

# Ashwaubenon Historical Society AND MUSEUM NEWSLETTER



### 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.*

### SAVE ITEMS FOR APRIL RUMMAGE SALE!

The Ashwaubenon Historical Society will participate in the Village-wide rummage sale Friday and Saturday, April 27-28, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Help the Society with this fund-raising activity by donating items you no longer need or can use. They will go to a good home. Drop items off at the Museum during open hours, Wednesdays and Saturdays, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. in March or April but no later than Saturday, April 21. If you would like someone to pick up the items you have, call Mary Selner at 437-3570.



### MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINTER GATHERING ON JANUARY 26

The Ashwaubenon Historical Society will hold its Winter Gathering on Thursday, January 26, at Stadium View Sports Bar and Grill on Holmgren Way. A social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m. and a family-style turkey dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. The Ashwaubenon High School Encore Show Choir will entertain us at 6:45 p.m. The cost is \$13.00 per person. Those who attend are invited to bring a wrapped gift as a door prize contribution. Contact Judy at 499-3248 and make your reservation as soon as possible.

### LEARNING IN RETIREMENT TO HOLD CLASS AT MUSEUM MARCH 21

"Adolph Vandertie--Hobo Art" is the subject of a Learning in Retirement (LIR) class to be held at the Ashwaubenon Historical Society Museum on Wednesday, March 21, 1:00-4:00 p.m. The presenter is Michael Aubinger, Ashwaubenon Village president and Ashwaubenon Historical Society member. He will introduce the Vandertie collection of hobo and tramp art and tell how it came to be part of the Museum's collection. The documentary film, "Westbound," the story of Vandertie and his folk art, will be shown.

For information about LIR classes and registration, call 920-465-2356 or check online at [www.uwgb.edu/lir/](http://www.uwgb.edu/lir/)

### MUSEUM'S "WALL OF HEROES" BEING REDONE

Museum volunteers are redoing the Museum's "Wall of Heroes." It is a photo exhibit of Ashwaubenon residents who have served in any branch of the United States military in any time period. It will be re-dedicated at the Museum's Memorial Day Reception on Monday, May 28, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Any Ashwaubenon veteran not included in the display or with military photos or artifacts is invited to contact the Museum.



### COMING EVENTS

The calendar for the year can be found at the Society's website. [www.ashhs.com](http://www.ashhs.com)

January 26 5:30 pm Winter Gathering Stadium View  
February 23 6:30 pm General meeting  
March 14 1:00 pm Executive Board meeting  
March 21 1:00 pm Learning in Retirement class  
March 22 5:30 pm Potluck supper/general meeting  
April 6 Newsletter information deadline

April 13 Newsletter publication date  
April 20 morning Pioneer School tour  
April 26 6:30 pm General meeting  
April 27 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Rummage sale  
April 28 8:00 am - 3:00 pm Rummage sale  
May 5 8:30 am Spring clean-up

## THANK YOU TO OUR MEMORIAL BRICK DONORS

The following individuals and businesses responded to our 2011 memorial brick sale appeal. The funds raised enabled us to meet the matching funds requirement of our Wisconsin Historical Society mini-grant received to establish an Ashwaubenon Historical Society web site. We also hope to acquire some additional technology. Contact the Society if you would like to donate a memorial brick.

### BRICK

Lamers Bus Lines the passenger professionals since 1944  
 Pioneer Credit Union  
 In memory of Alfred and Elsie Klipstine,  
     Town treasurer or supervisor 1932-1965  
 Pepsi Cola of Northeast Wisconsin  
 Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley  
 Jerry Collier--Pa Pa  
 DeLorey Chiropractic 2011  
 Duffy Family Dennis & Martha  
 Mary Eisenreich Music Teacher  
 Gerhardt C. & Mabel S. Ericksen  
 Elmer Geurts  
 Lloyd Smits Family  
 Ellsworth Vann Alice Vann and Family  
 Dave & Betsy Johnson and Family  
 In memory of Christopher M. Pamperin  
 In memory of Leo and Polly Derouin  
 Family of Francis-Dolores VandeHei

### DONOR

Allen Lamers  
 Pioneer Credit Union  
  
 Klipstine Family  
 Pepsi Cola of Northeast Wisconsin  
 Ashwaubenon Bowling Alley  
 Germaine A. Collier  
 Dr. Nathan DeLorey  
 Dennis Duffy  
 Mary Eisenreich  
 Carlton A. Ericksen  
 Patricia VanDenHeuvel  
 Family of Lloyd Smits  
 Ellsworth Vann  
 Dave and Betsy Johnson  
 Sharon & Ted Pamperin  
 Janet Klipstine and Janice Coenen  
 Donated by the family

### ADDITIONAL DONORS

Lorraine Brokiewicz  
 Lyle C. and Delores M. Heim  
 L. P. Mooradian Co. Oriental Rugs  
 Gordon T. and Marilyn J. Smith

Wilmer and Elizabeth Christopherson  
 Donald A. and Carol J. Hutjens  
 Clive F. and Judith E. Possinger Jr.

