

# Ashwaubenon Historical Society AND MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

August 2014 Volume 6 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.*

## NEW MUSEUM?



In a April referendum, Ashwaubenon residents approved the construction of a new community center. This created an opportunity for the Ashwaubenon Historical Society. If it can raise the needed funds, it could construct a new museum as an addition to the community center. This

would give the museum more visibility and availability, allow for joint community center/museum programming, and save on building costs.

An exploration of this possibility is underway. An architect is drawing preliminary plans, an advisory board is being put together, and the Historical Society held its June meeting at the Seymour Historical Society Museum to see how it is designed and furnished.

We will be establishing an account with the Green Bay Community Foundation to handle project donations and funds raised.

If you are interested in helping with this project or serving on the advisory board, please call Ashwaubenon Historical Society president, Janet Klipstine, at 920-339-9519.

Mark your calendar for the FIRST ANNUAL CEMETERY WALK in Ashwaubenon!  
Presented by: Ashwaubenon Historical Society and Moravian Cemetery

## "TOMBSTONES COME ALIVE"

Moravian Cemetery , Ashwaubenon (Shady Lane off Babcock Road)  
Wednesday, August 19, 2015  
6:00 pm and 7:00 pm (limited reservations)



The Tombstones that have been selected are:

**Vernon C "Hunk" Anderson** 1919-1994; wife, Virginia

**Ron Reignier** -1933-2004; wife, **Carol**, 1930-1992

**Samuel G. Torgenson** 1883-1969 WI Capt Co. 340 Infantry; wife Agnes

**Howard Smith** 1903-1984; wife Joan (June), 1909-1974

**Napoleon Doxtater** 1861 1936; wife, Mathilda

**Nels A Sorenson** 1911-1987; wife, Rosella

This is Ashwaubenon Historical Society's first annual cemetery walk. If you have information on any of the above families, would like to help with research, or would like to portray any of the people selected, please contact Judy Schroeder at 499-3248. The next Cemetery Walk Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2014, 10:00 am., at the Ashwaubenon Historical Society, 737 Cormier Road. Please join us if you can help.

Cemetery Walk Committee members are: Rae Wetzel, Mary Eisenreich, Jean Watson, Lorraine Petersen, Mary Selner, Janet Klipstine and Judy Schroeder.

# EIGHTH ANNUAL LOCAL HISTORY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

October 24-25, 2014

Osthoff Resort and Conference Center, Elkhart Lake, WI



WISCONSIN  
COUNCIL FOR  
Local History

This year's conference will offer 36 sessions and 15 workshops on all aspects of collecting and preserving our history. Many of the sessions are aimed at volunteer local historical societies. The Saturday lunch will feature Wisconsin author and humorist, Michael Perry. An optional event Friday evening is "Taste Traditions of Wisconsin: A Special Evening at Wade House." The early registration deadline is September 5; the final deadline is October 10. For more information about the conference and a registration form, go to [www.wisconsinhistory.org](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org) Click on "Elkhart Lake Welcomes you" on the right side of the page.

## MUSEUM CLEAN-UP DAY



Help get the Museum and grounds ready for winter! Saturday, October 18, 8:30 a.m. are the day and time. Please join in this annual activity. The more that can help, the faster the work goes.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Christine Hall  
Cindy Rauch  
Jim O'Rourke

## MEET OUR MEMBERS

Emerson and Mariann Eliason Marcks are relatively new members of the Ashwaubenon Historical Society, but not new to Ashwaubenon. Mariann's roots are deep in the area. Her great grandfather, John E. Eliason, was one of Ashwaubenon's early settlers; her grandfather, Hans Eliason, was health officer for many years. The Eliason farm where Mariann grew up was located on Babcock and Paulson Road. Emerson grew up in Seymour. He and Mariann met at work.



After they were married, they lived in Ashwaubenon, until Emerson was transferred to Milwaukee and then Georgia for his work. They lived there until he retired, and then moved back to Ashwaubenon in 1997.

Both Mariann and Emerson have creative gifts. She recently had an exhibit of her needlework at the Ashwaubenon Historical Society Museum. She is also a writer, poet, and painter. Her book, FINA, about her grandmother's immigration from Norway, is in the Museum collection.



Emerson's creative talents are in the area of woodworking. He has made many birdhouses, buildings to populate a small village, Christmas ornaments, and other items. He is proud that he has used scrap lumber for all his projects.

