



The Mukwonago Historical Society

September 2018

A Fresh Look for the Red Brick Museum!



The back of the Red Brick House upon completion of the painting.

It was in 1834 that Sewall Andrews came to the territory of Wisconsin from Andover, Vermont to seek his fortune. He must have liked the forest and lakes, as he made several trips back to Vermont in order to bring goods for a store here in Mequanego. In 1842, Sewall Andrews had grown prosperous enough to build a proper dwelling for his family. Andrews used brick made from a rich deposit of clay found on the banks of Stockman Lake, known today as Phantom Lake. Sewall Andrews was the first to build a house with this brick. The brick was a light yellow color and someone painted the house red at a later time.



Painters worked three weeks to complete the new look.

The Historical Society wanted the Red Brick House for a museum. When Arthur Grutzmacher, known internationally as an Indian artifact dealer and collector, died, he left \$25,000 to the Village of Mukwonago to house his priceless Indian artifact collection. The building would not only contain the artifacts from Grutzmacher, but also serve to preserve the history of Mukwonago.

This summer the Red Brick House received a fresh coat of paint! It took three weeks as the painters scraped all the loose paint surfaces, re-glazed windows, and repaired areas of deteriorated clapboard and trim. All replaced wood was matched to the original in dimensions and material. A type of primer paint was selected for its ability to re-bond old wood surfaces and remnant paint. The finish coats were a “super white” for the trim and “Roycroft Copper Red” for the siding and masonry.



The home is built in the Greek Revival style. Sidelights flank the entrance door with hand-carved wood roping and petals around the door. The house is modest in size for 1842 and is priceless to the history of Mukwonago. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

“Thirst Quenchers of Old Mukwonago”
2018-2019 Exhibit

The exhibit in the entrance to the Museum features a collection of bottles and other artifacts representing the types of refreshments the people of Mukwonago might have enjoyed in the 1860’s to the 1950’s. The display includes bottles from local dairies, soda and mineral water bottles, and beer brewers from the area. The manufacturers were located in Waukesha, Burlington, Palmyra, North Prairie, Tess Corners, and Big Bend. The accompanying histories of these companies describe the rise of the mineral water business in Waukesha as the “Saratoga of the West,” the role a Mukwonago dairy played in the “Milk Protest” in the 1930’s, how Prohibition spelled doom for many of the little breweries that dotted the area, and a murder mystery involving a soda bottler named John Bollow.

The exhibit in the Library includes a display that shows different forms of entertainment enjoyed around the turn of the 19th Century. Bowling, swimming, baseball, and card playing are some of the activities included in the display. Included in the display is a bicycle manufactured by Melvin Clefton & Son of Mukwonago. The bike has wood rims and chain guard with the badge still affixed that identifies its origin. Melvin Clefton was raised in Vernon and in the U. S. Census was listed as a “wagon maker, carpenter, and bicycle manufacturer.”



Visit us at www.mukwonagomuseum.org



The Annual Victorian Tea will be held Saturday, **October 20th** at **1:00 p.m.**

Tickets cost \$25.00 and may be purchased by contacting Ann Kwaterski at 363-8681. Advanced ticket is required. The presentation for the Tea will include Victorian dolls.



2017 Victorian Tea

Membership

The Historical Society invites you to support the Red Brick Museum through its membership. Your donation supports the mission of preserving objects significant to the development and culture of Mukwonago and the surrounding areas.

Individual	\$10.00
Family	15.00
Seniors (62 or older)	5.00
Sustaining	\$25-\$49
Sponsor	\$50-\$99
Patron	\$100 and over

Membership applications can be found on our website: www.mukwonagomuseum.org.



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