

## 2022 Calendar

Dec 3 – Walk-Thru Tours:  
2:00-8:00pm

## 2023 Calendar\*

June 11 & 25 – Tours

July 9 & 23 – Tours

Aug 13 & 27 – Tours

\*TBD – Ice Cream Social

Sep 10 & 24 – Tours

\*TBD – “Fall Fest:”

Walk-Thru Tours

\*TBD – Victorian Tea

Dec 2 – “Midnight Magic:”

Walk-Thru Tours

\*TBD – Check website and/or  
Facebook for latest updates

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Collection Donations – 1  
President’s Message – 1  
Museum Gardens – 2  
Community Outreach – 2,3  
Sunday Presentations – 4  
Private Tours – 5  
Board, Committees - 6

## HOURS & LOCATION

Open the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday

June - September

1:00-4:00pm

**The Red Brick Museum**

Highways 83 & ES

103 Main Street

Mukwonago, WI 53149

(262)363-6413

mukwonagohistoricalsociety.org

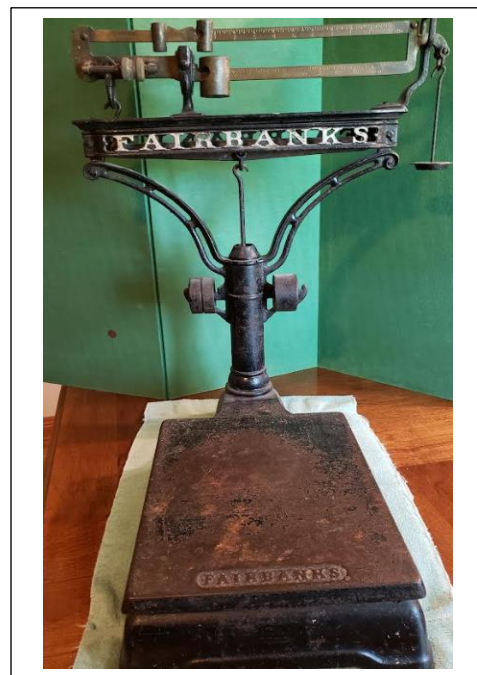
## Donations to our Collection

By **Henry Hecker – President**

Darilyn Nelson of East Troy donated a wonderful advertising sign from the Providence Washington Insurance Co. It is lithographed tin with an image of “Our Country’s Father” and dates about 1900. It was “rescued” from the old Mukwonago High School building before demolition. If you have any memories of the sign, please email Henry (see last page). ↓



The Staneks of North Prairie gifted us a Fairbanks countertop scale that once weighed hardware at the Fickau Lumber yard until it closed in the 1990’s. ↓



Finally, Joe Katcha donated a large cache of Lake Beulah historical information about Jesuit Island. We in turn were able to provide him with some supplemental information. ■

**Did you know that one of the first forward passes in football was thrown in a scrimmage game on Jesuit Island between Marquette and St. Louis Universities?**



**Greetings Members and Friends!** After a COVID-interrupted couple of years, our newsletter is back. The Mukwonago Historical Society has been busy and certainly not quiet in the least. Visit our new website, [www.mukwonagohistoricalsociety.org](http://www.mukwonagohistoricalsociety.org) or our Mukwonago Red Brick Museum Facebook page, for the latest events and activities. Included in this issue are highlights from the 2021-22 seasons. Plans are already underway for the 2023 season – come see what’s new!

**Henry Hecker, President – Mukwonago Historical Society**

*Thank you, Gardeners!*



Tom Biddick  
Cheryl Ganske  
Shirley Hazelberg  
Deb Kopydlowski  
Angela Krzyzaniak  
Carmen Liberman  
Kris Nebel  
Ron Reinert  
Vi Reinert  
Carol Thomas

The Master Gardener volunteers devoted long hours and elbow grease to keep the park-like grounds around the museum beautiful, making the museum attractive to more than just our wonderful human guests all season long. A large overgrown area was cleared out by the rear porch. Behind the Trading Post, the Medicine Wheel warms the eyes and soul. A collection of hostas teems with green textures. Colorful bursts of flowers appear around each corner. The border garden draws attention to the Sewall Andrew’s original stone wall possibly used for containing his Merino sheep – which many other early settlers in the area also kept. Time for a winter rest. ■



*Clockwise: Lobby entrance. View from rear parking lot. Medicine Wheel behind the Trading Post*

# Community Outreach

## **GLOBAL SCHOLARS – INDIGENOUS PEOPLE EVENT April 2, 2022**

The Mukwonago Historical Society participated in the Indigenous People event at the Community Library. American Indian artifacts

were displayed by museum volunteers to complement other exhibits and demonstrations sponsored by Mukwonago High School students.