### MEET OUR MEMBERS

Mary Kugel grew up in Kewaunee County on the farm that is the restored 1870's farm museum of the Kewaunee Agricultural Society. After a career as a teacher and nursing home social worker, she moved to Ashwaubenon 12 years ago when she began working for Home Instead Senior Care. Now retired, she has plenty of time to devote to her interests which include local history and the hard-working Ashwaubenon Historical Society. She is vice president of the Society. Mary enjoys traveling and exploring historical sites, ghost hunting, reading, and visiting with pen pal friends all over the United States. She has two sons and a daughter-in-law.



The Allouez-Ashwaubenon Bridge turned 36 on November 15, 2011. While area residents now take it for granted, the bridge was an important addition to the Green Bay area highway system linking the far east and west sections of the metropolitan area. The two GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE articles in this newsletter first appeared in a special section of the newspaper commemorating the bridge dedication: "The Allouez-Ashwaubenon Bridge Dedication," Saturday, November 15, 1975," published November 13, 1975.

**GROUNDBREAKING TWO YEARS AGO**  
*by DALE GROSS. Press Gazette Staff Writer*  
**GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE November 13, 1975**

Almost 5,750 tons of steel and 24,200 cubic yards of concrete after ground was first broken for the Allouez-Ashwaubenon Bridge two years ago, it will open to traffic Saturday providing another link between the eastern and western parts of Brown County.

It is a link that cost \$16.5 million to build and will span the Fox River almost midway between the Tilleman Bridge near downtown Green Bay and the Claude Allouez Bridge in downtown De Pere.

"There's nothing unusual about the bridge," said the state Division of Highways Engineer who supervised the construction, Frank Butrymowicz. "Although it is harder building on a curve, which this one has."

The Allouez Bridge in DePere also has a slight curve.

Strangely enough, when the 3,225-foot span opens Saturday, it will be two years after ground was first broken Nov. 15, 1973.

The structure is a medium-level bridge with a 60-foot clearance over the navigation channel. There will be no drawbridge or sidewalks because it will eventually be part of a high speed beltline that will connect with Interstate 43.

The only opportunity to walk across will be the day of the opening, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with motor traffic allowed to cross the bridge an hour after the 2 p.m. dedication ceremonies.

There will be shuttle bus service available from the Montgomery Ward parking lot off Oneida Street.

Butrymowicz said there are 34 piers in the structure and two abutments. All told, there is about 11,532,000 pounds of steel, 69,900 feet of steel piling and 4,046 feet of steel reinforcement bars, he said.

There are two structures, he said, with about one foot between them. That was because the 47-foot, three-lane road surface was wider than on most bridges.

There will be exits to frontage roads on both sides of the river, he said. The Allouez exit will be for Riverside Drive and Webster Avenue, and the Ashwaubenon exit for Oneida Street and Ashland Avenue.

The bridge and connecting highway--Highway 172--will be the southern segment of a beltline around the metro area. What will become a four-mile long highway when Interstate 43 is completed, will be only 2.7 miles long ending near the Reformatory until the Green Bay-Milwaukee superhighway is ready.

In addition to the two bridge exits, an exit off Highway 172 is planned on to County Trunk XX.

There were six paving contractors working on the project, according to Division of Highway records, the largest contract being to the Streu Construction Co. for \$2,415,316 for paving from Highway 41 to the Fox River.

A steel shortage and some strikes developed during the construction period, Butrymowicz said, but it didn't delay the construction work.

Roger Kolb, Brown County transportation planner, said that by 1985 it's estimated there will be 16,300 vehicles going east and 17,200 going west daily across the bridge.

There was no one killed on the bridge construction, although two men received injuries in falls off the structures, officials said.

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**ALLOUEZ-ASHWAUBENON BRIDGE BITS**

State Transportation Secretary Zel Rice II delivered the main speech at the bridge dedication in lieu of Governor Patrick Lucey who could not attend.

Source: "Allouez-Ashwaubenon Bridge Opens Today," GREEN BAY DAILY NEWS, November 15, 1975

John Monfort was chairman of the Town of Ashwaubenon and Richard Westering, chairman of the Town of Allouez. They exchanged commemorative plaques and, at the conclusion of the bridge dedication, their wives cut a red ribbon at the center of the bridge.

Source: "Traffic Streams Over New Bridge," GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE November 16, 1975



About 6,000 people walked or biked across the bridge in the 2 ½ hours before it was opened to traffic on the day of its dedication.

Source: "Traffic Streams Over New Bridge," GREEN BAY PRESS GAZETTE, November 16, 1975

Frank Butrymowicz (1925-2008), Wisconsin Department of Transportation, was project engineer for the Allouez- Ashwaubenon Bridge, the Tilleman Bridge, and the Tower Drive Bridge.

Source: Obituaries, Proko-Wall Funeral Home website

When the Allouez-Ashwaubenon Bridge opened, it ended at Webster Avenue. It was planned that it would eventually expand to link with the yet to be completed Interstate 43 on Green Bay's far east side. The new bridge was expected to have a significant impact on economic development in the area and be a major convenience for residents.

