

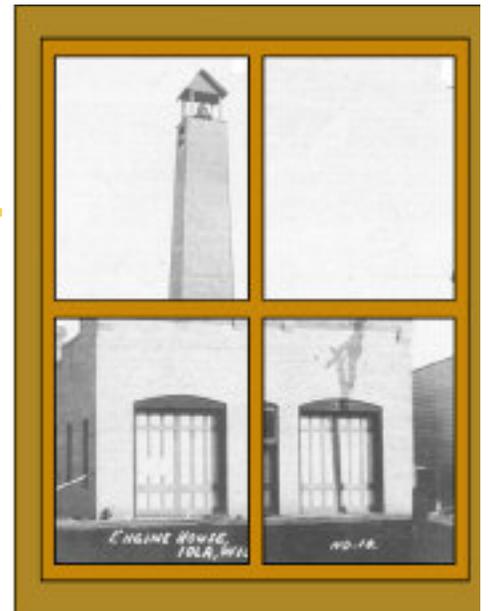
The Iola Historical Society's Window

Quarterly Member and Activities Newsletter

Volume One

Number One

Winter 2008



Society Gaining Elbow Room

An acquisition and trade of properties consummated on Wednesday, January 15, has provided the Iola Historical Society with elbow room that will provide it with archival and storage capacity outside the visitor structures on its Iola Historical Village campus. This transaction

places it in possession of the office and service bay structure on Depot Street, across from the Society's campus, presently being vacated by Lashua Excavating.

The Society acquired the neighboring Hawke Excavating building from Anthony "Tony" Hawke with

money donated to the organization specifically for that purchase. It then traded that property to Chester L. "Chet" Krause for the Lashua Excavating property, which he had acquired from John Lashua recently.

The Society will begin removing its archival files from their present storage areas, principally in the historic Iola & Northern Railroad depot and the turn of the 20th century era one-room schoolhouse, when the office area of the Lashua building is vacated in the spring. This will enable the Society to dedicate the Iola Historical Village structures to improved public access and display of the historic artifacts in its possession.

In addition to providing for more accessible access of archived artifacts and records, the Lashua building (310 Depot Street) will provide an inviting work area for members to pursue the Society's efforts that are underway to develop comprehensive computerized records of its archived artifacts, cataloging of old photographs and historic documents, oral history development, scanning photos and documents for electronic access, and the development of comprehensive histories capturing the settlement and business development of the area.



Top photo: Lashua Excavating building located to the east of the Hawke Escavating building, shown in the lower photo, will provide ample space for the Iola Historical Society to locate their offices and permit display of artifacts.

President's Corner

A full year has passed as your President of the Iola Historical Society. The first thing I want to do is thank each and every member for your support and help during the past year. A lot of exciting things have happened in the past 12 months and I hope we can achieve much more in the future. Some of the accomplishments were building and dedicating the new fire station, purchasing a new computer, being open to the public on scheduled days, and much more. During the new year we all need to work together to help in whatever way we can to make this coming year a banner one for The Iola Historical Society.

This year the Strawberry Fest will be held on June 22nd. Some of the new things being planned this year's event include having appraisals done on items for a nominal fee, plus artists are being contacted to demonstrate old crafts such as basket weaving and quilting, to name just a few. This should create additional interest and help get more people to attend, not only this year, but in years to come.

As you have noticed the newsletter has been reinstated, with this being the first new issue. Thanks to Cliff Mishler for the creative name of the *Window* for the newsletter, and to Doug Watson for designing the newsletter. A big thank you to Chet Krause and Chris Williams for printing the newsletter.

With the Historical Village being open on Saturdays from May

through September in 2008 we hopefully will be able to see an increase in people visiting our facilities. The new, and innovative "Passport to History" program should be a great asset to generating interest not only to our historical site, but sites throughout the county. And if times are slow we will be able to get some work done. Several projects have already been started. At this time over 300 photos and negatives have been sorted and put into acid free plastic sleeves for protection. Over 200 photos have been scanned into the new computer. Chris Ross, Doug Watson, Cliff Mishler and I have met to discuss the format for cataloging and indexing our collections in the computer.

Thank you for all your help and support and hopefully We'll see you on January 28th at our first Board Meeting of the year.

