



McFarland Historical Society

5814 MAIN STREET, MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN 53558

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Newspapers Galore at the Annual Meeting March 6, 1 -3 P.M. at the E.D. Locke Library



So who has the best collection of newspapers second only to the Library of Congress? The answer is our own Wisconsin State Historical Society. Long-time McFarland resident Ron Larson has been touring the state with his colleagues from the SHS giving presentations on this remarkable collection and how it can be used to track down our ancestors. Ron has agreed to give his talk to us at the annual meeting on March 6th at the E.D. Locke Library. We are so pleased to have him and we are sure you will find his talk very interesting.

The meeting is from 1-3 PM in the meeting room. Special presentations will be made for our Volunteer of the Year, and to Henry Bexson for his Eagle Scout project at the Larson House Museum. We also want to recognize all of our many volunteers. Come for treats and good conversation. Find out what your McFarland Historical Society did in 2015 and what we have planned for 2016.

Lee Ackley is Volunteer of the Year

Lee Ackley and his wife Cheryl are long time members of the McFarland Historical Society. After retiring from teaching and coaching, Lee spends time in his large workshop repairing, restoring and building just about anything made of wood. In 2012, Lee was asked to serve on the Historical Society's Larson House Planning Committee. Lee contributed his talents by providing his ideas and technical skills to the many restoration projects throughout the house. He restored one of the gable decorations and completely rebuilt the other. He rebuilt the top of one of the original vanities that now graces the children's room. He put a new piece of veneer on the front of a 1920's side buffet in the dining room. He worked with Dale Marsden to put a new wall and flooring in the small closet bathroom on the first floor, and he figured out how to make a new oak rim for the 1930's claw-foot bathtub on the second floor in the Larson House. Lee's biggest projects were on the outside of the house where he set the original spool spindles, corner brackets and balusters into new frames to rebuild the



railings and spandrels on the front and side porches. He also repaired and installed the doors and door hardware for the front double doors and side porch door. Lee rebuilt a screen door for the side porch and recently repaired it when moisture caused it to swell. Since her retirement, his wife Cheryl has also contributed by painting, cleaning and serving as a docent. The Ackley's will be honored as Volunteer of the Year at the Annual Meeting on March 6th.



Ladies Afternoon Tea at the Larson House Museum



Over 60 ladies sipped tea and enjoyed delicate savory and sweet deserts under white tents set up on the Larson House lawn last July. Organizer Kathy Krusiec explained the art of taking tea while Anne Nichols provided violin and keyboard music for the event. Over \$1300 was collected for the Larson House Museum. Many of the same Historical Society volunteers will host the Chocolate Fest in 2016.

Museum Visitors

Early last fall eight new classes of energetic third-graders from Waubesa Intermediate School (WIS) enjoyed touring our museum, log cabin and annex. Each morning from October 5 to October 8, two classes with teachers and helpers met up with volunteer guides from our society membership to see our exhibits. No time was wasted as small groups of curious and inquisitive youngsters began exploring each area to learn about the early life in the community first started by William McFarland. Within the hour, our guides had taught our guests about the hard work on an early farm, living in a log cabin and many things about life in the “good old days.” Thanks to Gail Aaroen, Peggy Anderson, Jane Licht, Wes Licht, Dale Marsden, Gini Nichols, Iris Othrow and Don Peterson for their instructional efforts. These guides appreciated the good behavior and enthusiasm of all these young visitors.

Sunday afternoon on October 25, these same students from WIS were invited to return to the museum with family members for a special Third Grade Open House. While adults were stationed throughout the exhibits, it was the job of the boys

and girls to guide their parents and siblings through the three buildings and show them their favorite displays and the cool things that they had learned about McFarland history. Overheard were interesting conversations between the different generations of visitors. It was a fun afternoon for all involved.



These third graders brought their parents to tour the museum. This is our military display dating from the Civil War period through the war in Vietnam.

On the evening of December 4, some members of the American Legion Post 534, were guests at the museum. Post Historian Rob Blanchar arranged for the visit to show our local veterans the exhibits related to the military, from the Civil War through the War in Vietnam. Of special interest was the new lobby display about our McFarland soldiers in World War I and the new Gold Star Mother Pilgrimage exhibit.

