This Newsletter, our 5th is the best-yet collection of interesting articles covering various topics of our community, history, current events and goals for the future. Set aside some time and settle in for some thought-provoking reading that’s sure to arouse your curiosity. Your interest and involvement in preserving our history, as well as your continued support for the Museum, are vital to ensuring that our descendants will learn about the history of this unique community.

As this year ends, we have many accomplishments to be thankful for. The June Native American Workshop far exceeded everyone’s expectations with strong community interest and awesome participation. The Native American and other expert speakers were very knowledgeable and interesting, stimulating many participants to request another workshop. This workshop is scheduled for June 20, 2018.

Our annual Oktoberfest celebration was a very successful day and brought many people to the Museum for great food, friendship, and an opportunity to view many of the new artifacts and collections. More families and friends are volunteering their time and talents, and showing interest and involvement in the museum and its role in our community. Our heartfelt thanks for your participation and your kind financial support throughout the year.

An exciting news story is that we now have our own internet site. Check out our website, “stlucasmuseum.org” to learn about the Museum, current and past events, museum projects, new exhibits, newsletters, history, contact information and ways to donate. We welcome any ideas or suggestions to improve or add to this website.

The past year also brought us challenges. The boiler room flooded in May that left a huge mess of debris and water in the basement. Thanks to the strong arms and backs of many volunteers and the timely support of West Bend Mutual Insurance and Vick’s Heating and Plumbing, we recovered from this disaster.

A current challenge is the restoration of the 52 sets of large windows throughout the building. The State of Iowa declined our request for support last Spring, but we will apply in their 2018 matching-fund grant cycle, as well as seek out other funding sources. These grants require matching funds from us.

We are continuing with the much-needed electrical upgrade work in the Museum kitchen, exhibit rooms, and the blacksmith shop. We are looking for ideas to revitalize the awesome, but unused chapel space in the Museum basement. Your assistance and support with these projects is very much appreciated.

Also, a great thank you to all the wonderful advertisers in supporting the printing of this issue. Let’s return their kindness and give them our business.

With goodwill and appreciation during this season of giving, the board and members thank you for your kind support.

Warm wishes to you and your family during this Christmas season and the New Year.
FATHER ALOYSIUS SCHMITT CHAPLAIN, RECEIVED THE SILVER STAR MEDAL POSTHUMOUSLY ON DEC. 7, 2017.

The Rev. Aloysius Schmitt was killed aboard the USS battleship Oklahoma during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. On December 7, 2017, Loras College in Dubuque, IA hosted a Mass at 7:30 a.m. at Christ the King Chapel to commemorate the posthumous presentation of the Silver Star Medal to Rev. Aloysius Schmitt, a graduate of Loras College and a chaplain in the U.S. Navy. Family received the medal in his honor.

“Father Al lived and died honoring the Loras motto: pro deo et patria (For God and country),” Jim Collins, president of Loras College, said. “We are all very proud of his heroic and faithful life. The recognition is long overdue, but it doesn’t diminish his everlasting interminable legacy.”

Pentagon representatives, Chief of Chaplains of the U.S. Navy Rear Admiral, Margaret Kibben and Captain Daniel Mode, chaplain and division director of plans and operations for the Chief of Chaplains Office, presented the medal, the U.S. military’s third-highest personal decoration for valor in combat. Schmitt previously received the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps medal and the Purple Heart for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. In 1943 the Navy commissioned a ship in his name.

In October 2016, Father Schmitt’s remains were brought back to St. Luke’s Church for a memorial mass service. His remains were then taken to Loras College for a mass service and interment in Christ the King Chapel. Fr. Schmitt grew up on the family farm near St. Lucas, graduated from St. Luke’s High School, and completed his undergraduate studies at Loras College. He said his first mass in St. Luke’s Catholic Church. He joined the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps in 1939 and was assigned to the USS Oklahoma in 1940.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, he was hearing confessions when four torpedos slammed into the USS Oklahoma. The ship capsized, and the lower decks filled with water, trapping sailors. Fr. Schmitt pushed 12 sailors through a porthole to safety before he died.

His chalice, prayer book, military medals, and other personal belongings that were recovered from the ship’s wreckage are on display in the entrance of the Chapel. His “Liturgy of the Hours” book (breviary) is still marked with a ribbon for the next day, Dec. 8 prayers, six years to the day of his ordination, Dec. 8, 1935. His body, along with the bodies of many other unknown sailors, was had been buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, HA. More than a century later, technological advances allowed authorities to identify his body and the remains of 388 other unknowns of the crew of the USS Oklahoma. Their bodies were sent to their homes for final burial.

HOMILY for Mass Preceding Awarding of the Silver Star to Fr. Aloysius H. Schmitt +12-7-41
7 December 2017
Christ the King Chapel, Loras College, Dubuque, IA
Fr. Wm. M. Joensen

Well before God sent his Son to save us, the philosopher Aristotle observed, “He will be called brave who is fearless in face of a noble death, and of all emergencies that involve death; and the emergencies of war are in the highest degree of this kind. Yet at sea also, and in disease, the brave man is fearless, but not in the same way as the seamen; for he has given up hope of safety, and is disliking the thought of death in this shape, while [the seamen] are hopeful because of their experience” (Nicomachian Ethics III.6.1115a33-b4).

We tender proper honors to a brave man, Fr. Aloysius H. Schmitt, who 76 years ago today faced death along with his fellow sailors on the USS Oklahoma as the convulsions of war shook Pearl Harbor and our entire nation. He yielded hope of mortal safety for the sake of his crewmates; this son of the soil of the Archdiocese of Dubuque did not rely on his own seamanship, but on God, who alone was his refuge and hope. He showed himself to be true disciple and priest as he joined himself to the sacrifice of God’s Son Jesus, who laid down His life so that we might live in freedom and faith.

