

# GERMAN AMERICAN MUSEUM, LIBRARY AND FAMILY HISTORY CENTER ST. LUCAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**PRESERVING THE PAST  
CELEBRATING THE PRESENT  
EMBRACING THE FUTURE**

Newsletter # 6  
Summer 2018



## **NATIVE AMERICAN WORKSHOP DRAWS STRONG INTEREST**

St. Lucas residents were pleasantly surprised on Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> when the large stream of cars poured into this small town for the Native American workshop. Over 175 persons from near and far came to participate in this all-day workshop. Even rain began to fall in late afternoon, 55 history minded attendees participated in a field trip to 4 historic Winnebago (now the Ho-Chunk Nation) Subagency sites near the Turkey River just Northeast of St. Lucas.



### **The Ho-Chunk Nation: Perseverance And Resiliency**

Collin Price from the Office of the President of the Ho-Chunk Nation was the keynote speaker and spoke to the perseverance and resiliency of his people. Collin stated, "The Ho-Chunk Nation, a federally recognized tribe, today consists of over 8,000 members and its leadership team is responsible for over 3,500 employees in the tribal government and its gaming industry."

Collin emphasized that the Ho-Chunk Nation is decentralized throughout Wisconsin but has a major presence in many communities. The Ho-Chunk Nation is an active supporter of many community causes like fire departments and emergency medical services. For its members, the Ho-Chunk Nation is developing cultural awareness programs to revive and maintain its rich cultural heritage, especially its language.

The Ho-Chunk Nation is very honored by the participation of many of its soldiers as Code Talkers, the famed World War II program for coding of verbal battlefield messages. A special Presidential honor was given to them for this service to the Nation.

The Ho-Chunk leadership team actively works with all levels of government, municipal, county, state and federal organizations to protect their mounds and burial sites throughout Wisconsin and Iowa. Collin spoke of a recent case where ancient mounds were threatened by quarrying operations.

### **Preserving Ho-Chunk Nation Historic Sites**

During the 1830s and 1840s, the Neutral Ground was home to thousands of Ho-Chunk and associated government officials, soldiers, and traders. Archeological traces of these villages, camp sites, battlefields, burial grounds, trading posts, and other sites still exist in northeast Iowa, but are difficult to relocate. Cynthia Peterson, archaeologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers at Rock Island, Illinois, spoke about some of the known Ho-Chunk related sites, the efforts to identify more sites, and the nomination of some of these sites to the National Register of Historic Places. The steps required to meet the official guidelines involve a long and challenging process.

### **Comparison Of Ethnic Groups**

La Raw Maran, Emeritus professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, spoke on the "Past, Present and Future of Ethnic Peoples." LaRaw stated that a people's organized life actually requires traditional culture. He emphasized that ethnic peoples had to make drastic adaptation to survive as living communities in response to nation-building politics of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

American Indian adaptation today demonstrates significant accomplishments in political accommodation. Likewise, German American communities show foresight in programs to preserve and promote German heritage as German-American culture. LaRaw emphasized the German American and Ho-Chunk Nation communities are developing visions of the future that actually resemble each other in many ways and can learn from each other.

### **Ho-Chunk Nation Former Chairman Challenges the Audience**

Jon Greendeer, executive director of Ho-Chunk Nation cultural affairs, challenged the audience to learn more about the Ho-Chunk Nation. Jon spoke powerfully in the Ho-Chunk language for a time. His elders had charged him to learn the Ho-Chunk language and the traditional ways to preserve their heritage. Jon stated “Few of our members can perform some of the traditional tasks. We need to instill these skills in our youth.”

Jon emphasized “The Ho-Chunk Nation wants the same things as the larger community, such as economic development, but we do not build on our sacred mounds and burial grounds. We are making a concerted effort to proactively working with the communities to advance common interests.”

“I was very impressed by the Ho-Chunk Nation's entrepreneurial spirit”, stated Julio Gutierrez, a volunteer from Colorado Springs and former U.S. Navy captain. From what I read and heard, the Ho-Chunks have been smart in engaging federal, state, and local governments and commercial enterprises in advance to prevent conflicts or misunderstandings. This policy has worked well for them in Wisconsin, where Ho-Chunk businesses are the largest employers in at least two counties.”

### **Geology and Human Habitation in the Upper Mississippi Valley**



John and Annette Kuennen present vinage trail maps to Jon Greendeer and Collin Price of Ho-Chunk Nation.

Katherine McCarville, professor of Geology at Upper Iowa University emphasized that the geology and geomorphology of an area influence the culture or cultures that inhabit that area, through features of the landscape and the availability and quality of earth resources. These resources include stone, clay, mineral and fuel resources, and soils. Many cultures have legends and stories that have been inspired by actual events that can be confirmed through the geologic record. Katherine noted that similar flooding events associated with the most recent episode of continental glaciation in North America have been documented in Minnesota and Wisconsin and are now suspected to have affected Northeast Iowa as well.