Lawn Party at the Larson House Museum

While the tea was only for ladies, the gentlemen and their families were invited to a Victorian Lawn Party on August 16, 2015. Ice cream, sandwiches, beverages, and lawn games, the colorful Steampunk people, and the Almost in Time Dixieland jazz band were enjoyed by all. The entertainment and tours of the house were free. Everyone could vote on his or her favorite Steampunk outfit (think Jules Vern attire with gadgets) and ribbons were awarded to the top three costumes. Nearly \$400 was earned from the food stand and donations.

New Publications at the Museum

Two books have recently been published by the McFarland Historical Society. Society President Dale Marsden suggested that the booklet on the McFarland family originally written by Roy McFarland, a grandson of village founder William McFarland, should be edited and photographs added. Board member and genealogist Gini Nichols searched and found obituaries for the family members. Jane Licht retyped the book and Judy St. Clair did the proofreading. The result is a well-researched book on William McFarland and his family complete with interesting stories about living in the McFarland House. The 49-page book titled William McFarland And Family sells for \$5.



Ginny Nichols, Judy Saint Clair, and Jane Licht, (back row) Dale Marsden and Ron Larson (seated.)

Many years ago, Ron Larson convinced the McFarland Historical Society board of directors that a walking tour of historic homes in the village was a good idea. He researched 60 houses built in McFarland from 1857 to 1920 and learned the names of the first owners. He took photographs of these structures and had experts from the State Historical Society identify the architectural styles. He even got a grant from Dane County and was able to publish Historic McFarland, A Walking Tour. Now, 30 years later, with only a few copies left, the board decided to publish an updated version. Jane Licht researched current owners and sent them letters about the project. Many of the owners contacted her to let her know of previous owners. She added this information and new photographs of the same 60 buildings. Ron graciously edited the new book. Now in color, the updated version sells for \$10.

New Shelving and 1920's Kitchen



Don Peterson, Wes Licht, Dale Marsden and Dick Kohl waiting for Bob Kolek to bring the new shelving over to the garage to assemble.

Last fall, society board members Bob Kolek, Dale Marsden, Dick Kohl, Don Peterson and Wes Licht cleaned out the storage area in the annex behind the log cabin. They sorted through items and labeled boxes. Master carpenter Kolek designed and cut new shelving and the others helped with the construction. Now when a new display is to be created, the appropriate artifacts in storage can be found more easily.

Recently, the same crew of board members remodeled the 1920's kitchen display in the museum. Wes Licht led the effort by researching kitchen designs from that era. The group decided to use a light tan wallboard on top and white wainscot paneling on the bottom half that was so popular in the 1920's. They chose vinyl flooring with a rectangular design to represent linoleum. They moved the major pieces of furniture back into the kitchen and added details to make it realistic. Come for a visit to the museum to see the results.



Dick Kohl, Bob Kolek, and Don Peterson back row, Wes Licht and Dale Marsden, front, on the "new" kitchen floor.

A Very Victorian Christmas at the Larson House Museum

Organizer Kathy Krusiec wishes to thank the many volunteers who decorated the Larson House Museum for Christmas. Most of the nearly 300 visitors filled out surveys and made very favorable comments. Thanks to our piano players and Al Schroeder, Patrick Fernan and Norb Krusiec who read, "It Was the Night Before Christmas," and those who hosted during the month of December. Our gardeners collected and dried herbs for teas. Some of our very creative volunteers prepared gift baskets with teapots, cups, teas and other items in very attractive baskets for sale. About \$1200 was raised from sales and donations. Most important was the appreciation of the visitors for this lovely, historic, community resource.



The master bedroom all decked out for Christmas.



Carole Pingel sitting with Al Schroeder who read "The night before Christmas" at the Larson House Museum during the "Christmas In The Village" celebration.

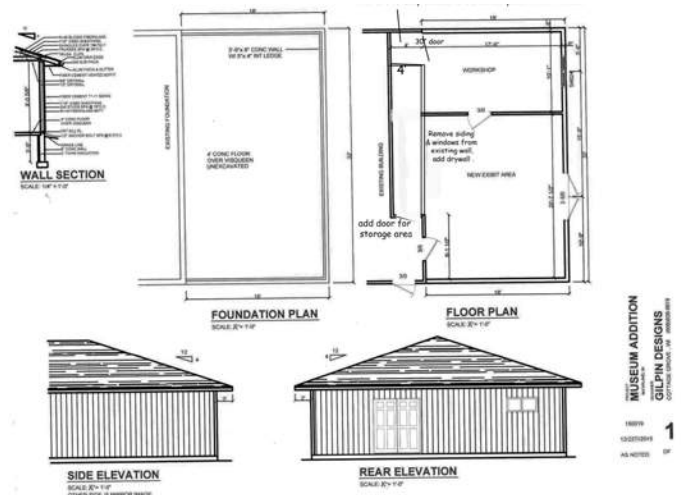
New Addition to the Museum



Wes Licht, Tim Kreft, Rob Cristlieb and David Houghton inspect the rowboat soon after acquiring it in 2005.