As the water filled the ship’s compartment, perhaps the words of the Psalmist which he had prayed so dutifully in his liturgical office sprang to mind:
“The breakers of death surged round about me, destroying floods overwhelmed me. The cords of the nether world enmeshed me, the snares of death overtook me. In my distress I called upon the Lord and cried out to my God. “He reached out from on high and grasped me, drew me out of the deep waters. He rescued me from my mighty enemy and from my foes who were too powerful for me. They attacked me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord came to my support. He set me free in the open and rescued me, because he loves me.” (Psalm 18:5-7, 17-20).

Fr. Al Schmitt does not need our honors, but we need to honor him. He may not have wanted to be regarded as a hero, but we need such heroes—saints-in-the-making who pierce the clouds of what is possible by the beacon of a love that conquers even death. We need his example and witness to illuminate our own darkness, to help us fathom the deep waters that would obscure and swallow our own personal moments of truth. Then we can stand worthy of the trust God has placed in us, as representatives of the armed forces, as members of the Loras Community proud to number alum Fr. Al among our ranks, and as agents of peace in a world of enmity and suspicion.

In this season we recall the star that guided the lowly and the lofty to locate the only Son of God’s entry into our human estate, we are conscious of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She became the portal of the Incarnation through her own Immaculate Conception, whose feast day tomorrow, Dec. 8, Fr. Al was ordained. We call upon her intercession under her Advent title and rank: “Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen to strive to rise again.” We do not look to tinsel and gold, but recognize the Silver Star that now will be perpetually associated with Fr. Al’s legacy. We ask that by his example we continue to bravely serve your reign, Father-Forever, heedless of the cost, Pro Deo et Patria, all the days of our life. Amen.

PRAYER for Ceremony Awarding of the Silver Star to Fr. Aloysius H. Schmitt +12-7-41

7 December 2017
Loras College Library Dubuque, IA
Fr. Wm. M. Joensen

In the not-often-sung second verse of the hymn, “America the Beautiful,” we conclude with these words: “America, America, God mend thine every flaw. Confirm thy soul, with self-control, thy liberty in law.” We know that our country is far from perfect, that God’s providence is a work-in-progress, and that we must confront forces both without and within to become a well-ordered society in which all flourish. But we take heart today as we recall one of our shining lights, Fr. Aloysius H. Schmitt, and reflect that light back upon him as we offer him due tribute. His soul was set on God’s will from an early age, and became a rudder steadily guiding him and others to all that is just, worthy, holy, and beautiful. He stirs us to more gracefully control our tongues, so that our actions will speak louder than words. He displays the wisdom where liberty does not result in license and power, does not produce chaos, but frees us to embrace a rule of law not made by human hands, to serve a good greater than ourselves—namely, you, Almighty God.

As we listen to the testimony today of one whose life direction and purpose bears the imprint of Fr. Al’s influence, and ensure that Fr. Al is inscribed in the constellation of the noble men and women who have served our country at the cost of life, we pray that generations of students will continue to draw inspiration from the example of Fr. Aloysius Schmitt. May they be guided by the Spirit of wisdom as they discern their life’s calling. May we here be ever more committed to mending the flaws that afflict us, to freeing our fellow citizens and all persons of good will to claim their God-given dignity. Ultimately, may we too, be faithful to the law of love radiantly revealed in Jesus Christ, who is the Beautiful Savior and Lord of all creation, now and forever, Amen.

U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben presented the Silver Star Medal to nephew Del Schmitt, and niece Fran Schmitt Hemsath.
AWARD CITATION FOR FR. ALOYSIUS H. SCHMITT

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the
SILVER STAR MEDAL posthumously to
LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) ALOYSIUS H. SCHMITT
CHAPLAIN CORPS
UNITED STATES NAVY

For service as set forth in the following.

CITATION:
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity on 7 December 1941 while serving as chaplain aboard the U.S. OKLAHOMA during the attack by Japanese forces on the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. When OKLAHOMA capsized, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Schmitt, along with other members of the crew, became trapped in a compartment where only a small porthole provided outlet for escape. With unselfish disregard for his own plight, he assisted his shipmates through the aperture. When they in turn were in the process of rescuing him, his body became tightly wedged in the narrow opening. Realizing that other men had come into the compartment seeking a way out, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Schmitt insisted he be pushed back into the ship so others might escape. Calmly urging them on with a pronouncement of his blessing, he remained behind while his shipmates crawled out to safety. In so doing, he gallantly gave up his life for his country. Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Schmitt’s magnanimous courage and self-sacrifice reflected great credit on him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

For the President,
Secretary of the Navy

JAMES ARTHUR KRUSE, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS, U.S. ARMY


James A. Kruse memorial Veteran’s Memorial St. Lucas, IA.
父亲Aloysius Schmitt，一位海军神父，死于美国海军战舰俄克拉荷马号在珍珠港的沉没。圣卢卡斯退伍军人纪念碑位于社区中心以南的纪念公园，于2015年6月26日落成。它是为了纪念所有来自圣卢卡斯和周围社区，为美国军队和国防机构服务，并为国家做出荣誉和贡献的所有男性和女性而建立的。纪念品特别向两位失去生命为国家服务的年轻人致敬，James Kruse，一位在越南战争中阵亡的陆军医疗兵，和Father Aloysius Schmitt，一位在珍珠港阵亡的海军神父。圣卢卡斯第691号退伍军人预备队的成员在考虑建立一座退伍军人纪念品的几年，但他们在合适的地方建立它。当社区中心以南的建筑被拆除时，Melvin Bodensteiner，圣卢卡斯第691号退伍军人预备队的助手，问镇议会这个土地是否可以用于纪念品。这块土地是由Dr. Lawayne和Susan Nusz经营的镇和乡村兽医诊所从1973年到1992年。镇没有计划使用这个财产，经过与Susan Nusz的会面后，她告诉Mel和他的团队她喜欢在她的财产上建立一个退伍军人纪念品。Susan捐赠了她的土地给镇，以纪念她的丈夫，Lwayne，一位海军退伍军人。

早在2014年初，圣卢卡斯第691号退伍军人预备队，预备队辅助和市议会批准了计划。计划批准后，筹集资金开始。预备队领导向社区寻求捐款，他们收到了令人吃惊的支持。Mel申请了从Fayette县基金会的赠款，预备队获得了7,040美元的奖金。Mel说，看到如此多的捐款人表示对他们为国家所做的服务和牺牲的感谢，真是太好了。

