



Old Sauk Trails

March/April 2009

William Canfield Day April 7, 2009

THE ninth annual William H. Canfield Day will be held on April 7, 2009, and will mark the 190th birthday of Sauk County's first historian. The meeting and celebration will take place at the Sauk County Historical Museum at 7 p.m. Mr. Canfield will make an appearance this year and will speak on the topic of Sauk County during the Civil War. Sauk County sent 1,646 men to fight in the Civil War and 285 of them died of wounds received in battle or from disease. Sauk County soldiers served in all campaigns of the war including Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Atlanta.

During the evening the Society will present its annual William H. Canfield History Award to honor the work of a present day local historian who displays the same passion for history as Canfield. Society members are asked to nominate a local historian for the award by filling out the nomination form inside this issue (page 7). The deadline for nominations is April 1. Previous recipients of the Canfield Award include: Erhart Mueller, Kenneth Lange, Phyllis Dearborn, Dr. Bob Dewel, Carol Sorg, Mark Tully, and Joe Ward. Birthday cake and refreshments will round out the evening. The public is invited to attend.

Lecture Series Continues

THE Sauk County Historical Society is continuing its yearlong exhibit on Sauk County at War. In conjunction with this exhibit, we are presenting additional lectures that are free to the public.

The March 26th lecture will highlight the Impact of Badger Ordinance on the Community, and will be presented by Michael Goc, veteran print and radio journalist and author of over 70 books on Wisconsin history.

On April 25th the topic will be Brothers at War, that will reveal the true story of two brothers, one who fought for the Allies, the other for the Axis during WWII. The presenter will be Devin Draeger, who recently returned from deployment in Iraq.

Our June 25th lecture will be on the Last Flight of the Passenger Pigeon: insights into a Bird and Its Extinction. The skies of Sauk County were once blackened with these birds as they flocked by the millions, destroying farmer's crops. The presenter will be Mr. Kelly Bleich, environmental historian, artist and author.

Coming Events

March 26, 2009, 6:30 p.m. Lecture at Badger Army Ammunition Plant. Michael Goc will speak on the "Impact of Badger Ordnance on the Community."

April 7, 7:00 p.m. Canfield Day, at the Sauk County Historical Museum.

April 25, 6:30 p.m. at Sauk County Historical Museum. Devin Draeger will speak on "Brothers at War."

June 2, Sauk County Historical Society Summer Picnic

June 25, 6:30 p.m. at Sauk County Historical Museum. Mr. Kelly Bleich will speak on the "Last Flight of the Passenger Pigeon."

June 28, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Baraboo Walnut Hill Cemetery Tour. Re-enactors will portray some of the notable individuals buried at the various sites, and provide visitors with interesting details of that person's life.

History in a Drum Beat

By Curator, Sue Teska

THE last two months have brought about tremendous change in the museum. Many of the exhibits have been reworked and artifacts that had previously been in storage are now on exhibit. Cases have been rearranged and new labels added.

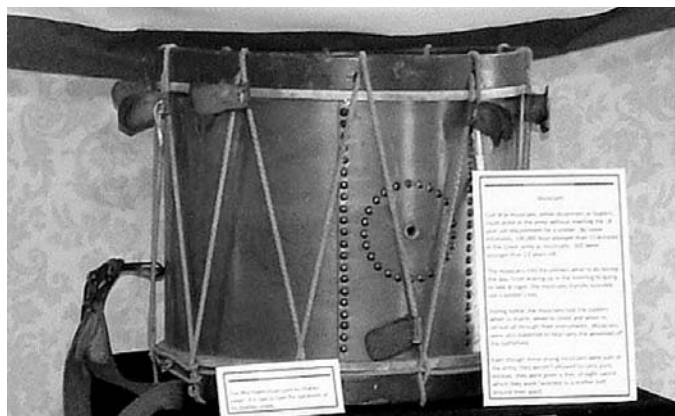
One of my favorite artifacts on display is the Civil War snare drum of Charles Junge. Inside, it is believed to have the signatures of his fellow soldiers. One soldier, Reedsburg resident Frank Pettis, like Junge, was a young Civil War musician who enlisted in the Union Army at the age of eleven as a drummer boy. He began military service at the age of twelve, serving from February 22, 1862, to August 9, 1865.