### **Sacred Places: NE Iowa Rock Art Legacy**

Russell Baldner's presentation, “Sacred Places: An Introduction to Northeast Iowa's Native American Rock Art Legacy,” featured striking photographs of indigenous petroglyphs (rock carvings), pictographs (painted figures), and natural landscapes. Russ's presentation also included archaeological and environmental context, a primer of rock art fundamentals, and a survey of natural and human threats to and means of preserving northeast Iowa's late prehistoric to early historic indigenous rock art heritage. Although often an unknown, Native American rock art remains a rare, fragile, intriguing facet of Iowa's indigenous cultural heritage. It is also one of the state's most extraordinary cultural resources.

### **Native American River Names**

With a linguistics degree from Yale University, Matthew Blong presented on "River-Names of Native American and European Origins: A Brief Historical Linguistic Overview." He explained that river-names can tell us a great deal about the linguistic heritage of the people who named them. Matthew stated, “Iowa, Wisconsin and the Upper Midwest have river-names of both Native American as well as European origin. Most Native American river-names in this region stem from two language families, Siouan, to which the Ho-Chunk language belongs, and Algonquian.

## **Whirling Thunder, Life of a Winnebago Chief**

Whirling Thunder was one of the important Winnebago chiefs who lived on the Neutral Ground in Iowa during the 1840's. Tereasa Lenius, an independent scholar, examined his heroic, tragic life from his fighting with the British in the War of 1812 to his death near the Turkey River Mission in 1847, as well as the uncertainty over his burial site. Lenius hopes that the attendees left with a greater respect for the lives of the Winnebago and the many family members they left behind interred in Iowa soil.

## **Winnebago in the Turkey River area**

Norbert Hackman of Fort Atkinson recalled his father telling of Chris Schmitt and Ed Hackman, his father, employing Winnebago in the depression era and the frequent encounters at fishing spots on the Turkey River near the former Indian Subagency. Adrian Kuennen spoke quietly and eloquently of Joe Kuennen, his father, encountering Winnebago elders visiting sacred spaces and burial sites, and actually feeling the presence of spirits when he walked these lands.

Adrian electrified the large audience: "My father and the other school children in St. Lucas loved the highlight of each autumn season. They watched from the school windows and street as a long caravan of Winnebago men on colorful ponies, followed by an endless stream of wagons and carts, and finally the women and children, were leaving their summer encampment on former Indian Subagency land near the Turkey River, passed through St. Lucas. They were joined by Winnebago staying along the Little Turkey River south of Waucoma and the entire band headed eastward to winter quarters along the Mississippi River and in Wisconsin."

## **St. Francis Solanus Indian Mission and School**

The Ojibwe art and crafts display were a popular attraction at the event. The exhibit demonstrated the fine craftsmanship of authentic Ojibwe art. Fine items included beautiful jewelry, including some ceremonial jewelry, dreamcatchers, birchbark baskets, moccasins, decorative drums, dolls, religious items, art pieces and more. These



Ho-Chunk canoe and baskets on display at the workshop

items are made by the parishioners of the St. Francis Solanus Mission and other Ojibwe crafts. Many attendees of the workshop purchased the lovely items.

St. Francis Solanus Indian Mission and School are located on the Lac Courte Oreilles Indian Reservation of the village of Reserve, WI, approximately 12 miles from Hayward, Wisconsin. The school is staffed by the School Sisters of St. Francis, Milwaukee, WI. The mission website is [www.stfrancismission.org](http://www.stfrancismission.org)

## **Field Trip to the Turkey River Subagency Sites**

Rt. Rev. Terry Landsgaard gave an overview of the history and significance of the sites. As the afternoon drew to a close, over 55 members of the audience in a caravan of 25 cars headed into the threatening skies and windy outdoors. At the former Turkey River Indian Subagency a heavy rain began to fall. Undeterred, the Rev. Terry Landsgaard lectured on the Winnebago school to the rain-soaked but eager listeners who trudged up the muddy road. At one time, approximately 250 Indian children and adults attended the school at this site. Their families lived along the Turkey River, in nearby woodlands and along tributaries as Bass Creek.

Ruth Huber Pavlovec and Helen Huber Langreck shared stories of their growing up in the old late 1850's limestone house that served as post office and road house during those early decades of European settlement in the area. Helen and Ruth spoke of the nearby Indian burials and their strong desire to respect these sacred spaces. Their love of the old stone house of their childhood shined through their emotional remarks. Rev. Landsgaard emphasized the historical significance of this site to both the Winnebago and the European settlers.

The Chapel of St. Anthony de Padua, the smallest church, was the third stop. Rev. Landsgaard recited the story of the soldier in Napoleon's Army in Russia who promised to build a chapel for prayer if he could escape the harsh northern winter and the constantly threatening Russian forces. The chapel grounds contains the only known remaining building from the Turkey River Subagency. Tom Huber noted that approximately 60 Native Americans may be buried on or near these chapel grounds.



The Huber family had the cabin professionally restored in the 1980s per Tom Huber. The cabin was moved from the Zeno Huber farm to the present site. The tour participants engaged in a lively conversation about Winnebago living at and near this site along the Turkey River until the post-World War II period and of Winnebago burials in nearby woodlands.



Exchanging stories and photos in the rain under a Burr Oak tree

The rain did not prevent the group from visiting the former Winnebago living site at the confluence of the Bass Creek with the Turkey River. Thirty of the group stood under a beautiful burr oak tree where they exchanged stories of Winnebago presence until recent decades.