## ASHWAUBENON HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMING EVENTS

The calendar for the year is on the Society' website: [www.ashhs.com](http://www.ashhs.com)



Sept. 10 1:00 p.m. Executive Board meeting  
Sept. 25 6:30 p.m. General meeting  
Oct. 6 Deadline for newsletter information  
Oct. 20 Newsletter publication  
Oct. 18 8:30 a.m. Fall clean-up at Museum

Oct. 23 6:30 p.m. Annual meeting  
Oct. 24-25 State Historical Society conference  
Nov. 13 6:30 p.m. General meeting  
Dec. 10 1:00 p.m. Executive Board meeting  
Dec. 25 NO GENERAL MEETING

Valley View Elementary School in Ashwaubenon celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2013-2014. A brief history of the school was in the April 2014 Ashwaubenon Historical Society newsletter. Doris Ziesmer, the school's first assistant principal, reflects on her experiences at Valley View.



## **VALLEY VIEW: A SCHOOL OF FIRSTS**

### **Doris Ziesmer**

As Valley View approaches its 50th anniversary celebration, I've spent some time reflecting on my 36 years as an educator in the Ashwaubenon School district. Most of those years were at Valley View, first as a classroom teacher in the 1963-64 school year and ending as assistant principal when I retired in 1994.

An assistant or associate principal at the elementary level is fairly common in Wisconsin today, but in 1969 such a role was virtually non-existent. As Valley View enrollment grew by leaps and bounds after opening in September of 1963 with an 11 person faculty, principal Eugene Burns found himself coping with two huge additions to the school, over a thousand students in K-8 and a growing faculty and support staff. It was at this point one of the largest, if not the largest, school in the state.

Gene and I had been classroom teachers at Cormier and transferred to the new Valley View, he as principal and I as a classroom teacher. In the spring of 1969, Gene told me that the School Board was creating the position of assistant principal for Valley View. Having my masters degree from U. W. Madison with emphasis on reading and having supervised in the university's reading clinic, Gene felt I would be a good candidate for the position if I was interested. Was I interested? On the one hand, I loved teaching fourth grade. On the other hand, this would be a great opportunity to share my skills beyond the classroom. Getting the position would mean additional course work during several summers to get certification in administration, but I would be willing to do that. I applied and accepted the offered contract.

Wow! Suddenly I had a position so new that it had no precedent to draw upon, no job description other than to work with Mr. Burns in determining areas I could be most helpful to him. First and foremost, I had to transition from classroom teacher to an administrator.

That, in part, meant getting to know all the teachers, support staff and as many children as I could. Because the cafeteria was a good place to get to know students I spent time there each day talking to students and introducing myself as assistant principal. Everybody understood that Mr. Burns was their principal, but the concept of an assistant principal was difficult and most of the kids did not get it. I found that out when I was shopping at Sentry (a grocery store near school) and overheard a first grader tugging at his mother's arm saying, "Mom. Mom, there's the lady who works in the lunch room."

I assumed a number of duties that Mr. Burns assigned or that I ventured on my own with his approval. One was to meet new students, introduce them to their teachers and make them feel welcome and at ease in this large school and at the end of the day see that they got on the correct bus to go home. One of my most enjoyable responsibilities was making supervisory visits to classrooms. I had the opportunity to observe the many excellent techniques and methods teachers used to make learning exciting.

In addition to routine responsibilities, I used my reading background to enhance students' experiences. Applying and receiving a monetary grant from Reading is Fundamental allowed us to purchase paperback books that every student could select and keep on special "Reading is Fun" days. Volunteer moms known as the "R. I. F. Readers" presented stories from scripts prior to the distribution day.

Our "Writers' Workshop" and "Authors' Tea" gave students opportunities to be recognized for their talents. Valley View students regularly received First Place Awards in a local contest sponsored by Delta Kappa Gamma, a woman educator organization.

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

By this time Corinne Gariepy was principal and I was a seasoned assistant principal. Under Corinne's leadership and with a great deal of effort from staff, students and parents, Valley View was selected as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in 1990. This national recognition culminated in the School Board sending three delegates; Corinne Gariepy, principal, Doris Ziesemer, assistant principal and Bernard VandenBerk, classroom teacher to Washington, D. C. where Corinne accepted this prestigious award on behalf of Valley View School. We were invited to the White House south lawn where President George H. Bush, with First Lady Barbara Bush by his side, gave a

welcoming address. We were proud to represent Wisconsin as one of the two schools from our state to be so honored, Needless to say this award was a very special achievement for Valley View teachers, students and parents.

It was special to see my name listed as "first assistant principal" in a recent Ashwaubenon Historical Society newsletter. First, but certainly not the last. Valley View has had a principal and assistant principal for many years. Best wishes to Valley View administrators, faculty, support staff and students as you celebrate the past 50 years and look forward to a future of many more "Firsts."



