



Cabin Chronicles 2014

Newsletter of The Reedsburg Area Historical Society Pioneer Log Village

President's Voice: A Look Back/A Look Ahead, Craig Braunschweig

Fall 2014

Special points of interest:

November 11: Fall Annual Meeting:

Board seeks approval of updated by-laws and member code of conduct.

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Wow! Another summer has come and gone at the village! This year has been a busy one for the Reedsburg Area Historical Society and Pioneer Log Village. Many guests and volunteers made their way to the village this past season. I would mostly like to thank long-time member **Bob Reed** for returning to serve at the village this summer and **Monica Liegel**, who worked at the Village almost every weekend all summer long. It's an inspiration to have so many board members and past board members return to the village time and again to help out during weekends, special tours, and other events. You should notice that we have two new board members joining us: Linda Champagne (also serving as secretary) and Edith Laridean. I thank Dave Estes and Sue Teska, who stepped down from the board this summer, for their service to the village. They are both still active members and ALWAYS welcome at the village.

Enough about summer 2014. **Summer 2015** is a very



The RAHS Board of Directors meets at the Chamber building. Current directors (top left, clockwise) Monica Liegel, Tammy Werner, Jarlath Riggs, Sarah Riedel, Andy Van Sickle, David Glesne (behind camera), President Craig Braunschweig, Phyllis Both, Linda Champagne, Becky Hovde.

important one for the village as we celebrate our **50th Anniversary**. We are planning many big events to celebrate our golden year. A video tour is in production by Bill Schuette, featuring the likes of Vern Kruse, Bob Reed, Alice Farber, Dale and Marcie Thompson, and more village stars. Also in 2015, the new Historical Society website should be up and running! The annual Chicken BBQ the Sunday of Memorial day weekend kicks off the season,

followed by a Civil War reenactment the weekend of June 5-7. Dale and Marcie Thompson have been talking with Historical Timekeepers for a few years, and we finally made it work out! Your board of directors has many other events in the hopper that will be announced in the Winter Newsletter!

Questions? Comments? Concerns?: feel free to give me a call at 608-415-7870 or send me a email at booksonwisconsin@gmail.com

V.P.'s Perspective: The Magic of History at The Village, Becky Hovde



This season at the Pioneer Log Village has gone very quickly – but it has been a great time of learning, touring, teaching, and working together as a team. I have especially enjoyed seeing “the boys” – Vern and Bob – and learning from them about history, listening to some very exciting life experiences, and simply enjoying their insight and friendship. Vern and Bob are just two of the people who were part of the village in the beginning and their story is so very important for the future. These original “settlers” of the Pioneer Log Village will be honored next year during the 50th anniversary celebration!

In all of the hustle and bustle of cleaning, learning to work with one another, leading groups through the village, planning events, and creating exhibits, it is sometimes very easy to forget the magic that is present at the village. I was reminded of that the day before Heritage Day while getting things ready for visitors and demonstrators. As I made my 5th trip back to the schoolhouse, I happened to look up and see a Monarch butterfly go by, a bird land on a branch, and saw how the sun was hitting some early turning leaves. The tension leaves your shoulders, your step slows, your eyes and ears are treated to sounds and sights very special. Every time you come to the village, you also can experience this release. Just

take a breath, slow down, and enter the past.....compliments of the many people who dreamed the village and then made the village. And you will then understand how this place gets right into your very soul, restores your soul, and is waiting to welcome you back.

Next season, I hope to have some projects ready to go, like planting butterfly, bird, and bee friendly plants on the trails and placing birdhouses, activities that adults and kids enjoy, and plenty of time to just enjoy our jewel – the Log Village. Becky.



Member Code of Conduct and By-Law Updates to be Considered at Annual Meeting

The membership will be asked to vote on a new code of conduct and some revisions to the by-laws for the Society in order to “keep up with the times” and to set the stage for the next 50 years. Changes are as follows:

The **Code of Ethics** states that the mission of RAHS is to foster appreciation for the history of the Reedsburg Area, to be responsible and transparent in its stewardship of resources and the artifact collections, and puts forth a conflict of interest clause. This code will ensure that the collections and the village remain protected; all decisions will be discussed at Board meetings and voted upon; and decisions will be based on what is best for the village, not on any one person or group

By-Law Article I amended to add the individual lifetime membership and associated dues.