Musicians signaled the soldiers what to do during their day, from waking up in the morning to going to bed at night. During battle the sounds from their instruments told the soldiers when to march, when to shoot, and when to retreat. Musicians were expected to carry the wounded off the battlefield.

Pettis was present for every battle his unit was engaged in, from Suffolk, Virginia, and New Bern, North Carolina, to the sieges of Richmond and Petersburg. After the war, Pettis returned to Reedsburg and helped in his father's tailor shop. When he was 20, he became a miller.

Pettis was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and the Reedsburg Drum Corps until his death on August 15, 1918. At his funeral the Reedsburg Drum Corps, with muffled drums, preceded the hearse to Greenwood Cemetery where he was buried.

If you want to learn more fascinating stories about famous local residents, stop by for a visit. You may be surprised at what we have!



Belle Case La Follette's Birthday Celebration April 21, 2009



ON April 21 at 6:30, the Sauk County Historical Society is hosting a celebration for Belle Case La Follette's 150th birthday.

That evening the Society will host a celebration at the museum with speakers, refreshments and picture postcards hand stamped with a postal cancellation honoring Belle.

Belle Case La Follette was born on a farm in Juneau County in 1859 and raised in Baraboo. She was a teacher in Spring Green and Baraboo before marrying her college classmate Robert La Follette. An outstanding speech writer and public speaker in college, she used those talents to fight for social change.

Belle's accomplishments are impressive, even more so when considered against the role of women at the time. She was the first woman to graduate from the University of Wisconsin Law School; the first in her family to attend college in a time when women were not often finishing high school; a lecturer on women's issues and politics; a political advisor to her husband and her two sons who were US Senators and Wisconsin Governors; a woman's suffragist; and co-founder of the Women's Peace party which grew into the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - an organization still active in peace initiatives around the world today.

We hope you join us on April 21 and hear how Belle's impact has affected political issues still with us today.

Man Mound

By Rob Nurre

FOR the past several months the Man Mound has lain under a blanket of snow as it has for some 1,000 winters since this magnificent, and mysterious, earthwork was first created. Although hundreds of interested supporters helped mark the centennial of Man Mound's preservation this past August, few have visited the park this winter and it is mostly seen by people driving by on Man Mound Road.

While things may have been quiet at Man Mound Park, there is still work to be done to meet the commitment to preserve this important archeological and cultural site. Recently the Sauk County Historical Society received a grant from the Kohler Foundation to help fund needed historical research to aid in developing a plan for archeological research and future management of the site. The current project will gather all the known maps, photographs and written descriptions of the Man Mound. This resource will be used in making decisions about what future archeological research may be needed to better understand the Man Mound. It will also provide information for use in signs and brochures to interpret the site for visitors.

The Sauk County Historical Society's new Man Mound Committee is currently being organized. It will include representatives from the three organizations that first preserved the Man Mound a century ago: the Sauk County Historical Society, the Wisconsin Archeological Society and the General Federation of Women's Clubs-

Wisconsin; to these groups will be added representatives of other interested groups including the Ho-Chunk Nation, the State Archeologist's Office, the UW- Baraboo, the Sauk County Parks Department, local government and neighbors. An additional group of interested individuals and supporters will also be formed to assist in the on-going management of the Man Mound Park. Among the initial plans for the coming year are a detailed topographic survey of the mound and an interpretive panel explaining the on-going research and preservation efforts.

Just as 2008 marked the centennial of the preservation of the Man Mound, 2009, also holds an important anniversary. July 23rd, 2009, will mark the 150th anniversary of William H. Canfield's original survey of the Man Mound that made it known to the modern world. A commemoration of that event is being planned for Saturday, July 25th, 2009, at Man Mound Park.



Rob Nurre portrays early surveyor Wm. Canfield, shown here at last summer's Man Mound celebration.