三个纪念碑是由John Kuehner，圣卢卡斯从Sunburst Memorial of St. Cloud, MN订购的。中央的黑色花岗岩石纪念所有退伍军人，而两侧的两个较小的石碑纪念James Kruse和Father Aloysius Schmitt。291名本地退伍军人的名字被镌刻在这些纪念碑的背面。纪念品还包括一个白色栅栏，为西和北侧提供隐私，以及走道的路面石。纪念品还包括四个黑色花岗岩长椅，三个旗帜杆，由St. Luke's High School Class of 1967捐赠的阵亡士兵雕像，以及装饰花园中的观赏性灌木。Chris Reicks和他的工人从Reicks Landscape, Monument and Stone做的美丽的工作。

这四个较小的纪念石后面的纪念品是圣卢卡斯退伍军人预备队向Cletus Meyer，Delbert Winter，Mark Mihm，和Wurzers两家非常慷慨的捐赠的家人表示感谢的方式。
The St. Lucas American Legion, the Auxiliary and the city of St. Lucas worked together to make the Memorial a reality. Mel Bodensteiner summarizes, "Thanks to everyone. What better way to thank our veterans than to build a memorial to honor them for their service to our country." Anyone interested in contributing to the maintenance of the Memorial can donate through the St. Lucas Veterans Memorial account at Bank 1st in St. Lucas or West Union, or by contacting Mel Bodensteiner in St. Lucas.

A COUPLE’S VIETNAM WAR EXPERIENCE

Mary Jo Winter (Terri) Pennington, grew up on a farm near St. Lucas and graduated from of St. Luke’s Catholic High School. After 4 years of nurse’s training, she joined the U. S. Army. While stationed at Ft. Sam Houston in Texas, she met Charles K. Pennington Jr., and 7 weeks later she was sent to Ft. Gordan near Atlanta. Charlie and Terri were married in the chapel on the base. Charlie was on his way to Vietnam and was shipped out 2 weeks later. Terri was sent to South Korea 6 months later. After a year of separate assignments, they were reunited in South Korea after Charlie completed a year of service in Vietnam as a medivac helicopter pilot. This was their first home together, which was a helicopter crate that was used to ship helicopters over during the Korean War. There was a single bed, a small closet (they had to keep a light bulb on for enough heat to prevent mildew), a living room space with a couch and pot belly, oil-burning stove, which had to be relight every morning. Snow came in the through the cracks, so they paneled the walls. Many nights Charlie did his night check rides after he picked up Terri at midnight after she completed her shift at the hospital. Terri recalls, “Our hooch (home) was right next to the Officers Club which was small, but nice and served good meals and drinks were 10 cents during happy hour.” Little did they know they would become an important part of history.

On January 23, 1968, the USS Pueblo was attacked and captured by North Korean naval forces in international waters off the coast of North Korea. 83 American sailors were taken as prisoners, sent to a POW camp where they were beaten and tortured. After being held prisoner for in 11 months, the 82 surviving crew members and the body of one of the soldiers who was killed during the attack, were released and sent by bus down to the border crossing at the Bridge-of-No-Return. This bridge crosses the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) between North Korea and South Korea and historically has been used for prisoner exchanges.

The soldiers walked one by one across the bridge at Panmunjom to freedom in South Korea. Charlie, a Chief Warrant Office (CWO) and a Medical Service Corps helicopter pilot, was the pilot who volunteered to fly into North Korea to pick up the body of the soldier who had been killed during their capture. He insisted on flying back over the ‘Bridge of No Return’ as the soldiers were walking across the bridge to freedom.

The soldiers were taken to the U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan hospital. Terri, a first Lieutenant nurse was stationed there and tended the crew of the USS Pueblo. Terri commented that although some of the guys were bruised and some were limping, they were extremely happy. Their stay at the 121 Evac Hospital was brief because the soldiers were anxious to get home.

Mary W (Terri) Pennington, 1st Lt. Army Nurse Corp.  
Charles K Pennington Jr., CWO U.S. Army.

Charlie and Terri Pennington show a scrapbook commemorating their experience in 1968 during the seizure of the USS Pueblo by North Korea.

Charlie and Terri experienced several other adventures while in Korea. They often did standby duty along the DMZ while the Air Force also flew over area. Terri left the Army in 1969 before the birth of their first son. Charlie left the service to work for a business company hoping that the family could settle down. However, the company moved the family every 3 years, bringing them to many different cities in the country. But as Terri says today, it is still an adventure.
MAKING A CAREER IN MILITARY SERVICE: GARY BODENSTEINER

Gary grew up on the family farm 4 miles South of St. Lucas. His parents were Irvin and Melita (Steinlage) Bodensteiner. Gary graduated with the last class from St. Luke's High School in May 1967. Gary entered the United States Air Force in July 1968 and completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. One weekend during training Gary met up with Jim Kruse from St. Lucas who was training at nearby Ft. Sam Houston. They shared their training experiences and enjoyed a game of pool at the recreation center. That was the last time Gary saw Jim.

After basic training Gary was sent to Technical School at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, CO for training in Inventory Management. His first assignment was to Waverly Air Force Station in Waverly, IA, and occasionally did TDY to Richards-Gebaur Air Reserve Station in Kansas City MO, for support supplies. In May 1969 Gary received his assignment to South Vietnam. In June 1969 Jim Kruse was declared missing in action in Vietnam. Gary attended Jim's funeral before he left for combat survival training at Eglin Air Force Base, FL.

In October 1969, Gary arrived in South Vietnam where he spent a year as part of the United States Air Force's heavy construction squadron, the Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE). This year was intense. The team worked 16 hours a day on huge construction efforts and secured supplies for civil engineering projects. After completing this assignment, he was assigned to Davis-Monthan Air Base in Tucson, AZ. Here he worked at the Aerospace Marketing and Regeneration Center where the Air Force stores over 7,000 aircraft. During his five years there he was responsible for the research and reclamation of parts to be used on active and civilian aircraft.