Article II amended to reflect that expenditures or usage of the village must be voted on by the full Board and passed by majority vote. Also allows for Board members to vote electronically (via email) if necessary.

Article V amended to allow for staggering of officer board terms so that the terms do not all expire at the same time. This will allow the board to function smoothly and give time for new board members to learn the ropes. The article also will allow for a special meeting for officer elections to be adjusted as necessary, and also allows for members to use mail-in or email ballots when necessary when the membership is called to vote.

Article VI allows flexibility in scheduling the annual membership meeting and includes email ballots for voting purposes. These are meant to help the members continue to vote even when

they are unable to attend due to any reason. All members have value, and we want to hear your voice even if you are out of town, ill, or for any reason can't attend. officers.

Remember: all members can attend monthly board meetings. Items of interest or concern to you can be added to the agenda by contacting a board member. Please do come out to the village, attend a meeting, or call or email one of the board members to stay informed of Village goings on. This is YOUR history and we want to record it, share it, and enjoy it with you. We value our members!



RAHS Structures and Spaces 2014 with Andy Van Sickle



Andy Van Sickle, Director of Grounds, assists with pulling together a display at Badger Steam and Gas Show

Significant changes took place at the village this summer, many of them in the museum building. The south end has been cleared of odds and ends and the Native American collection found a new home in display cases near the military room. No longer

hidden, this should allow visitors to take in and appreciate the many priceless relics in our collection. Elmer Krueger's living room display has a new home in the museum in a booth on the north end. The new digs allows for better display and lighting of this collection and display of some Badger Theater items. Next door to Elmer, visitors will find a booth about the Woolen Mill. David Glesne has begun the

process of piecing together Woolen Mill items and stories in order to pay homage to this important piece of Reedsburg history.

The Ligman Cabin has been emptied of its display cases and displays. It is slowly being turned back over into a cabin. A working stove has been installed and, in time, we hope to use this cabin as an interactive showplace.

Tin roofing has been completed on all of the buildings. This is a great project to have completed.

We now have a storage area at the east end of Sanders. A number of items have been moved from other buildings and carefully placed in storage. This storage space has come in handy as new booths have been restored, remodeled, or removed.

Treasury—Tammy Werner

New RAHS member Tammy Werner serves as our treasurer.

She has enjoyed her first season with the Society, meeting a lot of very interesting people. Tammy helped rearrange a number of displays and helped launch our endeavor to systematically catalogue our collection. Tammy has been a true asset to the RAHS as she has taken part in almost every fundraiser. Tammy especially enjoyed the visit by the Paranormal Investigators of Sauk County. Tammy looks forward to 2015 and all the excitement of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations.



PR—Keeping the Community Connected with Sarah Riedel



This past year at the Pioneer Log Village has been a time of preparation for the projects ahead, and a time to expand into new venues to attract more attention to this historic treasure we help preserve. For me personally, I have enjoyed taking an active part in the advertising and media, especially through our Facebook page. Throughout the year we have made many new friends and a lot of work has been accomplished.

We started our year with the annual Chicken BBQ, and sold delicious chicken and mouthwatering pie to many cheerful customers! We all give as much of our time to the village as possible. This year I helped to plan and create the display for the Badger Steam and Gas Show. We recreated a pioneer kitchen complete with a table set for dinner, and lots of artifacts that the pioneer families would have used. As the summer went on, the Village had a booth outside of my store for Reedikulus Day, and we had fun selling delicious

pie that was generously donated by our members. Recently, Heritage Day wrapped up and it was so nice to see how our board members each brought a special element to the day. I arranged for the spinner in one of the cabins and was glad to see the joy she brought to many of our visitors. Being a part of these events has really proven to me that the best things in life are the simple things!