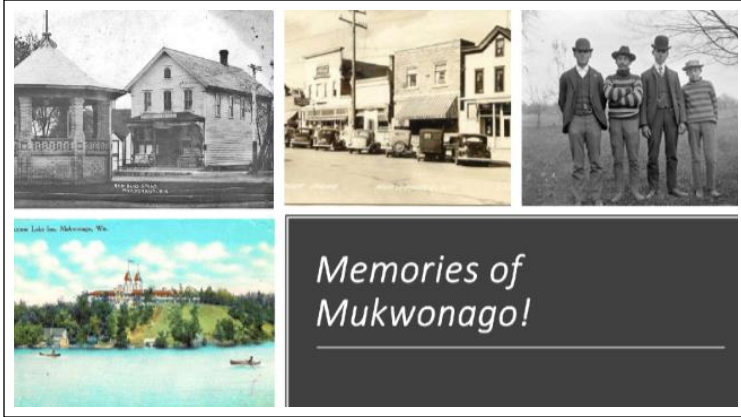
## **MEMORIES OF MUKWONAGO**

**Late 2021 – Present**

Our newest docent Todd Ciske aka “Commander Todd” of WFAQ LP FM radio and Henry Hecker, President of the Mukwonago Historical Society, are capturing audio recordings of longtime residents telling us about their lives in bygone decades in 2-5 minute segments. Interviews can be heard frequently on WFAQ 101.3 FM or by going to the MHS website under “ORAL HISTORIES.” Listen to memories of places, events, and people of Mukwonago. Recordings include the families of Fickau, Taylor, Grutzmacher and Kingston as told by the descendants or longtime Mukwonago residents. ⇨

**Community Outreach – Memories of Mukwonago – continued**

**If you or a family member would like to share your memories, please contact Henry (president@mukwonagohistoricalsociety.org) or Todd (radio@wfaq.com) to arrange an interview.**



Our extensive American Indian room houses 3 distinct collections consisting of many rare and delicate artifacts made of perishable materials: animal hide, beadwork, textiles, feathers, etc. To protect these irreplaceable items, our display cases need to be replaced with designs that offer state-of-the-art environmental and pest control. At least ten of these cases are needed at a cost of \$5000-\$10,000 each. Please help us grow the funds needed to purchase these fixtures to protect our collection in the coming years. Click on the DONATE button on our website at mukwonagohistoricalsociety.org to donate.

***Any amount is appreciated!***

**2021 MUKWONAGO HISTORIC WALKING TOUR  
September 25, 2021**



Volunteers from the Mukwonago Historical Society, Friends of the Library and Black Box Theater joined forces to create this educational and interactive fund-raising event that attracted hundreds of participants from Mukwonago and beyond. The tour started with a dedication ceremony for the Pearl & Grand Avenue Historic District signs placed along the perimeter of the district. The purchase of the markers was made possible by a generous endowment from the estate of John Hogan, past Mukwonago Historical Society officer and Village of Mukwonago President. Following the dedication ceremony and speeches made by Village dignitaries, ticket holders followed the tour guide route to twenty points highlighting significant buildings and people in the Historic District, Oak Knoll Cemetery, and Downtown Mukwonago. Over 300 people participated with many family groups enjoying the beautiful weather and the captivating messages from the costumed actors. The history of Mukwonago came alive that day featuring historical figures including Sewall Andrews (early settler who built the museum’s brick house), the multi-talented Grutzmacher brothers (as told by Marsha Grutzmacher), Alura Collins Hollister (suffrage activist), Eugene Chafin (early settler), Harry Hicks and Princess Nenetah (hmmm...) and many more telling their stories. If you missed the 2021 tour, the Red Brick Museum has a limited number of additional tour guides available for sale – and be sure to visit our website’s calendar and Facebook page often to check for a future repeat event. ■



