

Ashwaubenon
Historical Society
AND MUSEUM
NEWSLETTER

April 2012 Volume 4 Number 2



OUR MISSION

The Ashwaubenon Historical Society is a non-profit organization whose goal is the preservation of Ashwaubenon's past and present through the collection and interpretation of historical records and artifacts of the area.

Preserving the memories of yesterday for the generations of tomorrow.

ANNUAL PLANT AND BAKE SALE MAY 12

It's time for the 17th annual Ashwaubenon Historical Society plant and bake sale! It will be held at the Ashwaubenon Historical Society Museum on Saturday, May 12, between 8:00 a.m. and noon. Select plants for your garden and yard and baked goods for your table. Have a cup of 50 cent coffee while you look around. Tim Bauknecht, village forester, will be on hand to answer plant questions.



This is the Society's major fundraiser. Donations of plants, flower bushes, tubers, small trees, seeds, and baked goods are needed and appreciated. Bring donations to the Museum on Friday, May 11, between noon and 3:00 p.m.

If you would like help digging up plants to donate, please call Mary at 437-3570.

MUSEUM TO PARTICIPATE IN VILLAGE-WIDE RUMMAGE SALE APRIL 27-28

Members of the Ashwaubenon Historical Society are searching their basements, garages and storage areas for items for the village-wide rummage sale. Sale items will be displayed in the Museum with all profits used for Museum and Society needs.

Anyone interested in contributing items for the sale is invited to bring them to the Museum between 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. any Wednesday or Saturday prior to the sale but no later than Saturday, April 21. Arrangements for pick-up of donated items can be made by calling Mary at 437-3570. Sale hours each day are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW AT MUSEUM MAY 19-20

The annual Ashwaubenon High School Art Show will be held at the Ashwaubenon Historical Society Museum, 737 Cormier Road, on Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, noon to 4:00 p.m. The public is invited to view the work of the many talented student-artists in our high school.



COMING EVENTS

The calendar for the year is on the Society' website: www.ashhs.com

April 20 Pioneer school students tour Museum
April 26 6:30 p.m. General meeting
April 27 8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Rummage sale
April 28 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Rummage sale
May 5 8:30 a.m. Spring clean-up
May 11 noon to 4:00 p.m. Set-up for plant sale
May 12 8:00 a.m.-noon Plant and bake sale
May 18 3:00 p.m. Set-up for high school art show
May 19 noon to 4:00 p.m. High school art show

May 20 noon to 4:00 p.m. High school art show
May 21 3:00 p.m. Take-down high school art show
May 24 6:30 p.m. General meeting
May 25 Valley View school students tour Museum
May 28 11:30 a.m. Memorial Day reception
June 13 1:00 p.m. Executive board meeting
June 28 6:30 p.m. General meeting
July 6 Deadline for newsletter material
July 13 Newsletter publication date

MEMORIAL BRICK DONORS

Thank you to those who responded to our 2011 memorial brick appeal. Listed below are donations received since those listed in the January 2012 newsletter.

BRICK

Wisconsin Public Service
Ginney Paulson Amen
Don and Elaine Muesbeck and Family
In Memory of Loy and Agatha Zambrowicz
Love Helen Larry Loy Jack Dick Marysue Jerry
Ann Patty Kathleen Colleen Betty

DONOR

Wisconsin Public Service
Ginney Amen
Elaine Muesbeck
Ann Lampereur

Ann Lampereur

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Put on your work clothes and come to the Museum on Saturday, May 5, at 8:30 a.m. It's time to get the Museum and outside grounds ready for summer. Put the date on your calendar!

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2012

The Wisconsin Historical Society's 2012 6th annual Local History and Historic Preservation Conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison on September 28-29. There will be 22 sessions covering subjects such as: preserving historic windows and doors; adaptive reuse of common buildings; insuring small museums and historic sites; and social media for small nonprofits and 14 workshops for in-depth exploration of topics including: genealogy; archival collections; preserving photographs; and saving and preserving vernacular art environments.

There will be opportunities to explore two of Madison's finest historic buildings — the state Capitol and the Wisconsin Historical Society. Participants will be able to register for a Friday night behind-the-scenes tour of the Capitol and a tour of the labs and facilities of the Historical Society. On Saturday, there will be a guided tour of Aztalan by archaeologist Bob Birmingham, author of [Aztalan: Mysteries of an Ancient Indian Town](#), and tours of local historic districts by the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation.

More details will be on the Historical Society's website as they become available. www.wisconsinhistory.org

Source: *Wisconsin Historical Society website*

SOCIETY TO ACQUIRE SOFTWARE TO CATALOG MUSEUM COLLECTIONS



PastPerfect is software designed to help small and large museums manage their collections and membership. Currently, there are over 8,000 museum users. Members of the Ashwaubenon Historical Society voted to begin the process of acquiring this software and learning its use. The software will enable Museum volunteers to catalog all items in the Museum's collection and find information about each item quickly.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Isabel Carpiaux grew up in Oshkosh but moved to Ashwaubenon 41 years ago after her husband retired from a career in the military. She learned about the Ashwaubenon Historical Society through its annual plant sale. She has been a member since 1995. She now assists with the plant sale and volunteers for other projects as needed to express her interest in history. Helen, one of Isabel's three children, designed the Society's logo.