In December 1974 Gary was assigned to Spangdahlem Air Base in West Germany. Here he served as the assistant Stock Fund Manager for three years. For two of those years he was able to live off base and enjoyed the German people and culture. His next assignment was to Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, CO, where he served as the assistant chief of Civil Engineering Material Control. In November 1981 he was assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX. Here he worked in the Management and Procedures section as a customer assistant for supply problems. Gary was then selected by the Air Education and Training Command to be the assistant Command Stock Fund Manager. His team compiled budgets for all five bases in their Command, sent the requests to Headquarters Air Force where the budgets were approved or cut, and the monies were allocated to the base.

Gary served in this position from May 1984 until June 1987.

In July 1987 Gary left San Antonio for Howard Air Force Base in Panama to serve as Chief of Civil Engineering Material Control. He was responsible for all the supplies and equipment for the maintenance of the base. Highlights of this assignment were being able to see the Pacific Ocean from the barracks, and the Atlantic Ocean was only 35 minutes away. During this time, he also spent time in Myrtle Beach, SC, where he set up an operating location to expedite much needed supplies to Panama.

In July 1989 Gary left Panama for his final assignment at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, TX. This base was focused on training new pilots. Initially he oversaw the procurement of priority repair parts for aircraft (T-38, T37 and the new T1-A trainers). Later he served as the Superintendent of the base supply warehouse and was responsible for receiving, inspecting, warehousing, and delivering supplies and equipment to base operations.

In May 1993 Gary officially retired from the Air Force. During his 25 years of service, Gary received the following awards: Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 6 oak leaf clusters, NCO Professional Education ribbon with 1 device, Air Force Short tour and Long tour ribbons, National Defense Medal, Air Force Organization Excellence award, Air Force Outstanding Unit award, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship award, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with a V Device, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Gary has a very impressive service record and has served his country very well. Gary notes "We live in Clarksville, TN that is 15 miles from Ft. Campbell KY, home of the 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles. I volunteer at the pharmacy on Ft. Campbell as well at local hospital front desk". Gary often returns to the St. Lucas area to visit his mother and siblings.
The 11th annual Oktoberfest Celebration was held on September 24th in the dining room of the German American Museum. In the past, the celebration was held in the St. Luke's Church parlor. Holding the event in the museum took advantage of the convenience of preparing the meal in the newly updated kitchen, and serving the meal in the homey dining room where comfortable seating around the tables facilitated conversation among the guests. It also provided attendees the opportunity to leisurely view the exhibits throughout the building. Visitors new to the museum enjoyed viewing the vast collection of artifacts, research materials, exhibits, family histories and more, all housed in the 106-year old historic building. Those who had previously visited the museum were impressed with the recent building improvements and the many additions to the growing collections. The meal consisted of delicious Clement's brats from Milwaukee, hot sauerkraut, spiced potato salad, and dozens of assorted desserts prepared and donated by the ladies of the National Catholic Order of Foresters who sponsored the event.

Joyce Moss Hauer led the Hauer family siblings (Paul, Donna, Peggy, and John) and other volunteers in the preparation and delivery of the food. Jim Moss and Paul Hauer used the large grills to prepare the excellent brats. Many thanks to the many volunteers, in particular the Hauer, Manderfield, Dietzenbach, Orthaus and Bodensteiner families. This well-organized team work assured a very successful, fund-raising event. As Joyce Hauer commented, “It was great to serve the community, and to have fun doing it!” Over 175 meals were served in the dining room and many take-home dinners. Everyone spoke highly of the generous portions of food, mouthwatering brats, and tasty desserts. Chilled lemonade and samples of German Oktoberfest beer were very popular. The free-will donations were significant. The Foresters will apply their matching funds to the proceeds of this event.

The Team did it again! This group of volunteers managed to plan, prepare, and present a wonderful Oktoberfest celebration. Pictures of the work in progress and the community feasting and celebrating say it best.

The Team – Planning, Preparing, and Serving the Meal
GERMAN JOURNALIST/PHOTOGRAPHER VISITS MUSEUM

On a sunny mid-October afternoon, Marion Hahnfeldt of Hanover, Germany visited St. Lucas to learn more about our community and the Museum. Marion’s project is entitled: “Wie deutsch sind die USA-200 Jahre nach dem Beginn der grosse Auswanderungswelle. Auf den Spuren der Siedler”. (Like Germany, the United States after 200 years after the beginning of the great wave of emigration; is in the footsteps of the settlers.) Marion grew up and was educated in Berlin, Germany.

Ms. Hahnfeldt was on a 3-months long travel project to visit and document the German experience in more than a dozen states across America. Marion is visiting the Midwest states of IA, MN, WI, IL, IN, MO; Western states of NE, KS, WY, SD; and Eastern states of PA, VA, OH, KY.
Marion was particularly interested in the German origins and heritage of our community and how we, not the government, preserve and celebrate our heritage. Marion focused on the following questions: How has the land influenced the settlers? What remains from those early years? How important are traditions today? Why is this heritage important today? Marion toured the Museum, focusing on these questions and specifically on why we created this Museum. We emphasized the continued contact between our nations over the decades and the importance of cultivating those relations of families, language, business, traditions, food, cultural activities and sister city programs. Her articles will appear in German magazines and newspapers.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT: THE NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENCE

Workshop on Hidden in Plain Sight: The Native American Presence held at the German American Museum, Library and Family History Center June 21, 2017.

In his keynote address, Russ Baldner, of Spillville, noted that northeast Iowa has a rich Native American heritage that spans more than 10,000 years of prehistory and 350 years of history as preserved in the archaeological, oral, and written record. In his keynote remarks and with artifacts from the Paleoindian, Archaic, Woodland, Oneota and protohistoric-early historic cultural periods, Russ provided the larger prehistoric and historic context of which the local Native American presence is a part. Russ complimented the organizers of the all-day workshop for helping to increase awareness of Native American history and culture in the area.