As a teenager Lee Stammeyer, now 97 years old, saw the Winnebago annually erect three large tents in the 1930s at this Turkey River site. Lee recalled that the Winnebago spent the summer hunting, fishing and doing occasional farm work in exchange for chickens and piglets.

As the summer solstice approached, the enthralled group spontaneously gathered in a large circle under this mighty oak tree and continued their animated discussion of historic cross-cultural encounters for nearly an hour as the evening light diminished into night.

### **Impressions on the Workshop**

In summing up his reactions to the workshop, Collin Price, the Ho-Chunk Nation Public Relations Officer stated: "Today was a tremendous opportunity to give some insight into our Ho-Chunk people and our shared history. I think every attendee learned something new, including myself. The rich history and the different perspectives made for great discussions and we are certainly excited about returning to St. Lucas."



Attendees at the Native American Workshop

Julio Gutierrez of Colorado Springs commented, "I was gratified to see the descendants of the peoples who settled and nurtured these lands of northeast Iowa for the past 13,000 years coming together to learn and honor the history and the cultures that went before us."

Jeanette Dietzenbach of Decorah stated, "The workshop was a unique opportunity to study and celebrate part of the history of this area which we tend to take for granted. The workshop provided premier quality presenters and a great deal of information to absorb." Phyllis Orthaus, a Museum volunteer, stated, "This workshop was an awesome team effort and greatly exceeded our expectations."

Jane Keating of Shell Rock delighted in noting, "It was a well-planned workshop. Going to the historical sites was a walk back in time. As the speakers told the stories about the Winnebago, I could almost feel their presence; what an awesome experience. There was nothing boring about this workshop, it kept you on the edge of your seat."

Gerald Johnson of New Hampton was enthralled with the Ho-Chunk language being spoken by Jon Greendeer. Gerald said, "I was also very delighted to learn of the amazing rock art in northeast Iowa."

Cecily Harsh de Gutierrez, a volunteer from Colorado Springs, stated, "Jon Greendeer was a very engaging and dynamic speaker. He conveyed his message about the Ho-Chunk Nation with passion as well as humor."

Co-moderator of the workshop, Clair Blong emphasized, "We are very thankful to the Ho-Chunk Nation leadership team for their very strong and passionate participation, to the many excellent speakers, and the large and attentive audience. The workshop success was due to the many very dedicated volunteers and their extraordinary team effort."

Clair also noted that several interesting topics are being considered for the next annual workshop at the German American Museum. One topic of specific interest is "Preserving Ethnic Heritages (such as Native American, German, Czech, Norwegian, Irish, Black) in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities." We intend to explore offering the workshop as a credit-hour course with local colleges and universities.

## HO-CHUNK NATION LEADER & ARCHAEOLOGIST VISIT TURKEY RIVER HISTORIC SITES

On July 17, 2018, Chloris Lowe, the Ho-Chunk Nation former Chairman and President, and Christine Wellman Hall, archaeologist, visited the historic Fort Atkinson site, the Fort Atkinson Library and Museum, and the remains of the trading post southwest of Fort Atkinson near Pollard Creek and other historic sites in the area.

Chloris stated, "I am impressed with the Ho-Chunk collection in the Museum, the professional display of these artifacts, and the community's strong desire to cherish its Native American history."

Chloris and Christine also met with Myles Kupka, noted local historian, and thanked him and Al Becker for their decades of effort to preserve and cherish the early history of the encounters of the Ho-Chunk with Europeans.

At a shaded picnic table in the Fort Atkinson Park with a steady breeze keeping the heat and humidity at a distance, Chloris and Christine met with the Zeno Huber daughters, Ruth Huber Pavlovec and Helen Huber Langreck for a long and sometimes emotional discussion of the trials and tribulations of the Ho-Chunk Nation's people's history along the Turkey River. Ruth and Helen surprised and pleased Chloris and Christine with their collection of Emma Big Bear woven baskets of pre-World War II era and her beautiful hand-made jewelry made in the early 1950s.

Chloris stated: "I am very humbled to see these historic pieces and thankful for the Huber sisters' passion to preserve these items for future generations to enjoy and appreciate the skills of Ho-Chunk artisans."

On Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, as guests of the St. Lucas Historical Society, Chloris and Christine engaged eighteen very attentive regional citizens on Native American prehistorical and historical presence in this area of Turkey River Valley. Chloris elaborated extensively on the importance of the Ho-chunk Nation family, clan, social and cultural structure as they relate to spiritual life for strong and healthy living.

Christine noted that the arrow points and other edged stones found in this area are from prehistoric times. She also amazed the audience by emphasizing that archaeological evidence strongly suggests that humans have been living in this rich landscape of the Upper Mississippi Valley area for over 13,000 years, basically since the time of the last ice age. Chloris reminded the audience of Ho-Chunk Nation beliefs of the brotherhood of mankind and that we have so much to learn from each other. He also shared that many traditional beliefs of tribal people have strong parallels in many of the world's religious beliefs.