A special thank you to Isabel for sewing and donating the new white fabric backdrop for the wall in the Museum entrance.



**HISTORY OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
1873 -- 2012
2700 Babcock Rd.
Ashwaubenon, WI 54313
Compiled by Suzanne Schatt**

St. John's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed on June 23, 1873 by a group of Scandinavian Lutherans who belonged to Ft. Howard (now Trinity) Lutheran Church but lived in Ashwaubenon. The last name of all but two of the first officers ended in the Scandinavian "sen" or "son:" Alexander Ingebretsen, John Christiansen, Ole Raffelson, Jens Bagge, Olaus Anderson, Peter Larson, Mikal Skjelstad, Nels Ingebretsen, Lorens Thompson and John Eliason.

The first church, built on a site near the northwest corner of what is now the intersection of Babcock Road and Commanche Avenue, was dedicated on October 6, 1879. Originally, it was to be a log church, 36 ft. x 24 ft. and 16 ft. high, but building plans were changed and it became a wood frame building. It was expanded with the addition of a bell tower in 1889. The bell, which is hanging in the current church bell tower, had been used by the Oneida Episcopal Mission since 1839.

At that time the church was directly across the road from Melvin Erickson's cow barn which stood right at the edge of the road. Mr. Erickson was concerned about lightning striking the church bell tower and spreading fire to his barn so he donated acreage farther north and the church was moved to the site of the current gas station at the corner of Babcock Road and Highway 172. The story is told that one strong black horse walked in circles for a week using a pulley system to move the building sideways to its new location. It was placed on a basement foundation; the basement became a center for social gatherings. A new organ was installed and the interior of the building redecorated.

During Pastor Hanson's ministry, the conversion to all English services was completed. Pastor Hanson was known for stopping the congregation's singing in the middle of hymn and urging them to sing with more enthusiasm!



Church destroyed by windstorm in 1944

Until 1962, St. John's pastors served more than one congregation. At times, services were led by circuit-riding pastors every other Sunday at 2 p.m. following Sunday School. There was a gradual transition from all Norwegian

Rev. O.T. Boe served as interim pastor in 1944-1945. On April 15, 1944, the church building was destroyed by a violent windstorm. All that survived were the bell, a painting of the crucifixion and a few small items including brass altar candleholders. After that devastation, the congregation was urged by Synod officials to disband, but the vote was unanimous to rebuild.

The destroyed wood-frame church was replaced by a concrete block building under the leadership of Rev. A. O. Wigdahl, who served from 1945 to 1952. A story is told that lumber was rationed during World War II so Hillmar Eliason and some friends drove to Mountain and milled the lumber themselves. Funds were raised so that there was no debt when the new building was finished.

services to just one on the third Sunday of each month.

The first pastor was Rev. T.H. Dahl who served the congregation from 1873 until 1880. During Rev. Dahl's tenure, in addition to constructing the first church building, the congregation operated a parochial school for several years and dedicated its cemetery grounds at the west end of North Road. Rev. Adolph Petersen succeeded Pastor Dahl, serving from 1881 to 1911. The Sunday School, organized in 1881, was led by superintendent Lorens Thompson until 1915.

Rev. P.E. Bongsto served the congregation from 1912 until 1928. He was followed by Rev. T.S. Hanson.

Rev. Orion Anderson of Pulaski



Rebuilt church at Babcock Rd. and Hwy 172

served part-time from 1952-54. From 1954 until 1961, St. John shared a vicar (intern) with Trinity Lutheran Church, Green Bay, with official services provided by Trinity's pastors, C.J. Tellekson, W. Hunstad and C. Solberg. T.S. Hanson returned to serve as interim pastor in 1961 and 1962.

Older members of the congregation reminisce about women and children sitting on the left side of the church while the men sat on the right side and of the Christmas tree being lit with real candles on Christmas Eve. They also remember Fourth of July picnics at the church picnic grounds on North Road across from the cemetery, monthly socials and ringing the church bell. To get the best tone, the rope had to be pulled very hard, but when that was done the bell sometimes flipped over. When that happened, someone had to climb rickety stairs into the bell tower, untie the rope and reattach it when the bell was back in the proper position.

In 1962, St. John's first full-time pastor, Rev. David M. Thompson, was installed and the parsonage at 1610 North Rd. was dedicated. In 1966, Rev. Jon R. Lee became St. John's second full-time pastor; he served until early 1972.