Lyle

The First Newsletter for 2008 and Beyond

The Iola Historical Society is happy to announce that it will be publishing a newsletter on quarterly basis. The *Window*, as it will be called, will be issued in January, April, July and October. In order to make this newsletter a success we need your help.

We would like your input on what you as a member would like to see in this newsletter. If you have any old photographs, or a story about the history of Iola and the surrounding area that you like to submit, please contact Chris Ross, Lyle Mork, or Clifford Mishler. The final

decision on which stories will be published in the *Window* will be made by the newsletter committee.

We hope this newsletter will help keep members informed on what is happening with the Iola Historical Society as well as interesting stories about the history of Iola and the surrounding area. Each newsletter will be a four page edition along with colored and black and white photos.

2008 Museum Season

The Iola Historical Society has announced the setting of a 2008 visitor schedule for its Iola Historical Village complex of historic buildings, for public enjoyment of the displays of collected artifacts gleaned from and representative of the community's heritage. Situated at 310 Depot Street, two blocks west of Main Street in downtown Iola, the complex will be open every Saturday from May 3 through September 27.

Two of the buildings in the complex are historic structures that have been preserved by the Society; the original 1892 depot of the Iola & Northern Railroad and the old Helvetia Town Hall that was built in 1919, which served the township for 75 years. Both of these structures feature wide ranging displays of artifacts associated with their origins and assorted relics drawn from the Swiss and Norwegian heritages of the Iola Community.

The complex also features a pair of structures that are historical reproductions, one being of the original Iola Firehouse built in 1901 and the other being of a turn of the 20th century one-room schoolhouse. The firehouse structure displays a trio of historic Iola firefighting apparatus, the earliest being a meticulously restored 1912 Waterous Pumper, the village's first mechanized piece of firefighting equipment, a 1924 Ford Model 'T' hose truck, and a 1938 Reo combination hose truck and pumper.

Other focal points in the complex include a reclaimed and restored 19th century log cabin that was

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Photo and information courtesy of Wisconsin Historical Society

Crowds gathered on the Main Street to witness the delivery of McCormick binders, mowers and other farming equipment. McCormick Harvesting Machine Company agents organized these events - which often included parades, music and food - to publicize the company and its products. This "McCormick Day" took place on June 3, 1899 and was organized by local dealers Gullickson and Thompson. In the foreground a small boy is holding a sign proclaiming: "McCormick binders, mowers and rakes, the Dewey of them all."

2008 Meeting Schedule

The Iola Historical Society has set its 2008 meeting schedule, with all meetings open to the public. Meetings are scheduled monthly, on the last Monday of the month from January through October at the Society's Iola Historic Village complex situated at the intersection of Depot and Oak streets, one block west of Main Street in downtown Iola. Public attendance is welcome at all meetings, which are scheduled for 7:00 p.m. in the firehouse.

The January, March, May, July and September meetings are conducted as board meetings, focusing on the business and opportunities of the Society. The February, April, June, August and September meetings will feature educational programs in addition to providing for conduct of membership participation in the business of the organization. The program meetings will conclude with a coffee and light snacks social.

The 2008 IHS board meetings are scheduled for: January 28, March 31, May 27 (Tuesday), July 28, and

September 29.

The 2008 IHS membership and program meetings are scheduled for: February 25, April 28, June 30, August 25, and October 27.

The IHS will also be inviting all of its members, friends and neighbors to visit the Iola Historic Village complex on Sunday, June 22, for its 24th annual Strawberry Festival.

This event is scheduled for noon to 4:00 p.m., with homemade strawberry shortcake, ice cream, coffee and lemonade served. All of the buildings in the Society's six building complex will be open for public viewing, with member docents present in each building to share the history of the buildings and the artifacts on display.

A beautiful Memorial day brought out an appreciative crowd to participate in the dedication of the Society's new firehouse reproduction. Society President Lyle Mork welcomed those in attendance and introduced dignitaries present. Clifford Mishler, who was instrumental in overseeing the project from its conception through completion, gave a brief history of the original firehouse, and the three pieces of equipment that are presently on display in the building.