During a short visit to several Winnebago Subagency historic school and dwelling sites, Chloris said, "Native people have been on this landscape for literally thousands of years. I can understand why through millennia Aboriginal people walked, lived and thrived on these very lands, and as importantly, how the land restored their spiritual and physical connections with the land. Christine, in finding a prehistoric stone artifact at one of the sites, noted "Native Americans were here long before the Europeans and that recent mankind picks the very same sites on the landscape on which to live, work and raise their families."

The Right Reverend Terry Landsgaard, who organized the two-day visit, commented: "The visit was a huge success in fostering an ongoing dialogue with the Ho-Chunk Nation leadership and with the archaeological community in exploring and celebrating the Native American presence in this area."



Professor Gale Bishop presenting book to Chloris Lowe

## WILLIAM H. REGNERY AND HIS FAMILY

On January 27, 1983, the Union newspaper in West Union, IA, published the following tribute to William H. Regnery who spent his early formative years on a farm in the St. Lucas area and later became a renowned businessman, benefactor, community leader, and significant influence in national level politics in the 1930s. Mr. Regnery cherished his education at St. Luke's School and strongly supported the education of the local youth by donating monies for the St. Luke's High School Library in the late 1940s and the gymnasium in the early 1950s.

The Union editor writes of the Henry Regnery family history book published in 1981. A heartwarming little volume has come our way one which has three Union-Land touches.

Henry Regnery, who now makes his home in Three Oaks, MI has written the biography of his father, entitled "William H. Regnery and His Family." It is a beautifully written tribute from a son to a remarkable father whose descendants numbered some 60 at the time the book was published in 1981.

William Henry Regnery was born in WI of solid German parentage and when he was just a year old the family, father Wilhelm and mother Anna Jung Regnery, moved to a 40-acre farm in Iowa, about three miles from St. Lucas. The farm was in Winneshiek county but the strong connection was with the St. Luke's parish at St. Lucas.

They purchased the farm on November 8, 1878, paying George Kruse, who also had a store in St. Lucas, \$500. Although the family was to spend only a few years on the farm, it was sold to John Baptist Blong for \$950 in 1887, those years were treasured. The author writes of how his father often spoke of them, telling of the family "making its own soap with animal fat and lye extracted from ashes made from old leather, of making yeast, of spinning wool - there was a hand weaver in the neighborhood who wove it into cloth for them - of growing and gathering their own vegetable seeds, of drying fruit and curing meat.

He would describe the peddlers who would come by with great packs on their backs, bringing needles, thread and other useful things which were not otherwise readily available. The peddlers, who were invariably Jewish, were always welcome, he said, not only for what they brought, but for the stories they told.

If we would complain about walking to school in the cold, he would describe walking the three miles to and from school in the bitter winter weather, sometimes in blinding snowstorms. I also remember his description of a drought when they had to go for miles by wagon to get water for themselves and the stock. It was not an easy life, but he was able to make me appreciate their feeling of satisfaction and contentment when preparations for winter were complete.

"All this, together with the closeness of the community, with the parish church as its center, makes me realize all the more what the loss of the farm must have meant to them."

Young William's only formal education or at least all he ever talked about to his family, was in St. Lucas at the Catholic parochial school, conducted by an order of Franciscan Sisters. Henry writes of his father's recollections of the school, "of the firm but understanding discipline of the Sisters, of how they began the teaching of arithmetic using acorns in a box of sand to demonstrate adding and subtracting and taught the geography of the United States with the aid of a railroad map.

Their equipment was doubtless of the simplest, but they must have been dedicated teachers and judging from my father, they produced results. The teaching in the morning, my father said, was in English, and in the afternoon in German. As limited as my father's formal education was, he used English correctly and could express himself effectively and clearly, had beautiful handwriting and spoke good German.



William Henry Regnery, Benefactor



The author tells of a visit the family paid to St. Lucas when he was a child of seven. The year was 1919 and he writes, "It must have been in early spring because I can still remember the muddy road. The sister who taught my father was still there, and although she had not seen him since he was a boy of 11 or 12, she instantly recognized him."

Following those early years in St. Lucas, the family moved to Kansas City and eventually William Henry Regnery made his way to the Chicago area where he was able to achieve financial success in the manufacture of window shades and related goods.

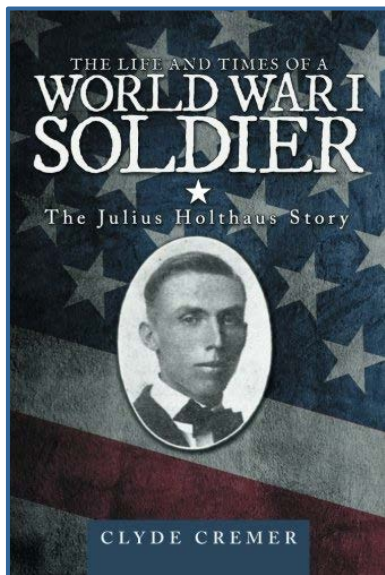
The family lived in Hinsdale, a western suburb, where Mr. Regnery was a pillar of the community, serving on the village board and helping to bring the local bank through the difficult years of bank moratoriums.

His opinions were valued by men influential in Chicago, IL, and national politics.