Local historians and preservationists had a dream of bringing all of Green Bay's historical buildings together in one location. "The big break came when plans to build the Allouez-Ashwaubenon Bridge separated the buildings from the orchards at the Green Bay reformatory making it more difficult to supervise prison labor. The route selected went straight through the prison's farm leaving 48 acres of surplus property and an opportunity for the Historical Park Committee to make Heritage Hill a reality."

Source: Original Vision Statement on the Heritage Hill State Historical Park web site. [www.heritagehillgb.org](http://www.heritagehillgb.org)

**(ALLOUEZ-ASHWAUBENON BRIDGE DEDICATION)**  
**Program of Events**  
**Sat.-Nov. 15**  
 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Bridge will be open to pedestrians only to inspect the bridge at their leisure.  
 11:15 A.M. Allouez-Ashwaubenon Bridge Walk featuring "The Stilt Man" and an old-fashioned high-wheel bicycle. Everyone is invited to participate in the walk.  
 1:30 P.M. Ashwaubenon High School Band and Color Guard.  
 2:00 P.M. Ribbon-cutting ceremony featuring state and area dignitaries.  
 3:00 P.M. (Approximately) Bridge officially open to vehicle traffic for the first time.  
 Source: "The Bridge" CHRONICLE TWO: Supplement to the BROWN COUNTY CHRONICLE, DENMARK PRESS, TRI-COUNTY SHOPPER. November 12, 1975

A luncheon and cocktail party for invited guests was held at the Ramada Inn prior to the bridge dedication.

Source: Allouez-Ashwaubenon Bridge Dedication," ASHWAUBENON PRESS, November 28, 1975

With the Fox River running through the center of area communities, bridges were bound to be an important part of their history. Before 1895, when the two communities merged, Green Bay was on the east side of the Fox River and Fort Howard, on the west side.

**FIRST NEW ACCESS IN 100 YEARS**  
 by Tony Walter, Press Gazette Staff Writer  
**GREEN BAY PRESS-GAZETTE November 13, 1975**

The Allouez-Ashwaubenon Bridge will give area motorists their first new access across the Fox River in exactly 100 years.

It was in 1875 that the original Main Street and Mason Street bridges were completed, giving Green Bay three bridges across the river and opening up the West Side to residential and business expansion.

For 100 years, Green Bay drivers have had to deal with one of the three city bridges in order to get to the other side of the river, or else take the 15 minute drive to the Claude Allouez Bridge in De Pere.

The Green Bay bridges have often been the center of controversy. In 1856, the state authorized construction of a bridge to connect the business areas of the East Side with Fort Howard. But Fort Howard residents objected, the state refused to put up money and the project collapsed.

Up to that time and for a few years after, anyone wishing to cross the river when the ice was out had to take advantage of Carleton Wheelock's ferry which docked at the foot of Cherry Street.

But in 1862, the railroad, by way of the Chicago and North Western, came to Green Bay and the need for a bridge across the Fox River became more apparent. During the fall and winter of 1862-63, the original Walnut Street bridge was built.

It soon became apparent that more bridges would be needed and, in 1875, the Main Street and Mason Street Bridges were completed. Ironically, just weeks after those bridges were finished and opened to traffic, a schooner crashed into the Walnut Street bridge and put it out of commission.

The City of Green Bay stubbornly refused to repair the bridge unless Fort Howard residents helped pay for the cost. They refused and the bridge sat unused for more

than a year before the city reluctantly agreed to pay for repairs.

Those original bridges across the Fox were wooden drawbridges with enough room for two lanes of horse-drawn traffic and a pedestrian walk on both sides.

Naturally, when the automobile became the chief means of transportation, the old wooden bridges became outdated. In 1909-10, a new bridge was built across the Fox River at the foot of Walnut Street, costing \$250,000.

Five years later, the wooden Mason Street bridge was replaced for just \$160,000 and the city bragged that it now had the largest single-life bridge in the world.

A replacement for the wooden Main Street bridge was not so quick in coming. For years, the bridge remained until, in 1922, a city streetcar being used as a road sprinkler, crashed through the floor of the bridge into the water. Miraculously, no one was killed but the city did agree that a new bridge was in order.

The Main Street bridge was completed in 1924, costing the overwhelming sum of \$509,000. While the bridge was being built, street car tracks had to be installed on the Walnut Street bridge because, up to that time, the Main Street bridge was the only bridge in town that could handle the streetcars.

That completed all bridge construction over the Fox River until the Mason Street bridge was replaced by the new Tilleman Bridge in 1973 at a cost of \$21 million.

There have been minor incidents involving the bridges, however. In 1960, a ship rammed into the Walnut Street bridge and caused considerable damage. And a couple of years after that, a huge liner narrowly avoided ramming the Walnut Street bridge when the bridge's lift failed to operate.

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# Ashwaubenon

Historical Society  
AND MUSEUM

737 Cormier Road  
Ashawubenon, WI 54304

## HOURS

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

Phone 920-429-2863  
Leave message or call 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 Schoeder

Mary Selner

## ALTERNATE BOARD

Betsy Johnson

Dave Johnson

Dave McAllister

## MUSEUM CURATOR

Annette Aubinger

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jackie Burkat

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.

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### 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