Historic Figures

Open Sunday  
Presentations  
Special Guests

In order to enhance our visitor experience during Museum tours, we are regularly offering portrayals of some of our area’s historic figures and presentations on historical topics. In 2022, actors reprised their roles from the 2021 Historic Walking Tour (see page 3): Alura Collins Hollister, a prominent suffragette from Vernon, expertly played by Kathy Hansen; Leona Lotz, Mukwonago’s first librarian faithfully portrayed by Mukwonago Library Director Abby Armour; and Dick Natrop took visitors back to 1842 to meet Sewall Andrews. In addition, Todd Ciske, aka “Commander Todd” from 101.3 FM WFAQ, wowed visitors with his experiences breaking the chains of radio monopolies as a “Pirate Radio” operator in the 1990’s. Finally, on our last open date in September, Henry Hecker shared vintage photos to tell the history of Upper Phantom Lake to five different tour groups. A limited number of spiral-bound albums featuring Phantom Lake photos are available for sale at the museum and at Espresso Love Coffee. ■



Dick Natrop as Sewall Andrews



Todd Ciske discussing “Pirate Radio”



Kathy Hansen as suffragette  
Alura Collins Hollister



Henry Hecker sharing Phantom Lake photos

## Private Tours By Appointment

While our public guided tour season is over for the Red Brick Museum, the museum will be open during Midnight Magic on December 3, 2022 - 2-8pm for walk-thru tours. We can also schedule private guided group tours by appointment. The Historical Society can be contacted via our website to arrange a date for special group tours. Such tours are dependent upon the availability of our volunteer docents but we are usually able to accommodate groups of ten or more with enough advance notice. A donation is appreciated for non-school groups. During the 2022 season we had several private guided group tours:

- **JUNE 16:** The Mukwonago SAGES Club.
- **SUMMER:** Phantom Lake District Management (Phantom Lake Boat Tour)
- **OCTOBER 23:** Descendants of Sewall Andrews, village founder & builder of the Red Brick house.
- **OCTOBER 27:** Clarendon Avenue Elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, chaperones and teachers. ■



S.A.G.E.S.  
Senior Adults Gather  
for Education  
and Socialization



Janine Coley talks to Clarendon's 4<sup>th</sup> Graders



Sewall Andrews' descendants ready for a tour.



### 2021 DIGITAL PRESERVATION PROJECT GRANTS

To help fund our digital preservation project, applications for two grants were approved:

- \$750 – Wisconsin State Historical Society
- \$1000 – Friends of Historical Societies and WADA (Wisconsin Antique Dealers Association)

Mukwonago Historical Society  
 Mukwonago Red Brick Museum  
 103 Main Street  
 P.O. Box 392  
 Mukwonago, WI 53149

**WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU TO JOIN US!**  
 Community volunteers exclusively staff the museum. Consider joining us to share your love of local history! Visit our website and click on "GET INVOLVED" at the top to find out more.

## The Mukwonago Historical Society **BOARD & COMMITTEES**

Board of Directors	Committees & Activities	
<p><b>President</b>                      Henry Hecker                      president@mukwonagohistoricalsociety.org</p> <p><b>Vice President</b>                      Jeff Vanevenhoven</p> <p><b>Secretary</b>                      Nic Lo</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b>                      Robert Bartelt</p> <p><b>Board of Directors</b>                      Robin Posekany-Bopp                      Janine Coley                      Donna Whalen                      Penny Honetor                      Diane Hecker                      Ron Reinke</p>	<p><b>Community Outreach</b>                      Henry Hecker</p> <p><b>American Indian Room</b>                      Jeff Vanevenhoven                      Robin Posekany-Bopp</p> <p><b>Volunteer &amp; Docent</b>                      Diane Hecker</p> <p><b>Bylaws</b>                      Donna Whalen</p> <p><b>Gardening</b>                      Penny Honetor</p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor</b>                      Rotating</p> <p><b>Website</b>                      Four Summits Web Services</p>	<p><b>New Building Committee</b>                      Henry Hecker</p> <p><b>Digital Preservation</b>                      Bob Bartelt, Ron Reinke</p> <p><b><u>Historical Society Affiliations</u></b></p> <p><b>Wisconsin Historical Society/Museum</b>  <a href="http://www.wisconsinhistory.org">www.wisconsinhistory.org</a></p> <p><b>Waukesha Historical Society/Museum</b>  <a href="http://www.waukeshacountymuseum.org">www.waukeshacountymuseum.org</a></p> <p><b><u>Mukwonago Red Brick Museum</u></b>  <i>Website:</i> <a href="http://www.mukwonagohistoricalsociety.org">www.mukwonagohistoricalsociety.org</a>  <i>Facebook:</i> MukwonagoRedBrickMuseum  <i>EMail:</i> president@mukwonagohistoricalsociety.org  <i>Phone:</i> (262) 363-6413  <i>Open the 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</i>                      June - September • 1:00-4:00pm</p>