In addition to his boyhood in St. Lucas, Mr. Regnery also came in touch with Union-land through two men who had roots here. The first of these was Don Warnke, who at one time worked for the Citizens State Bank at Hawkeye and who, until his retirement several years ago headed Mr. Regnery's bank in Hinsdale. The other was Frank Bauder, who grew up on a farm between West Union and Elgin and who was to head a Chicago bank in which the Regnery family had a controlling interest.

We enjoyed the little 75-page book, which came to us as a gift from the author through the good graces of Mr. Warnke. Should anyone be interested in reading it, we would be pleased to share.

## THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A WORLD WAR I SOLDIER: THE JULIUS HOLTHAUS STORY



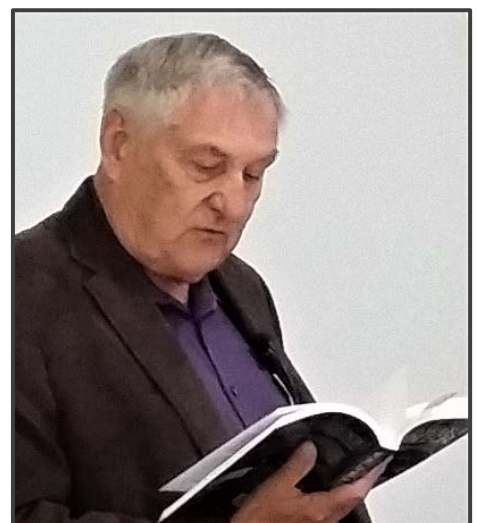
On May 23, Clyde Cremer, the author of The Life and Times of a World War I Soldier: The Julius Holthaus Story, spoke at the Museum about his book. Julius Holthaus was born and raised in Northeast Iowa. Holthaus was a humble American farm boy who went to France to help fill the depleted ranks of the Allies in America's biggest battle in World War I, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. This battle was one of the costliest battles in history. The fight involved over a million American doughboys spanning 47 days and resulted in the deaths of tens of thousands of Allied and German soldiers.

The story follows in detail the Holthaus story from Idaho and Iowa through his enlistment, training, and final trauma in the dark, disenchanted forest of the Argonne. Although Cremer focuses on the life of a single soldier in war, he weaves the story from the background of military leaders and battle tactics.

After many years of research to write this book, Cremer states the facts of the enormous toll of lives lost of all soldiers who fought this war.

"If the dead killed in WW1 were lined up 20 abreast and marched from sunrise to sunset, this is how long it would take to pass the reviewing stand -The French dead would take 11 days-The British dead 10 days-The Russian dead 5 weeks-The entire Allied parade with Americans, Serbians, Romanians, Greeks would take 2 1/2 months to pass-Enemy Soldiers would take 6 weeks-If ALL the dead were marched it would take 4 months for them to pass" (excerpted from "The Life and Times of a WWI Soldier" by Clyde Cremer.)

Mr. Cremer currently is president of American Log Homes in Pueblo, Colorado. The book and related materials are on display in the military section of the Museum.



Clyde Cremer reading pages from his book to the audience.

## WINNESHIEK COUNTY HONORS THOMAS MURPHY, A CIVIL WAR VETERAN, WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS

Clair Blong

On April 28, on a cool but sunny and promising Saturday morning, 65 preservation minded folks and aging military veterans trudged across a rough, plowed field to a wooded hilltop, to gather in a circle around the long-forgotten Young/Riha pioneer cemetery to honor the life of a long unknown Civil War veteran buried at the edge of this cornfield in Military Township.

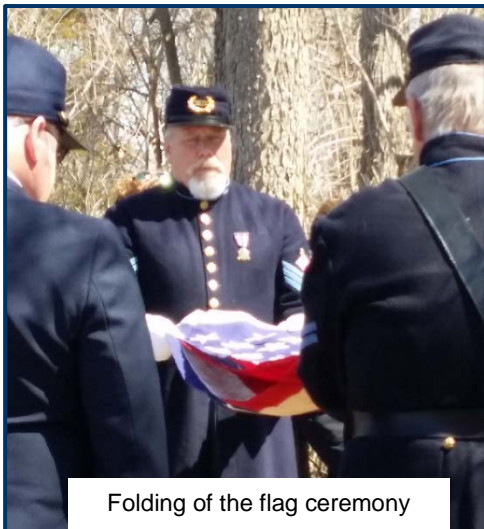


Local citizens and military veterans came out to honor Thomas Murphy, a Civil War veteran.

Thomas Murphy, an enlisted man, had served at Fort Atkinson in the late 1840s. When the Winnebago Tribe (now Ho-Chunk Nation) was moved to West Central Minnesota in 1949, Murphy was assigned to be the caretaker of Fort Atkinson. After the fort was closed he remained in the area.

When the Civil War began, Thomas Murphy was called to duty to fight in the Grand Army of the Republic. Murphy was captured in late 1862 and became a prisoner of war. His health declined rapidly in terrible prison conditions. After the war ended in the Spring of 1865, he was released from service and returned to the Fort Atkinson area. Due to his poor health condition, Thomas died on June 20, 1866, and was buried at the Young/Riha pioneer family cemetery with no military honors.