In his keynote remarks, William Quackenbush, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, headquartered in Black River Falls, Wisconsin, outlined the past, present and future of the Ho-Chunk Nation. Mr. Quackenbush drew the removals (first to Northeast Iowa, then northwest Minnesota, then to Blue Earth, Minnesota, and then to South Dakota) and its similarities to the Cherokee Nation’s forced removal (the current polite anthropological term is “clearance”) to Oklahoma and terrible human suffering and loss of life. Bill’s insightful remarks on their history and the cultural and economic impacts of casinos on the Ho-Chunk Nation, were very well received by the 85 attendees from many towns throughout northeast Iowa.
In his remarks on the Indian Subagency of the 1840s, located 1 ½ miles northeast of St. Lucas, Al Becker, a well-known local historian from Ft. Atkinson, outlined the ill-formed and implemented program of the Federal Government to dramatically change the culture of the Winnebago Tribe (now Ho-Chunk Nation) from woodland hunter-gathers to European style farming. This failed social engineering project and the demand for more land by increasing numbers of European settlers, led to quick removal of the Winnebago Tribe to the wilderness in northern Minnesota.

William Burke of Lansing focused his remarks on the movement of persons across the northern Iowa landscape and why certain courses of travel were chosen, mostly related to the character of the landscape. Much of this movement was trade related, from the Native Americans, to the U S military, to the settlers, to industrial development. Bill’s remarks come from his 2000 book on The Upper Mississippi Valley: How the Landscape Shaped our Heritage.

As Cultural Preservation Officer at Effigy Mounds, Albert LeBeau, of the Lakota Nation of South Dakota, spoke about the cultural and religious elements of Native Americans in our large cultural environment. Albert, an expert on mounds and rock art, noted their presence through the northeast Iowa region area.

Leading off the afternoon session, Vera Wiest of Ft. Atkinson, told stories of the John Blong family and their encounters with the Winnebago tribal members living at the summer encampment in the 1920s and 1930s along the Turkey River about 2 miles East of St. Lucas. Vera recalled her mother’s affection for them and always offered food and a helping hand.

Adrian Kuennen, moved the audience with his touching and riveting stories of Joe Kuennen, his father, and Joe’s recollections of the Winnebago Tribal summer encampments in the 1920s and 1930s along the Turkey River near their farm. The Winnebago visits in the 1940s and 1950s were more focused on collecting herbal plants for medicinal purposes and for quietly honoring the graves of their ancestors. In walking those lands today, John strongly senses the spiritual presence of others.

The Vagts family of West Union and Ossian surprised the participants with their dramatic displays of prehistoric arrow points found over the years. The extensive collection was discovered on the family farm. A photo of one of their collections shown here.
Elaine Burke of Lisbon, IA, told the story of finding a Spanish silver coin in the 1950s on the Schaufenbuel farm southwest of Waucoma near the Turkey River. A historic Indian trail had crossed near their farm and may account for the coin’s presence in their garden. Other similar Spanish coins have been found near Ft. Atkinson and farmland near to the Goddard trading post.

Jerry Mishak of New Hampton displayed several Indian and early trade weapons and demonstrated the use of black powder muskets. Gerald Johnson, an historian from New Hampton, shared his knowledge of prehistoric mounds and sites in Chicksaw County.

The final speaker of the day, Terry Landsgaard of West Union, shared his impressive knowledge of the life of Emma Big Bear and her basketry skills. Terry dramatically highlighted the identifying features of Winnebago baskets, especially those of Emma Big Bear. Regarding the workshop, Terry said, "I believe that this workshop on Native American presence in northeast Iowa was very well attended. The diversity of speakers and their various topics gave us a good blend of presentation styles and topics.

Clair Blong, the moderator of the workshop, was very pleased with the number of people in attendance and their keen interest in the wealth of information presented by the speakers on the historical and contemporary encounters of Europeans with the Ho-Chunk and Lakota Nations.

Clair stated "The audience was deeply honored by the presence and participation of the representatives of the Ho-Chunk and Lakota Nations. Another workshop with our Ho-Chunk and Lakota colleagues is planned for next year. Meanwhile the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin Cultural Resources staff offered to advise the German American Museum on ways to improve its Native American exhibition."

Jeanette Ditzenbach of Decorah, a founding member of the St. Lucas Historical Society, stated the workshop speakers helped organize pieces of historical information into a coherent pattern. She commented that William Quackenbush of the Ho-Chunk Nation and Albert LeBeau of the Lakota Nation revealed the spiritual side of the Indian way of life, their blending of the Christian values of humility and respect for others with their love of the goodness of Mother Earth. She liked their emphasis on protecting the remains of their ancestors.

Teresa Lenius of Fayette, found the workshop very helpful in giving context to continue her research on Whirling Thunder and his people who camped just outside Fayette. Teresa feels we need more of these workshops to explore and understand the past of the area.

SAVING THE INDIAN SUBAGENCY LOG CABIN
by Ruth (Huber) Pavlovec and Helen (Huber) Langreck

Our great grandparents, Frank Joseph and Mary Ann (Gaertner) Huber came to Ft. Atkinson, Iowa in May 1849. For two months they travelled by covered wagon along the rutted dirt roads and trails to this area from Oldenburg, Indiana. They emigrated to this country earlier from a village in Switzerland.

Along the way, they bought land from the U.S. Government through its agents, Rice and Brisbois in Prairie de Chen, Wisconsin, for $1.00 an acre. They also bought a land claim from a Norwegian, Tomas S. Wilson, for $1.50 an acre. At that time their land was all wilderness. The Huber’s newly acquired land was 5 miles south of Ft. Atkinson, at the Old Mission site and recently part of the Winnebago Indian Subagency or Reservation. On the western edge of their land stood a log cabin that was part of the Indian Subagency complex. This was the site of the first mass at Old Mission in the summer of 1849, and the site of their new home.
This log building that was found on their land still stands today. They lived in this log cabin until they could build a large-one room limestone house of one and one-half stories with outside stairs to reach the top level. The limestone materials used in the construction of the house may have come from the fortress buildings at Ft. Atkinson. Sometime later, the log cabin was moved and added to the west side of the Huber’s stone house with a doorway connecting the two structures. This sturdy log cabin was used as a summer kitchen and a place to do the family laundry. The main part of the house built in 1868, was built with limestone from a nearby quarry.