Those of you familiar with McFarland history may know that when John Larson and his son Obed started Larson's Beach Resort in 1906, they purchased six rowboats that were unusual because they were pointed on both ends. Edwards Park Resort had similar boats for rent. The Society has acquired one of these boats. A place is needed to restore the 16-foot long boat. After the boat is restored, the plan is to expand the cramped museum space, feature this original Lake Waubesa rowboat, and highlight lake activities so popular for so many years.

More space is also needed for a proper records center for the society. The Board of Directors would like to add an 18 foot addition to the back of the museum. With generous donations from all our members plus a number of fundraisers, we will be able to accomplish this important goal.



Preliminary plans for an addition to the back of the museum include a large display area and an air-conditioned work room.

2016 Chocolate Fest

Circle October 8th on your calendar for the sixth McFarland Chocolate Fest that promises to be the best yet. Held in the Curling Club at 4802 Marsh Road in McFarland from 7 to 9 PM, this elegant evening of candlelight, champagne (and other beverages) - and more yummy chocolate desserts than you can imagine - will be a fun-filled and memorable evening. Who will be the featured baker? Who will be the celebrity hosts? Who will provide the live music? What new chocolate delights await us? What great gifts will fill the silent auction table? Come and find out and support the Larson House Museum so we can keep the lights on, the temperature comfortable and the doors open for our many guests.



Typical table of chocolates at "Chocolate Fest."

Board Members and Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the many responsibilities at the museum and the Larson House. Board members are needed to keep organizational business running smoothly. The museum and Larson House are open Sundays 1 to 4 P.M. from Memorial Day thru September and by appointment. Contact Dale Marsden at: 838-3992 or email at: marsdenhoney@yahoo.com for more information. For anything related to the Larson House Museum, contact Jane Licht at: 838-8178 or email at: licht.jane@gmail.com. Also visit our website at: <http://www.mcfarlandhistorical.org>.

At right, ladies enter the Larson House Museum for a guided tour during the Ladies' Afternoon Tea.

Family Festival Booth

In September of last year, the Society participated in the Family Festival by renting a booth and selling loaded baked potatoes. The booth was suggested by Ginny Dodson, who also served as chair for this fundraiser. Many other society members assisted by scrubbing and baking potatoes, shuttling them to the festival, taking orders at the booth, and preparing and selling each custom-made potato. They were delicious!



Judy St.Clair, Ginny Dodson, and Vickie Holten serving stuffed baked potatoes.

Tours of the Larson House Museum

Thanks to the docents who hosted and gave tours at the Larson House Museum on Sunday afternoons last summer: Cheryl Ackley, Peggy Anderson, Pam Gerstl, Ginny Dodson, Judy & Russ St. Clair, Carol Torgeson, Bill & Joan Mitchell, Jane Licht, Cheryl Heilman, Thelma Allen, Don & Denise Peterson and Terri Bouffiou. There were also approximately twenty special tours given by appointment in 2015.



Have you renewed your membership this year?

Your membership and donations help to support the McFarland Historical Society and keeps the museum operating. If you would like to volunteer, let us know. We also have board positions open if you are interested in becoming more active in the Society. Many volunteer their time and energy to make this a successful organization.

I want to support local history as a member of the McFarland Historical Society. Please enroll me as a new or renewal member for 2016.

(Select one membership option)

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Individual | \$ 15 |
| Family | \$ 25 |
| Individual/Family life | \$ 150 |
| Supporting | \$ 250 |
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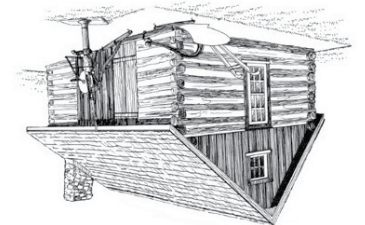
Mail check to:

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P.O. Box 94
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Go to www.mcfarlandhistorical.org for information and color photos on all McFarland Historical Society activities.

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

Address Here



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