On Saturday, the Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors and the Pioneer Cemetery Commission righted this historical omission by giving Thomas Murphy a full military memorial service worthy of the 152 years since his death. Mark Kuhn, of the Board of Supervisors, and Tony Meyer, chairperson of the Cemetery Commission spoke eloquently of the need to right this historical oversight and honor a man for his national military service in the Iowa Regiment called the Martyrs and the need to preserve our historical pioneer cemetery, so rich in the early European immigrant history of the area.



Folding of the flag ceremony



Presentation of the flag



Stacey Gossling of the Cemetery Commission presented a brief and succinct history of the Young/Riha Cemetery. Tony Meyer of the Cemetery Commission led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Matt Larson of the Burr Oak and Decorah Lutheran Churches spoke on the gospel message of life as service to others and how Thomas Murphy exemplified that calling of service in his military experience and his ordeal as a prisoner of war.

Jody Holland of the Cemetery Commission gave an overview of the life and service of Thomas Murphy. Jim Meyer of Fort Atkinson gave the assembled a stirring recitation of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. John Morris provided bagpipe funerary music.

The Sons of the Veterans of the Civil War executed the Grand Army of the Republic Burial of the Dead service and folding of the flag ceremony. The military service ended with a rifle salute from the Fort Atkinson American Legion Post #672 and Sons of the Union Veterans. The ceremony ended with Dan Kirkeby playing Taps.



## UPDATE ON SPANISH COINS FOUND IN AREA

Elaine (Schaufenbuel) Burk

### And Now There are Three – Update on the Spanish Coins Found in the Area

The article "An Amazing Find", was published in the Winter 2016, Museum Newsletter #3. In that article I told of how I had found a Spanish silver coin, dated 1782, on our family farm near the Turkey River south of Waucoma, Iowa.

Years later when I wanted to know more about the coin, I contacted the Iowa State Archeologist's office in Iowa City. They confirmed that it was an authentic Spanish silver coin. They said that Spanish coins were minted in the silver mines in Mexico City; Lima, Peru; and Potosi, Bolivia. They were used for trade as far north as the state of Iowa. The coin was registered in the Iowa State Archeologist's office in Iowa City.

The Iowa State Archeologist provided the names of Wayne and Susan Smith of Fort Atkinson, who had also found a Spanish silver coin that was dated 1773. They found the coin around 2002 near a spring next to the Old Military Road on their farm. This coin is also registered in the Iowa State Archeologist's office in Iowa City.

Recently I learned of another Spanish coin that was found in Ft. Atkinson by my brother-in-law, Lavern Hackman. Lavern found the 1801 Spanish coin in the back yard of his home near the Fort Atkinson military site.

Finding Spanish coins in northeast Iowa is proof that the Spanish had owned Iowa for some time. It is one more piece of information that verifies the historical significance of this area of Iowa.



1773 Spanish Silver Coin  
FRONT BACK



1801 Spanish Silver Coin  
FRONT BACK

## GERMAN HISTORIAN VISITS ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, CEMETERY, & GERMAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

On May 14 2018, Carl and Rosemary (Kuennen) Most, founding members of the German American Museum, gave Robert Mueller-Stahl, a resident of Berlin, Germany, a brief tour of the beautiful St. Luke's Church and Cemetery, the German American Museum and Library, and the Saint Anthony of Padua Chapel located near the Turkey River. Mr. Mueller-Stahl found St. Luke's Cemetery with all the German names of particular interest.



Stahl was most impressed with the beautiful stained-glass windows in St. Luke's Church. These windows came from Munich, Germany, immediately after World War I and were made by craftsmen whose skills have largely been lost through the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Robert stated, "In some German cathedrals, which were damaged by Allied bombing during World War II, large sections of windows have been enclosed with regular glass, not stained glass, for example in Munich. This gives us a vivid reminder of how catastrophic war is and how few skilled persons remain with the knowledge to make real stained-glass art."

Regarding the Smallest Church, Robert was struck by the Frank Joseph Huber and Johann Gaertner family's strong commitment to their faith, their direct connection to Napoleonic military history, and their enduring dedication to maintaining the church for these many decades.

Mr. Mueller-Stahl is Fulbright Fellow in modern German history at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Robert's degrees are: M.A., Transcontinental European History in Modernity, University of Göttingen, Germany (currently enrolled), and a B.A., History and Political Science, University of Göttingen, Germany. His father is Hagen Mueller-Stahl, a renowned theater dramatist, in Berlin, Germany. Robert's uncle is Armin Mueller-Stahl, famous as a German movie actor and artist.

Robert said, "I am interested in early Twentieth Century Germany, in particular the Weimar Republic. I am exploring the structures and mechanisms leading to political polarization and the circulating understandings of democracy. His master's thesis research is focusing on the social and political role of sports clubs in German society during the Weimar Republic in the 1920s and early 1930s.

Robert enjoyed the German American Museum tour and noted the wide diversity of local historical artifacts. Robert commented, "This Museum reflects the efforts of many citizens to share their German and American heritages and helps persons understand their cultural identity as Americans with a particular cultural heritage." Robert found the early baseball sports equipment collection of particular interest.

Mr. Mueller-Stahl was also interested in the Museum's extensive military service artifact collection. Robert noted, "This kind of display would not be evident in most German museums, given the two catastrophic conflicts in Europe." Robert was very impressed with the large number of history and literary volumes in the library suitable for general reading and advanced research.