This 2004 painting of the house by Ruth Huber Pavlovec attests to its important role in the emotional and psychic well-being in the Huber family decades later.

For 120 years the beautiful limestone house and log cabin were occupied by three generations of the Huber family and became the center of Huber family life and stories. The limestone house and log cabin were woven into the hearts and minds of the Hubers as their sturdy and secure homestead amid frontier farm life.

Our father Zeno Huber passed away in June 1962 and our mother Mildred (Riehle) Huber lived on the farm until the autumn of 1965. She died in April 1984.

Ruth Huber in front of the house and cabin in 1940s.
Our much-treasured Huber farmstead was sold in 1969 to our neighbor, Francis Dietzenbach. This historic home sat unoccupied for the first time since its construction. Sadly, the leaking limestone house fell into decline, was vandalized on several occasions, and then demolished in the mid-1990s. The log cabin is the only known surviving building from the Winnebago Indian Subagency at Old Mission.

In 1994 Art Huber led the St. Anthony de Padua Chapel Committee effort to save the historic log cabin. They moved the cabin to the grounds of the historic chapel near the banks of the Turkey River. The log cabin was fully restored to its original form and proudly stands as part of the Huber legacy in the area.

**RICHARD CARSON TOMBSTONE**

In the late 1840s the Winnebago Indians were removed from the Indian Subagency land along the Turkey River and marched to central Minnesota. Meanwhile the U.S. Government began granting land titles to veterans of previous conflicts in this area. Richard M. Carson was deeded a large portion of the Indian Subagency land area that now encompasses several farms, including those of John Kuennen, Mark Dietzenbach, Linus Kuennen, Clair and Glenn Blong, and Alma Ameling. This land-grant deed was signed by Abraham Lincoln.

When Mr. Carson died in 1863, he was buried on the Indian Subagency land near the Turkey River. When John Kuennen found the tombstone on his farm, it had been moved from an open pasture to a nearby woods by the previous owner. John gathered the tombstone pieces and had them restored as we now see it. It was customary around the time of Mr. Carson’s death for families to bury their loved ones on their property because in most areas, cemeteries had not been established yet.

The tombstone has a beautiful weeping willow tree carved in the top portion. Weeping willow trees were the most popular symbol for tombstones during this time. The willow tree is a symbol of sadness and mourning, but also a symbol of rebirth. Rebirth, life after death, was an important concept during the 19th century. A branch of a willow tree can be separated from the main trunk of the tree, pushed into soil and it will root, grow, and prosper.

The use of the weeping willow tree on tombstones was especially popular in the Midwest. The 1856 Iowa Census lists Richard M. Carson living in in Washington township in Winneshiek county, IA. The census shows that Richard M. Carson, age 52, was born in 1804 in Pennsylvania, was widowed and had two children living with him; George Carson, age 15, born in 1841 in Ohio, and Nancy Carson, age 13, born in Ohio in 1843. The census for that year does not list the occupation but one can assume that he was a farmer. The 1860 Federal census shows that Carson was a farmer, living in same area with two children, ages 19 and 17.

In doing research on the popularity of the weeping willow on tombstones, several tombstones very similar to Carson’s were found in Pennsylvania. This is interesting to note because Mr. Carson was from Pennsylvania.

The photo of the Mr. Carson’s tombstone next to a photo of a tombstone from Pennsylvania shows the similarities.

The weeping willow tree is clearly seen on both tombstones. The style of the carved letters and content of text are also similar.
WHIRLING THUNDER
Tereasa Lenius

According to the website of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Ft. Atkinson State Preserve, “The story of Ft. Atkinson is not the stuff of which legends are made.” Perhaps, while the site does explain that Ft. Atkinson was built to keep the Winnebago Indians within the Neutral Ground, it makes no mention of the location where they lived. Many were scattered and lived in camps and villages throughout the Neutral Ground and many lived near Old Mission and the Turkey River Subagency.

The brochure published by the Office of the Iowa State Archaeologist about the history of Ft. Atkinson states the Mission was located 3 miles south of the fort and a chief receiving annuities and goods at the Subagency nearby was Whirling Thunder. In 1842, Whirling Thunder, a Winnebago band chief, ordered the following from the Dousman Trading Outfit: lead ($1), powder ($1), nine bags of corn ($18), silk handkerchief ($8), spurs ($1), and a northwest gun ($12). Interesting information, but it begs the question, “Who was Whirling Thunder?”

Wau-kaun-ween-kaw, or Whirling Thunder, was believed to have been born about 1760. Whirling Thunder became the chief of the Rock River band of Winnebago at Turtle Village (present day Beloit, WI) and was one of the chief spokesmen of the tribe.

By 1805, when Thomas Jefferson became president, Winnebago villages spread across southern Wisconsin and lead-rich northwest Illinois. Due in part to good trade relations, the Winnebago allied with the British fighting against the Americans when the War of 1812 began. Whirling Thunder fought against the future president William Henry Harrison at the Battle of Tippecanoe and later was made a general by the British.

During the late 1820s, Whirling Thunder watched white miners, including future Wisconsin governor Henry Dodge, flood onto Winnebago lands and witnessed the government’s failed attempts to remove them. At an August 1829 treaty council, Whirling Thunder stated, “If you can get all our country, where can we go? We wish to raise our own lead in our own way on the piece left.” Reluctantly, Whirling Thunder made his mark on the treaty, signing away all the Winnebago lands in Illinois north to the Wisconsin river.