Accepting the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence award in Washington, D.C.

### CHIEF ASHWAUBOMAY GRAVE SITE REDEDICATED

The Chief Ashwaubomay grave site monument in Ashwaubomay Park, located just before the Ashwaubomay Lake, was rededicated on Saturday, June 21, 2014. The Ashwaubenon Park and Recreation Department has been working since 2013 to improve the site. The Ashwaubenon Historical Society had the plaque on the memorial rock refurbished and purchased one of the steel benches at the site.



## LOCAL CHURCH LEARNS HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS ALTAR PAINTING



Members of St. John Lutheran Church-Ashwaubenon, recently learned the history of a large painting of the crucifixion it owns. The artist is Sara(h) Kirkeberg Raugland, of Norwegian heritage, who painted between 200-300 altar paintings between the 1880s and 1918, mostly for churches in the Midwest. Her great, great

grand niece, Elaine Ask, is on a mission to locate as many of these paintings as possible and has found over 90 so far.

In one of Raugland's two catalogs of her work, published in 1893 and 1899, there were letters of endorsement. One of these had the heading "Fort Howard, WI," and was signed by Adolph Petersen, Pastor. It read, "The Altar picture we received at Christmas, we are very satisfied with. Everyone I have heard that have seen it, have praised it. I myself also think it is fine and I think it is a true portrayal of the event. I therefore along with the congregation thank you." (translated from Norwegian) (1) The catalog entry indicated that he had purchased two paintings.

Elaine Ask came to the Green Bay area to try to locate the paintings. She discovered that Petersen was pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Ashwaubenon from 1881-1911 and that the church did have a large altar painting. On inspection, the artist's signature was obvious. The painting was in the sanctuary from 1894-1969 until the current church building was constructed; it is now displayed in the narthex. A previous church building was destroyed in a severe windstorm in 1944; the Raugland painting was one of the few items that survived. So far, Elaine Ask has been unable to locate the second painting ordered by Pastor Petersen.

Sara(h) Kirkeberg Raugland (1862-1960) was born in Iowa and grew up on a farm. While she got in trouble for sketching in class, some teachers encouraged her parents to have her take art lessons someday. In 1885 or 1886, she went to Minneapolis to study art, possibly

with one of the immigrant Scandinavian artists of the time.

Sara started creating altar paintings in the late 1880s. "Sara was one of few women altar painters of the time. It was unusual for a woman to have her own listing in city directories and she maintained a studio outside her home, She advertised in the Norwegian Lutheran Magazine and also had advertising cards." (1) Sara's paintings were on a variety of subjects and sizes made to fit the altars and needs of the congregation. They varied from 2' X 4' to 5' X 8'.

Sara closed her studio on the death of her husband in 1918. She continued to do small paintings, crocheting, and quilts. She died at age 98.

The altar painting was a common form of late nineteenth and early twentieth church decoration in many American congregations of Norwegian background. "As styles of church decoration changed over the years, many of these paintings were removed or disappeared from sight. In recent years, however, there has been growing interest in these paintings' value both as art objects and an important part of the immigrant church's historical record." (2)

After discovering one of her aunt's paintings at St. John, Elaine Ask gave the church a notebook of photos of many of the paintings she has located so far. Included is a booklet, *NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN CHURCH ART: ALTAR PAINTINGS BY HERBJORN GAUSTA, SARAH KIRKEBERG RAUGLAND, AND ARNE BERGER* 2001.

Sara's signature is on all her paintings. If you think your church might have one of hers, contact St. John Lutheran Church, Ashwaubenon, and they will give you Elaine Ask's contact information.

### Sources:

(1) Notebook compiled by Elaine Ask with information about Sara(h) and her paintings.

(2) *NORWEGIAN-AMERICAN CHURCH ART: ALTAR PAINTINGS BY HERBJORN GAUSTA, SARAH KIRKEBERG RAUGLAND, AND ARNE BERGER*. A companion to the exhibit *Norwegian-American Church Art with Roots in Northeast Iowa*. Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, Anna Hong Fine Arts Gallery. Anderson, Kristin M. "Norwegian-American Church Art." p. 4. Phone conversation with Elaine Ask, August 19, 2014.



**AND MUSEUM**

737 Cormier Road  
Ashwaubenon, WI 54304

**HOURS**

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
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 McAllister

**MUSEUM CURATOR**

Annette Aubinger

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Jackie Burkat

***WE'RE ON FACEBOOK! CHECK OUT "ASHWAUBENON HISTORICAL SOCIETY."  
PLEASE "LIKE" US!***

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

---

**MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2014 (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**