In the 1960's, St. John grew quickly along with the community of Ashwaubenon and a larger church was needed. The current brick building was built in 1970 at 2700 Babcock Road, several blocks south of the original wood-frame church, on eight acres of land donated by Elmer and Mabel Paulson. The sanctuary features in-the-round chair seating, is completely accessible, and incorporates the former building's stained glass windows and the painting

that survived the wind storm of 1944. The concrete block church building was sold to a development corporation in 1976 and later torn down.

In June, 1972, Rev. Dennis L. Schatt was installed as the congregation's third full-time pastor. Two building expansions were completed in 1979 and 1991 and the sanctuary was remodeled in 2007.

Additional ministry staff served over the years: associate pastors, Rev. Karen Jewell (1991-95) and Rev. Eric Strom (1996-2001); interim pastors, Rev. Larry Lange (1995-96), and Rev. Ray Claussen (2007-08); and ministry facilitator, Birgit Ruotsala (2002 to the present).

St. John expanded its ministry in September 1992, when it opened Early Footsteps Christian Preschool which served children of the congregation and community until four-year-old kindergarten in area schools reduced the number of children attending the school. The preschool closed in 2011.

In 2005, the Stocked Shelves Food Pantry at St. John was incorporated. It receives food from St. John members, area and Ashwaubenon school food drives and community groups. It provides food items to those in need, and, in 2011, served 812 families.

Pastor Schatt retired in 2007 after serving the congregation for 35 years. He was succeeded by Rev. Jennifer Christensen who serves the over 750 member congregation today as it approaches its 140th anniversary. St. John is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and is in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin.



St. John Lutheran Church 2012

SOCIETY WINS BUILDING AWARD

The Ashwaubenon Historical Society was a recent recipient of a Brown County Historical Society 2011 Historic Preservation Award for "Building Adaptive Re-Use." Ashwaubenon Historical Society president, Janet Klipstine, accepted the award at the Brown County Historical Society Annual Meeting, February 12, 2012.

When Ashwaubenon moved out of the #2 Pump House around 1998, the Ashwaubenon Historical Society renovated the building for their offices and museum. In addition to a wonderful collection of Adolph Vandertie tramp art, the museum has several displays of Ashwaubenon agricultural and industrial history. The museum is an educational gem of local history." *Source: 2012 Annual Meeting and Report of the Brown County Historical Society.*

The award recognized the reuse of the building that now houses the Ashwaubenon Historical Society Museum. "In 1945 after WWII, the Fox River Heights Sanitary District was formed, and Well #1 drilled on Morris Avenue, to service the 85 customers in Ashwaubenon, mostly located along Ashland Avenue. As larger commercial and industrial plants were equipped with sprinkler systems, more water capacity was needed. Rather than turning to Green Bay for water, independent minded Ashwaubenon decided to drill Well #2 and build a new pump house on Cormier Avenue. This unassuming building, with its simple industrial style and little architectural ornament, embodied a commitment to development and set the stage for the village's incredibly rapid growth in the 1960s-80s, with residential to the west, a shopping mall to the near south, and an industrial park to the far south.



Are you looking for a place for a meeting? The Ashwaubenon Historical Society Museum is available. See building use policies at our website: www.ashhs.com Do you have photos of Ashwaubenon or stories about the Village for the newsletter? Contact the Museum. We will scan your photos and return them to you.

To join the Ashwaubenon Historical Society, fill out the form below. We invite your active participation and you will receive our quarterly newsletter, meeting agendas and minutes, and free admission to the Museum.

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2012 (January 1 to December 31)

MAIL WITH DUES TO:

Ashwaubenon Historical Society, 737 Cormier Road, Ashwaubenon, WI 54304

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ **E-MAIL** _____

Student \$5.00	Couple \$18.00	Supporter \$50.00	Corporate Member \$250.00
Individual \$10.00	Contributor \$25.00	Honorary Member \$100.00	



AND MUSEUM

737 Cormier Road
Ashwaubenon, WI 54304

HOURS

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Wednesdays and Saturdays
Closed January - February
Admission: \$1.00

Phone 920-429-2863

Leave message or call 920-339-9519
if the Museum is closed.

E-mail: ahshistory@att.net

Website: www.ashhs.com

OFFICERS

President: Janet Klipstine
Vice President: Mary Kugel
Secretary: Lorraine Petersen
Treasurer: Ray Rottier

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Lois McAllister
Judy Schroeder
Mary Selner

ALTERNATE BOARD

Betsy Johnson
Dave Johnson
Dave McAllister

MUSEUM CURATOR

Annette Aubinger

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jackie Burkat



MUSEUM MEMORIAL DAY RECEPTION

A reception honoring veterans will be held at the Ashwaubenon Historical Society Museum beginning at 11:30 a.m on Memorial Day, May 28. It will follow the Veteran's Day program at the VFW Veterans Memorial on Cormier Road.

The refurbished "Wall of Heroes" veterans display at the Museum will be dedicated and open to the public for the first time. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is invited to commemorate the day in this special way.