2008 Meetings Schedule

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moved in from the town of Harrison, while a vintage caboose is also displayed alongside the depot. Displays in the log cabin include a trundle bed and other furniture of the times, along with clothing of the era.

The Iola Historical Village complex will be open for visitors in 2008 from the first Saturday of May through the last Saturday of September, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with docents present to share with visitors the history of the buildings and the artifacts on display. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Group and individual tours may be arranged at other times by calling 715-445-IOLA

(4652) for appointments.

The Society complex will also be open for visitors on Sunday, June 22, for its 24th annual Strawberry Festival, a traditional fundraising event.

For additional information contact Clifford Mishler. Phone; 715-445-5050. E-mail; mish@athenet.net

Historical Views

In the Spring of 1883 *The Iola Messenger*, a weekly newspaper, was started by J. M. Hatch, Waupaca County Clerk of Courts. It was discontinued two years later--"History of Waupaca County" by J. Wakefield, published in 1890 and reprinted by Chet Krause in 1883.

Innovative Idea Will Make People Aware of Waupaca County's Historical Sites

Purpose

To create awareness of the historical museums and sites located within Waupaca County and to encourage individuals and groups to visit them.

Passport

A booklet (passport) would be printed containing information on each of the historical societies located within the county. Each society would be allotted two pages to tell about their organization and what it has to offer the visitor. Included on these pages would be a map of the community showing the location of the museum and any other historical sites within the municipality.

Upon visiting each site the passport holder would have his or her "passport" stamped to verify their having visited. A map showing all the historical sites within the county would also be included along with a listing of them.

Important

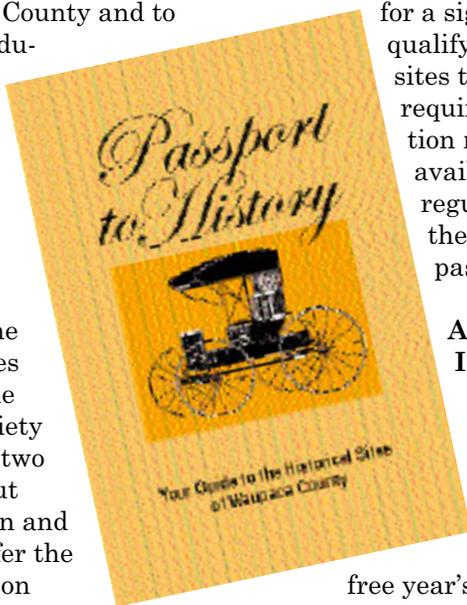
In order for "Passport to History" to work it would be necessary for a significant number of qualifying organizations or sites to participate. This requires that each organization makes their facilities available to visitors on a regular schedule and that the times be noted in the passport.

Additional Information

As an incentive to individuals to visit each one of the sites, and have their "passports" stamped, a society might offer a free year's membership for those who have visited all the sites, or perhaps jointly sponsoring a book or savings bond.

Suggestions

Individuals and organizations who have additional ideas on the "Passport to History" project are requested to contact: Doug Watson, P.O. Box 15, Scandinavia, WI 54977. e-mail: scandinavia@tds.net. Phone: (715-467-2729



Society Definitions

Each month this column will assist readers in learning the "language" spoken by historical societies.

ACCESSION:

An accession is an object or a group of objects in the Historical Societies collection obtained at one time from a single source. The act of accessioning is taking possession and title of the object, placing it in the Historical Societies collection and making a record of it.

COLLECTION:

A historical Societies collection is a group of objects kept together for some reason. Usually the relationship is due to similarities in the nature of the objects; their being collected by an individual or group; or their association with a person, place or event. A collection may have only a few pieces in it, or it may have thousands. A historical Society may contain one collection or several collections.

CATALOGUE:

A catalogue is a reference tool created by arranging some of the collection records in categories.

Society Receives Numerous Donations During 2007

The Iola Historical Society would like to thank everyone that made donations to the society in 2007. Many individuals, civic groups and companies made cash donations to the Firehouse fund. The society also received historical artifacts to be made available for viewing. Some of the items were related to the firehouse, old dresses including a wedding dress from 1900, and confirmation dresses from the same time period. We wish to thank all those that made donations to the Iola Historical Society and hope the public will continue to support and donate items in the future.