log Village.

The Society has also received some grants to help us succeed in our quest to produce future exhibits and protect present artifacts. We have been developing grant applications with Matt Carter, a Reedsburg native and presently Executive Director of the Dakota County Historical Society in Minnesota. This has been a learning experience and very positive, as The Wisconsin Humanities Council awarded the Reedsburg Area Historical Society a \$10,000 grant for our upcoming exhibit "Prisoners of War: Filling the Labor Shortage on the Homefront." This will be a traveling exhibit, expected to be presented throughout Sauk County and the Midwest. We also received a \$875.00 grant from the Sauk County Greater Community Foundation to help us with bringing this history into the classroom.

The Reedsburg Arts Committee awarded the Society with a \$2,600 grant so that we can begin working on a comprehensive Claire Briggs exhibit and to have his original artwork framed with archival materials. The artwork was previously donated by Gordon Emery.

A new exhibit that is being planned is a traveling trunk that can be taken to area schools, senior centers, meetings, and other presentations. Inside the trunk will be a multitude of artifacts and documents which will present and explain the history of our area and facilitate hands-on learning about our history.

By far our most exciting plans are the long-awaited picnic shelter with restrooms and running water. It is very important to the Society's Board of Directors that the building is paid for before construction begins. So far, we have raised \$12,500 through memberships and business donations and fundraising. We have also been approved through the Sauk County Extension Arts and Culture committee to receive \$15,000 from the 2020 county budget. Many service group has donated towards the project: American Legion has also donated \$9,000, Reedsburg Lions Club \$500, Reedsburg Knights of Columbus \$1000, Reedsburg Masonic Temple \$1,000, and 1,000 from Everything's Possible Foundation, Inc. For a total of \$39,000 so far. Our goal is to have complete funding, \$70,000, and construction to begin the Spring of 2020. If you or your business or service group is interested in donating toward this project, please contact us!

I look forward to seeing you around the village!

Craig Braunschweig, President



alamy stock photo

Clare A Briggs was born in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, on August 5, 1875. Briggs lived in Reedsburg until his early teen years. Briggs became one of the nation's best-known cartoonists in the 1920s, which were often used in local scenes in his popular series, "When a Feller Needs a Friend," "The Old Swimming Hole," and "Skin-nay." These cartoons appeared in newspapers throughout the United States. Briggs died on January 3, 1930, in New York City from pneumonia at the age of 54.

In the late 1970s, there was a huge push to educate the people of Reedsburg. Briggs, and his connection in Reedsburg, Mr. Gordon Emery, worked hard to the State of Wisconsin in creating a historical marker out at the Reedsburg Area Historical Society grounds and to have a Sauk County Historical marker in Webb Park in Reedsburg. The Clare Briggs exhibit is on display at Reedsburg City Hall.



2019 Randy Wells Memorial Scholarship Recipient: Bailey Hanson

Reedsburg Area Historical Society gave a scholarship to Bailey Hanson. The scholarship is in honor of a friend of the Reedsburg Historical Society and the log village, Randy Wells. Wells was also the first education director and a member of the board of directors. Presenting the scholarship Barb Wells and Reedsburg Area Historical Society Board President, Craig Braunschweig.



The Bob Reed Memorial Schoolhouse

The schoolhouse was rededicated in memory of long-time member and historian, Bob Reed, who passed away in February 2019. He was a teacher and principal in the Reedsburg School District for many years and very active at the Log Village well into his 90's. Bob's family, including his first great-grandson, came to share memories and honor him. One of Bob's last contributions to the village were the tour guides, who are in constant use, especially for grade school tours.



**Reedsburg Area
Historical Society Board
of Directors:**

President:

Craig Braunschweig

Vice President:

Andy Van Sickle

Treasurer:

Tammy Werner

Secretary:

Carrie Hanson

At Large:

Lou Kirt

Becky Hovde

Terry Kruger

Edith Laridean

LaVern Penberthy

Scott Klang

Education Coordinator:

Pam Tourdot

**Reedsburg Area
Historical Society**

Genealogy Department:

The Reedsburg Area Historical Society is working on creating a genealogy research department. If you have any family information you are willing to have scanned or donated please contact us at rahspv@gmail.com or 608-415-7870. This information will be used from research and if family members contact us in the future.