Carl Most summarized his visit, "As a young scholar, Robert has a fine understanding of our history. He understands how we cherish knowledge of the countries of our ancestors, how we as Americans can look to the past with a desire to preserve our national and religious heritage as we live our lives and seek to shape the future of our country."

Mr. Mueller-Stahl has been invited to submit his thesis paper to the Society for German American Studies April 2019 annual symposium in Madison, WI. This symposium draws scholars from the United States and German-speaking countries of Europe. Robert has also been invited to present his thesis at the German American Museum next year.

## GRANT AWARDS

### Fayette County Community Foundation

On Friday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Fayette County Community Foundation awarded the St. Lucas Historical Society a matching grant of \$10,000 toward the repair and restoration of one fourth of the large Museum windows, storm windows and frames to their original condition.

Joyce Hauer Moss, the Society vice-president, received the grant check from Kaye M. Englin, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa of Cedar Falls, Iowa. Accompanying Joyce at the awards ceremony in Hawkeye were several Society Founding Members.



This window restoration and preservation project, the beginning phase of a comprehensive project, will significantly reduce and eliminate the wind and moisture leakage in specific Museum rooms. The restoration of the windows will improve building energy conservation and significantly improve the functioning of the climate control air conditioning. In 2017 Alliant Energy surveyed the building for energy savings and strongly supported our efforts to restore the window systems to their original working condition and maximize efforts to eliminate air leakage to improve energy performance in the building.

The Society, via the German American Museum, provides the community with a repository for the rapidly growing collection of locally significant historical and cultural artifacts, photos, books and materials intended to better inform and celebrate its history and heritage. The Museum has over 7,000 artifacts and materials, over 4,000 volumes on German and American history, art, literature, culture, genealogy, local history, family genealogies and photographs.

The Museum serves as a focal point and gathering place for family and class reunions, special tours (German and American student groups, Red Hat ladies, American Legion, Native American Indian groups), special seminars and workshops, family gatherings, celebrations and the annual Oktoberfest and Christmas Reflections cultural events. Each year the Museum welcomes over 2,000 visitors from the community and across the country. The Society publishes a newsletter twice yearly that reports on local and family history, events, recent donations and on-going restoration projects. To learn more about the Museum activities, events, newsletters and more, visit our website [stlucasmuseum.org](http://stlucasmuseum.org).

### Bank 1st Grant

On January 8, Bank 1<sup>st</sup> of West Union presented a check for \$2,000 to the St. Lucas Historical Society. Jim Moss, representing the board of directors of Bank 1<sup>st</sup>, stated, "This donation is in honor of the late Mark Mihm, a long-time board member of Bank 1st and resident of St. Lucas. This donation represents the Bank's philosophy of giving back to the community." The donation was made to support the installation of LED lighting throughout the building. The Museum lighting fixtures date back to the early 1950s and many were not operational. In February, Holthaus Electric of Festina tackled and completed this major project. In March, Alliant Energy of Dubuque rebated one fourth of the total LED lighting project costs of \$4,000.

## WINDOW RESTORATION PROJECT

### Why Building Restoration?

The U.S. National Park Service and the State of Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs placed the school building on the National Register of Historic Sites in 2005. Its Georgian Palladian architectural style makes it one of the most significant century-old school buildings in the State of Iowa.



Window Restoration Process

The Museum is the focal point for preserving and celebrating the ethnic and cultural heritage of the community and for hosting family and community events like Oktoberfest, Christmas Reflections and educational workshops.



Window Restoration Process



## Grants Awarded to Museum

In April the Community Foundation of Fayette County (CFFC) awarded its maximum grant at the level of \$10,000 to the Society to restore the windows. In July the State of Iowa followed with a matching funds grant of \$39,300 to the Society to restore all the large window sets in the building to U.S. Department of Interior Federal preservation standards.

Regarding the matching funds requirement, a very generous donor has already matched the CFFC funds. Work on 12 window sets (two double hung windows, the large four panel storm windows and the window frames) began in mid-August. The windows sets are being refurbished in Decorah and will be re-installed in approximately 8 weeks. The St. Lucas Historical Society needs to match the generous grant of \$39,300 from the State of Iowa to undertake and complete the window restoration project in the next two years. Work on the next block of windows sets to be restored will begin this autumn.

## Matching Funds Appeal

Many of our grandparents, parents, our classmates and we have spent many years in this well built, attractive building that provided a nurturing learning environment for a quality education that helped set our course in life.

We are asking families to consider a donation of \$1,000 to restore a complete window set. All donors and their designated ancestors will be noted on a large donor/memorial plaque in the entrance hallway of the building. All donations are tax deductible charitable contributions and a tax letter will be provided.

In addition, donors at this level become Founding Members of the Society. To date, we have half of the pledges/donations required for the window restoration project. We need additional pledges/donations to completely match the State of Iowa funds. Many families are making their donation in honor of their parents or grandparents who attended the school. In addition, some high school classes are considering a class donation.

## Act Now

Your help and support for this critical window project is vital to restoring this majestic building. The Museum serves as a focal point for preserving and celebrating the cultural heritage of the community.