Society Receives Bequests

THE Sauk County Historical Society has recently received bequests from the estates of two former members, Wayne Hatz and Robert Johnson. Hatz was born in the Sauk Prairie area and was active in several local historical societies including the Badger History Group and the Sauk County Historical Society. Johnson was born in Baraboo and enjoyed many hobbies including making fretwork clocks. Through the thoughtful planning of these two members the Society can continue its mission to collect, preserve and share Sauk County history. The Board of Directors has decided to use the funds to further renovations of the interior at the Sauk County History Center

Please consider adding the Sauk County Historical

Society to your estate plans as well. The Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so there may be important tax benefits (consult your financial advisor).

Old Sauk Trails • March/April 2009

The Sauk County Historical Society publishes *Old Sauk Trails* six times each year.
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www.saukcountyhistory.org

Executive Director's Report

by Orris Smith

LOTS and lots of coins made up the museum's bank deposit this week, all donated by two busloads of Sauk-Prairie second-graders. The students were clearly proud to deposit weighty envelopes into a basket we hastily rounded up. Our three-person museum staff thanked them all, and then led the group outside the building for the start of the day's education session.

The youngsters rotated through chilly sessions of historic greats like "Fox and Goose", "Graces", and "Simon Says", games that are fun without any of today's electronic parts. We've been consistently successful at getting kids to enjoy their visit by starting with these activities that allow them to release lots of energy. Those chosen as a "fox" chased the "geese" around paths we shoveled on the yard, and sticks launched hoops all around our front porch. Eventually, "Simon" said to stop jumping up and down and proceed inside the museum for a special tour.

Great manners were on display for the hours the group visited. It is often amazing what good questions the young learners come up with. Through our preparations and their inquisitive minds, they all soaked up plenty of knowledge while at the museum. Without fail, every question followed a raised hand and the patience to be called upon first. That is a tour guide's dream, and was very impressive.

Favorite exhibit pieces included the kitchen stove, wash boards, silver fox pelts, Civil War guns, taxidermy animals, and the toy drawer of course. New versions of the old "Jacob's Ladder", a chalk slate, cord-propelled wooden top, and ball and jacks fill the drawer and are available daily for our younger visitors to experience. Parents and grandparents are sometimes found on the floor showing kids their slightly rusty skills.

When asked what their favorite part of the tour was, "everything" was the most popular answer. That's great, because maybe that means the kids will look forward to learning about history in years to come. That's part of our mission, as evidenced by our staff visits to classrooms with our fourth grade "Sauk County Investigators" and other educational presentations.

Lots of learning takes place at the Sauk County Historical Society every day, and this was no exception. I learned there were no bills and no quarters in any of those money envelopes, which varied from 23 cents to \$1.61. I learned that 89 cents often equals 3 dimes, 9 nickels, and 14 pennies. I was reminded that kids can be really caring when given the chance by wonderful teachers.

Years ago, American school children donated pennies to pay for the 89-foot pedestal base for the Statue of Liberty. The youth of today certainly continue to show that same spirit of generosity.

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We Care Program

The Sauk County Historical Society receives matching gift awards when you participate in "Pierce's Market Card" program. If you own or get a new "Market Card," please connect it to the Sauk County Historical Society by designating number 700500.

Protect Your Family Treasures

by Mary Farrell Stieve

GRANDMOTHER'S wedding dress is in a bag under the bed. Dad's yearbooks are in a box in the attic. Mom's carnival glass dishes are in the basement. What should you do to protect them?

Objects that tell a family's story are treasures each generation passes to the next. But this generation's guardians have to be sure and preserve those treasures for the next and that isn't always easy. There are people who spend years becoming experts on the preservation and restoration of those bits and pieces of our everyday lives. But there are things you and I can do to keep our treasures safe.

"Judge storage by your own comfort," advise Jane and Richard Long in *Caring for Your Family Treasures*. Try to keep your heirlooms in a moderate and stable environment. Temperatures near 70 degrees Fahrenheit, humidity near 50 percent. Avoid areas of your house where temperature and humidity will rise and fall, such as outside walls, unheated basements and attics, and rooms with high humidity such as bathrooms, laundry rooms or kitchens.