	<p>REEDSBURG AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY</p> <p>Chicken Barbecue</p> <p>Serving begins at 11 am until SOLD OUT</p> <p>1/2 Chicken Dinner \$10.00 Carry Outs Available</p> <p>Located 3 miles east of Reedsburg on Hwy 23/33</p> <p>May 24, 2020</p>
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If you are interested in helping out or making pies please contact Craig Braunschweig at 608-415-7870 or booksonwisconsin@gmail.com.

Heritage Day Rendezvous

Heritage Day Rendezvous will be held on August 28-30th in 2020. There were about 30 camps in attendance in 2019. Reenactors will dress in traditional clothing and use tools such as cast iron pans for cooking, to show what life was like during that time period. It is a great way to show people how everyday life was run back then. The camps will be spread throughout Pioneer Log Cabin Village for the public to visit the reenactors and ask them questions about life during the 1800s. The event is family-friendly and attendees always take an interest. Andy VanSickle is the event chair, and if you are wanting to be a camper for the event or want to help out, you can contact him at 608-524-4245.

<p>Can you help?</p> <p>**Do you have World War II items or any Reedsburg POW photos or stories to share?</p> <p>**Do you have information on Claire Briggs or any items you are willing to donate or share with us?</p> <p>If so, please contact the Reedsburg Area Historical Society at rahspv@gmail.com</p>
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If you are looking to donate toward the building project or would like us to speak to your group and organization, please contact Craig Braunschweig at rahspv@gmail.com or 608-415-7870

Some More 2019 Highlights.....

We partnered with the Reedsburg Public Library and Sauk County Historical Society to have speaker programs come to the Reedsburg Public Library. Patty Lowe and Janice Rice spoke about the Ho-Chunk Nation history; Matt Carter talked about the history of baseball and the Reedsburg WWII POW camp; Michael Stevens who talked about Pioneers of Wisconsin; and Kathleen Ernst who talked about the backstory of her Chloe Ellefson book series. If anyone has any ideas on guest speakers or program topics, please email us at rahspv@gmail.com.

How to become a member!

Memberships run from January to December.

_____ \$15 Individual membership

_____ \$25 Family Membership

_____ \$50 Non-Profit Membership

_____ \$100 Business Membership

_____ \$250 Lifetime Membership

For information about becoming a member please contact us at rahspv@gmail.com or call 608-495-3499.

If you are looking to donate an item please contact Andy Van Sickle at 608-524-4245.

Reedsburg POW Camp During WWII By Matt Carter



On December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked and began the dominoes that ultimately brought the United States into World War II. As soldiers were being brought into service, it left a large labor shortage across the country. Men and women were taken from their jobs and homes and sent overseas to fight. To offset a small part of the labor shortage, the United States accepted prisoners of war (POW) that were captured by their allies. By the end of the war, there were approximately 600,000 POWs spread throughout the country.

Reedsburg, Wisconsin was one of 30+ locations that hosted branch camps and utilized POWs to offset the labor shortage. Where the current Webb Middle School stands today used to be a small tented community, held in by wood snow fencing, of POWs. During the summer of 1945, more than 100 German POWs worked in neighboring fields, canning factories, and other industries, alongside the residents of Reedsburg.

In May 2020, in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII, Reedsburg Area Historical Society will create a new exhibit called “Prisoners of War: Filling the Labor Shortage on the Homefront.” Funded by the Wisconsin Humanities Council. The exhibit will explore life in POW camps throughout the Midwest, with a special focus on Camp Reedsburg. After it is hosted at the Pioneer Log Village, it will be made available to travel to other locations throughout the Midwest. We are currently in talks with Reedsburg Public Library, Sauk County Historical Society, Baraboo Public Library and other historical societies and libraries to host the exhibit after our run has been completed.