In 1832, Whirling Thunder found himself in the center of conflict once again when Sauk Indian Chief Black Hawk, with the encouragement of some Winnebago, returned to his home in Illinois. To show his neutrality in the conflict, Whirling Thunder moved his people to Ft. Winnebago, Wisconsin. During the ensuing war, Whirling Thunder and fellow chief White Crow helped the Americans rescue the kidnapped Hall sisters. In return, Whirling Thunder was held hostage by the government to ensure the good behavior of his people. Irrespective of Winnebago neutrality, the Treaty of 1832 cost them their eastern Wisconsin land. Forced into western Wisconsin, the tribe faced overcrowding and hunger.

In 1839, the Winnebago were asked to move to the Neutral Ground in Iowa. In August, Whirling Thunder said, “The Great Father promised us we would not be removed anymore [...] we might now build our chimneys on a permanent home.” In 1840, the government responded by beginning the first forced removals of Winnebago to Iowa. That summer, small pox and dysentery killed 1,000 members of the tribe; the winter brought starvation.

Yet, Whirling Thunder’s life was more than the preserved accounts of traders and military officials. Mary Wilcox, in her book Child of the Sun, describes Whirling Thunder’s lodge (located near Fayette) as being large and “handsomely decorated” on the outside with pictures of Whirling Thunder pursuing a flying enemy and a stag that had been pierced by an arrow. Indeed, it was so interesting that she felt compelled to go inside. Whirling Thunder’s wife Yocsi-ca was there, and she and Whirling Thunder treated Mary as their adopted daughter. They taught her how to ask the Great Spirit for bravery and that chief’s daughters don’t cry. It was Yoc-si-ca who told Mary she had to start going to school because Whirling Thunder and Mary’s father had decided it was important.

The Wilcox family and Whirling Thunder’s village moved to the Mission area from the Fayette area in 1842. One of thirteen villages, government records show Whirling Thunder had 50 men, 64 women, and 63 children in his village that year. It was at the Mission that Yocsi-ca took Mary to harvest medicinal herbs along the Turkey River, and Whirling Thunder gave her a pony. Mary wrote of that time, “How I loved to fly away from all care, counsel, knitting and sewing and go flitting between the Indian lodges, laughing in the dark faces that smiled upon me from curtained doorways as I passed.”
In 1843, Governor Chambers decided that the Winnebago must move once again. They were no longer welcome in Iowa. At a summer removal council, Whirling Thunder attended wearing a red military coat “bespangled with a liberal quantity of tinsel,” a large sword at his side, and a large fur hat upon his head: remnants of the general and soldier he had once been.

Whirling Thunder once said that his people were scattered like beasts. In 1848, they would scatter again when forced to leave Iowa for Minnesota. The old chief, however, would never move again. In February 1847, Whirling Thunder grew sick and died. Where he was buried remains a mystery. Many historians say he was buried on government land near Waucoma. Early settlers in Shin Bone Valley (Elgin), however, believed he was interred there until informed by two Indian visitors that Whirling Thunder was “reposing on the banks of the Volga” not the Turkey. Perhaps then, the story told in Wadena about Whirling Thunder being placed sitting up inside a wooden stockade a few rods from the old Culver’s Trading post are true. If so, his bones are most certainly gone now, lost to the plow and American progress.

The story of Ft. Atkinson might not be the stuff of which legends are made, but the story of Whirling Thunder is. He was a soldier who fought in battle, a chief who stood up to government officials and even went to Washington DC to speak for his people. He survived starvation and disease, and the continued forced removal and relocation of his people. Captain Gideon Low once called Whirling Thunder the chief “who commands more respect than any one of them.” Remember him the next time you happen to drive on highway C24 going southeast past Wadena. At the point where Brush Creek enters the Volga River, remember the Winnebago and their chief, Whirling Thunder.

The maps show the Volga river where it travels southeast from Wadena, curving until it meets Brush Creek coming from the southwest. It is believed that Whirling Thunder is buried near the junction of these two rivers.

MEMORIES OF OUR ANCESTORS: A HISTORY OF EARLY (PRE-1935) PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP, CARROLL COUNTY, IA
By Marvin A. Wurzer
This volume is a compelling overview of the very interesting Carroll County locality. Marvin notes that “History cannot be told without context. To provide context as well as recognizing that much of history is visual, numerous photos, illustrations, posters, maps, deeds, newspaper clippings, etc. were included.” Marvin’s generous use of visuals has clearly helped produce a readable and relatable history, a goal he has masterfully achieved.

Marvin begins with the rise and fall of the old town Carrollton, then proceeds to the formation and settlement of Pleasant Valley in the 1860s and 1870s. Of interest to St. Lucas readers, is the rise of St. Mary’s Church, the town of Wiley, and the Germans and their love of alcoholic beverages. An early priest assigned to the community was Father John Gehling, who later served in Festina, IA. St. Mary’s Church, the “Cathedral in the Cornfields,” is of the gothic architectural style and has stain glass windows that appear quite similar to those in St. Luke’s Church. The St. Mary’s church windows were from Mayer Studios of Munich, Germany and the Dubuque construction firm of Anthony Zwack designed and erected the church in 1910. Anthony Zwack was also the contractor for building St. Luke’s Church in St. Lucas.
Familiar family names in the early history of St. Mary's include: Laurentius Balk, George Balk, Heinrich Wurzer, Michael and Barbara Wurzer, Johann Brincks, Henry and Maggie Brincks, and Bernard Greteman. The Greteman Brothers operated a General Store. The largest in Carroll County, that was moved later to the Living History Farms in Des Moines. The highly successful Greteman Store had four departments: hardware, implements, furniture and dry goods, and groceries; Their motto was “quick sales and small profits.”

Marvin details the three saloons in Willey and the numerous attempts by the press critics and county and state officials to control the German thirst for beer and alcohol. If the church was the first pillar of the community, the second was the saloons. The Oktoberfest of 1894 was described as “a beef and two large hogs were slaughtered and eaten, and some beer was drunk—about 24 kegs as near as can be learned.” As Marvin says, “That’s some Oktoberfest - a lot of meat and a lot of beer” for a very small village.