 Follow us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/ReedsburgLogVillage



Reedikulus Day is always a great time for RAHS to connect with community members. Our hot dog and pie sales in front of Antiques on Main is a prime example of how we can connect with prospective



Great Garden Goodness



Sauk County's Master Gardeners, under the tutelage of

board member Phyllis Both continue to spruce up the Log Village grounds. 2014 saw the addition of victory gardens reflecting the garden plots created during times of military conflict in the U.S. Informative signs explain the meaning and importance of these gardens.

The front of the museum building got a little face lift with the addition of old metal wagon wheels and sunflowers.

Our green-thumb gurus have plans in the works to create new gardens in the school yard. The little log cabin is now in place in front of the school; decrepit outhouses have been removed; and the remaining old-world porta potty will be fixed up for some flora fun. Phyllis wants hollyhocks to adorn the face

of the outhouse, and a children's garden will take up residence on school grounds. A healthy dose of elephant manure will be added to the sad soil in hopes of inspiring magnificent growth down the road.

During Heritage Day, the Master Gardeners sold produce in an effort to raise funds to pay for a barn quilt that will adorn the end of one of our big buildings.

"Throughout the year we have made many new friends and a lot of work has been accomplished."



The Pioneer Log Village assembled this display for the annual Badger Steam and Gas Show.

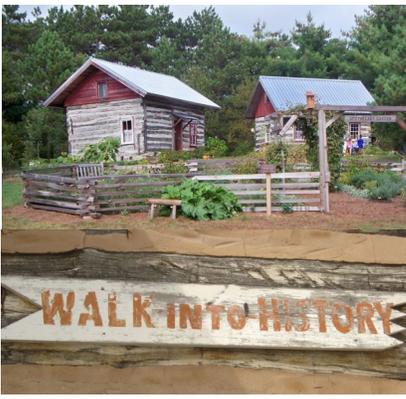
Thanks to these Donors

- Spencer P. Davis**, Ironton: Oak Display Case
- Cheryl Cummings**: Madison, WI: 1920s wedding dress
- Frank and Gerri Craig**, Reedsburg: Hanksraft Egg Coddler
- Harland and Pat Steinhorst**, La Valle: 8' lighted, white display case
- Connie Sainsbury**, Reedsburg: Dick & Jane books
- Jeff Seering**, Reedsburg: Times Press Word Press
- Antiques on Main**, Reedsburg: 4 full tubes of 4 different kinds of vintage milk caps from the Modern Dairy Reedsburg
- Lavern Penberthy**, Coloma: time, energy, work, patience, ideas
- Dave Estes**, Reedsburg: Donation of time and talents with bricks, trees, and organs
- Steve Farber**, Loganville: Van Brunt Wagon made in Horicon, WI

Andrew Clark, Reedsburg: time, energy, Bobcat for applying Feng Shui arts to the outhouses and other objects too cumbersome to move by hand.



Lavern Penberthy demonstrates old-school corn shelling at Heritage Day. Kids of all ages loved this hands-on display.



Reedsburg Area Historical Society Pioneer Log Village

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Log Village relics have great potential for becoming some of the pieces of "Our History in Objects."



Wisconsin's Collaborative Public History Project

Do you know of an object that you think is important to our state's history?

"Wisconsin 101: Our History in Objects" is a project in which everyone in our state can participate. A website and Wisconsin Public Radio and other outlets will share these stories and objects upon collection. It costs us nothing, helps us record our artifacts and stories, and enables us to connect with schools, families, and other organizations. Let's get the Reedsburg area known! Some current ideas: Native American collection, bootjacks collection, Clare Briggs collection. What do you think? What do you have at home that could be of interest to State of Wisconsin history buffs?

Here are the guidelines:

1. The object connects or illustrates an important part of Wisconsin history, traditions, or local identity.
2. It has a known user or maker and has a good story that makes it special. (I always say "it's all in the stories!")
3. It can be photographed or scanned to be shown on a website.

Here's how you can help RAHS participate:

Send us your ideas! Email to pioneerlogvillage@yahoo.com OR write up and mail to RAHS, PO Box 405, Reedsburg 53959 OR call the village phone and leave a message so we can set up a time to talk about your idea, (608) 495-3499.

We have so many wonderful objects at the village – maybe you have the story connected to some of them. We would love to "put your name" on the story and have it told throughout Wisconsin.