Light and dust will slowly destroy, so preserve our heirlooms in layers. Proper matting, frames and UV filter glass will keep photos, art and paper goods safe. Objects should be stored in chemically stable boxes under dust covers. Protect objects displayed on wooden shelves with a barrier between the object and shelf. The most stable shelving for storage is metal with a baked on finish—great for a storage area but probably not attractive enough for most homes. Display items away from direct sunlight and bright lights. A glass fronted cabinet, with acid free paper shelf liners, on an inside wall not directly facing windows is the perfect display storage option. Since this combination of features is not often possible, try getting as many of the features as you can, being most careful of harsh light and dust.

Check on your items regularly. Try to take a look at everything at least twice a year—winter and summer are good times. Check for moisture and light damage, pests, wear and tear. At the first sign of damage take action using the gentlest method possible. Always start with a gentle brushing using a soft brush. Beyond that, get some professional advice. There are a lot of folk remedies around but many do long term damage.

One good source for professional advice is the National Park Service museum handbook which is on the Internet and in your historical society office. We have other books in our resource library awarded us from the Institute of Museums and Library Services in the museum book grant we received last year. Members are always welcome to come in and look through the books for preservation tips.

Every resource will tell you the most important repair you make is one that is reversible and leaves no residue. Remedies we believed were best in the past have proven to be damaging as they age. Think about the tape we used to mend torn pages. It's now yellow, brittle and has stained thousands of papers. The best practices we are using now may prove to be harmful in the future so try to avoid anything that cannot be easily undone.

Be sure to document your treasures. Keep inventories, take photographs, write down the stories that make the item important, make copies when you can. These records preserve the current condition and the valuable information for the future. Copies are also good choices for display, keeping the original protected from light and exposure. Copies also make it possible to share your family treasures with others and that is the best way to ensure they are as valuable to future generations as they are to you.

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If you are interested in making a gift to toward this important project, please contact the Society at (608) 356-1001.

Hulburt Creek Garden Beds Update

WINTER is a great time for clearing trees. Workers from the Ho-Chunk Nation and Society volunteer Rob Nurre have been hard at work doing just that at the newly acquired Hulburt Creek Garden Beds land. Lacking the toil of many for hundreds of years, this ancient agricultural site quietly became populated by a variety of trees. The canopy of oaks in particular helped to preserve the garden beds, protecting them from pounding rains that would have eroded the site. With efforts now placed on restoring the garden beds, much of the undergrowth and some of the trees must be removed. Expert opinion is being sought on how best to maintain the six-acre wooded site, while gradually exposing the garden beds for study and restoration.

The Sauk County Historical Society is spearheading a committee that includes individuals representing the Society, the Ho-Chunk Nation, the University of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Historical Society to explore long-range preservation and educational plans for the Hulburt Creek Garden Beds. Informational signage, parking for visitors to the site, an eventual walking path, and site studies are topics that have been brought to the discussion table. Additionally, the committee would like to see the Hulburt Creek Garden Beds become a focus of school Earth Day projects, blending an environmental workday with an historical perspective for Earth Day students. Eventually, the committee hopes to use

the Hulburt Creek Garden Beds as a field site for visiting schools to deepen students' understanding of the importance and history of Native American cultures in Sauk County.

The Sauk County Historical Society is appreciative of the generosity of Bill and Phyllis Pierce for donating the land that holds the garden beds to the Society. The public is invited to the garden beds on May 23, 2009, for a joint Wisconsin Historic Society – Sauk County Historical Society commemoration of this significant cultural resource.



Amos Kingsley, Larry Waube, and Rob Nurre clearing brush

William H. Canfield History Award Nomination

Deadline: April 1, 2009. Submit to: Sauk County Historical Society PO Box 651 Baraboo, WI 53913

SUBMITTER'S NAME _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Email Address _____

NOMINEE'S NAME _____ Telephone # _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Email Address _____

On a separate piece of paper, please complete the following paragraph in 500 words or less:

I nominate _____, who, like William H. Canfield, shows a passion for local history as shown by his/her...

March/April 2009
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