As the cultural heritage center, the Museum attracts wide interest and supporters from the community and across the state and nation. Please have your family consider supporting this vital community heritage endeavor to recognize your family ancestry and be acknowledged as an active participant in the community.

## VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE



Dennis in action

For fifteen years Dennis (Denny) Boyer has faithfully mowed the grounds of the Museum and since 2008, the Blacksmith Shop grounds. This outdoor work requires many hours of time and effort and Denny gladly keeps the lawns looking well-trimmed and manicured come rain or shine.

In the autumn DeVere Manderfield pitches in with the mulching of the maple leaves. Prior to his back problems, DeVere helped with the trimming of the sidewalk edges and around the school building.

Denny is proud of his work in keeping the grounds looking shipshape at all times. When least expected, Denny is mowing prior to special events and weekends. When mechanical, heating or plumbing problems occur, Denny is right there to fix the problem or offer a solution that saves the Society money and resources.

As an example of his dedication, last New Year's Eve, Denny discovered that the furnace for the chapel and basement level of the building was not functioning. This particular night happened to be one of the coldest nights of the winter. Denny took immediate action and called a local heating firm to fix the problem. After an hour of searching, with the clock ticking close to midnight at Times Square, the heating expert discovered the technical problem and replaced the faulty furnace parts.

The furnace was soon up and running smoothly. Denny waited until the furnace was heating the room to prevent pipes from freezing as the outside temperature continued to drop for the coldest night of the year.

Dedication and taking responsibility are the hallmark characteristics of an outstanding volunteer. We are blessed to have his expertise and talents supporting the mission of the Museum. Our heartfelt thanks to Denny for his many years of his service. The next time you see Denny, give him a warm thank-you for all his volunteer efforts.

Many thanks to Denny Boyer.

#### **MATERIAL DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM, JANUARY – AUGUST 2018**

- Rare antique Belgium historical linen tapestry, 3 large antique lighting fixtures for Museum hallway, Joyce Schaufenbuel.
- Very large (9 ft. long) mobile glass display case, large vacuum cleaner, 4 stuffed cushion chairs, European style room divider, 8 ft. portable table, Mel and Janet Bodensteiner.
- Baldwin piano, piano lamp, sheet music, framed Smallest Church print from Ken & Lorraine Kuennen Estate, Genealogy history files on Boeding, Franzen, Croatt families and Al Schmitt, article on 1869 Case Harvester, Norbert Hackman.
- Extensive early Society and Museum working files, 12 Christmas ornaments made by Marion Stammeyer, Westfalisches Freilichtmuseum Detmold, 1987, Mary Lee (Stammeyer) Johns.
- Agatha Langreck Busta oral history CDs, Rosemary Kuennen Most.
- Lorraine Kuennen extensive local historical research files, German travel artifacts, Paul Kuennen.
- "Class of 220 Confirmed in St. Lucas", Witness article, June 1937, "Local History Stories of NE Iowa", 5 antique German beer mugs, and two large Christmas angels, Ruth Boeding Huffman.
- 2018 large Masopust signage, 2 large brown glazed fire glazed urns, 2 large wooden stereo speakers, 1950s double-handle Winnebago basket, Italian accordion, Korean War Navy wool blanket, Kuennen Estate, Clair Blong.
- 35 World War I and II military history books, Clyde Cremer.
- World War I Soldier: The Julius Holthaus Story, and 3 Black/White photos of the construction of the St. Luke's Church in 1914, Ken & Cathy Ehler.
- Rare cast-iron tomahawk from Indian Subagency lands, 2 Indian Tribal historic maps, 60 St. Luke's Church annual financial statements, 5 iron and wooden tools, and antique tin, Dan Smith.
- Large decorated buffalo skull by Ojibway Nation artist, St. Francis Mission School Sisters.
- Tony and Agnes Meinert German church medallions and ribbons, Edwin & Helen Langreck.
- Linus Bodensteiner's World War II uniform, Ken Bodensteiner.
- St. Lucas Pirates baseball uniform, Bank 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Antique long wooden bench, Dick and Phyllis Orthaus.
- Traveling chalice and mass kit, Father Dale Rausch Estate, Norbert Hackman.
- Humphrey Dairy 1950s glass framed country house and pond picture and very old round, stone grinding wheel, Luke & Agnes Blong Estate, Clair Blong.
- 1880s very large German family bible, Edna Langreck Jirak.
- 1870s German Catholic religious book, Tom Huber.
- 10 stereo speakers and related amplifier equipment, Dee Jay Orthaus.
- Framed Kuennen BW photo and Melenia Kuennen Kruse book, Mary Kruse.

- 25 clergy robes and garments, 2 religious cloth banners, large brass church tabernacle, Allen Schmitt Estate.
- Large collection of Blong and Schmitt family photos, Edward & Adam Schmitt.
- Signage for photos in Kuennen display case, Kuennen Family.
- Ho-Chunk Code Talkers medal purchased for the Museum, Clair Blong.
- 1876 German Book, once owned by Anton Stathel & Sigismund Schaufenbuel, Lloyd Schaufenbuel family.
- Prehistoric Indian stone battle ax from Illinois, Becky Smith. (Long-term loan)
- 1930s Emma Big Bear wooden woven basket, Marcia Amundson & Kathy Meyer. (Long-term loan)

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