World War I brought hatred of anything German, the flu, post-war prohibition and bootlegging. Marvin addresses each of these topics in his usual clear and forthright manner. When the 1914 vote to prohibit alcoholic beverages came, the entire Pleasant Valley Township, voted 204 to 4 to keep alcoholic beverages flowing. The women’s vote movement and the strong anti-German feelings produced slogans like “The Kaiser Must Go, the Saloon Must Go.” The anti-German frenzy culminated in 1918, “We have German enemies in this country too. And the worst of all our German enemies, the most treacherous, the most menacing, are Pabst, Schlitz, Blatz, and Miller,” Milwaukee Journal, February 1918.

Marvin articulates the fascinating story of Carroll County very well. His book begs the question: “When will someone or some folks produce a similar history of the St. Lucas community to inform our youth of the past generations struggles and celebrations of life?”

**LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS**

Thomas E. Mails. *The Mystic Warriors of the Plains: The Culture, Arts, Crafts and Religion of the Plains Indians*. New York: Mallard Press, 1991. 618 pages. Since its publication it has become a classic avidly sought by collectors and readers seeking information on the Plains Indians. The volume includes 32 color illustrations and nearly 1,000 drawings covering their culture, government, training of youth, the role of warriors in a highly mobile society, spiritual beliefs, ceremonial practices, art, building of shelters and weapons.


Michael Sturmer. *The German Century: A Photographic History*. New York: Barnes and Noble, 1999. 288 pages. The volume begins with the shadow of the German eagle falling over Europe with the fall of France in 1870, the fatal leadership flaws leading to World War I, the Weimar Republic, the Great Depression, the 12-year rampage of destruction by the Nazi regime, the post-war political and economic recovery, and finally, the reunification of the Nation in 1990. Worth your time browsing through these arresting photographs.

Jaroslav Pelikan. *The Illustrated Jesus through the Centuries*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997. 254 pages. Pelican, one of the most distinguished history scholars of our age, has created a wise, informative and sumptuously illustrated book. Pelican discusses how each age created Jesus in its own image, discovering in his life and teachings the answers to fundamental questions to human existence and destiny.

Samuel W. Mitcham, Jr. *Hitler’s Legions: The German Army Order of Battle, World War II*. New York: The Dorset Press, 1985. 540 pages. Seven years in the making, this reference work covers infantry, panzer, panzer grenadier, mountain, airborne, Jager, and light divisions, as well as security, Luftwaffe field, Waffen-SS, and others, like Cossack cavalry divisions. Each entry covers subordinate regiments and battalions, home station and unit history during the war. The volume also provides summaries of major activities of German corps, armies and army groups.


James A. Scott. *The Butterflies of North America: A Natural History and Field Guide*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1986. 583 pages. The only field guide to cover all North American butterfly species, this monumental work is also a complete natural history, fully describing the biological and ecological world of butterflies in general. Over 1,800 butterflies representing all 679 species are illustrated in full color photographs. A must book for those interested in butterflies and bringing them back to our farms and neighborhoods. Used at Iowa State University.

**VISITORS AND RESEARCHERS**

The museum had many local visitors and several from across the country visit this summer. Many were astonished to find collections in the museum that pertained to their families. Photos of just a few of the visitors tell it best.

With research help from Virginia Manderfield, Jim Boeding found a photo of his ancestors.

Fayette County historians who visited the museum had compliments and suggestions for us.

The six daughters of the Matt Blong family, who grew up in Waucoma, IA visited the museum and St. Luke Church. They were pleased to find a photo of their ancestors.
Visitors of all ages came to the museum.

Paul Bucheit and his sons check out the anvil.  
Paul Bucheit enjoyed the photos while his sons found interesting things too.

Glen Gerleman enjoyed the military display.  
Msgr. John Dietzenbach and colleague enjoyed the religious display.  
The graduating class of 67 held their 50-year reunion at Museum.

MATERIAL DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM, JUNE –NOVEMBER 2017

*HoChunk 1970s ceremonial dance dress, Mel and Jeanette Dietzenbach, Decorah, IA.
*Bavarian Oktoberfest hat and 6 German history books, Clair Blong, Ft. Atkinson, IA.
*Jericho Echo articles, Dan and Kathie Kuennen, Waucoma, IA.
*Seed planter, coffee grinder and telephone, Clarence Kuennen, Ft. Atkinson, IA.
*German beer stein, Joyce Schaufenbuel, Colorado Springs, CO.
*14 Senior class pictures, Donna Winter, Waterloo, IA.
*4 very old wood working planers, Lee Stammeyer, West Union, IA.
*4 Agricultural signs, Charles Langreck, West Union, IA.
*German walking cane, Ed Meyer, New Hampton, IA.
*Delores Buchheit paintings of St. Luke Church, School, Smallest Church, Anonymous.
*St. Lucas Post Office business typewriter, Darlene (Bulgren) Schwaumman, St. Lucas, IA.

*Marvin Wurzer, History of Carroll County Iowa, Marge Clarke, Des Moines, IA.
*Jerico Community Echo 1939 St. Lucas Jubilee Issue, Alvin Langreck, St. Lucas, IA.
*7 historical news articles on St. Lucas, Tom and Mary (Kruse) Karau, Bozeman, MT.
*Descendants of Christoph Franzen, 25 pages, David Franzen, West Union, IA.
*1,200 antique beer can collection and 19 display racks, Lee Stammeyer, West Union, IA.
*Framed prints of Iowa scenes & Rothenburg, Germany, Ruth Boeding Huffman, New Hampton, IA.
*Descendants of Christoph Franzen, 25 pages, David Franzen, West Union, IA.
*Glass display case & large portable sign holder. Mel and Janet Bodensteiner, West Union, IA.

Materials On Long-Term Loan To The Museum
*Richard Carson Tombstone, John Kuennen, Ft. Atkinson, IA.
*Joe Schaufenbuel arrow point collection, Greg Schaufenbuel, Stevens Point, WI.
*Emma Big Bear woven basket, Helen Kruse Pinter, Ft. Atkinson, IA.
*Lenten services wooden clapper, Ron Bodensteiner, West Union, IA.
*U. S. Post Office window façade from Perry Store, Audrey Drilling, St. Lucas, IA.

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