



Gibraltar Historical Association

Fish Creek, Wisconsin

Spring/Summer 2011

President's Report

Dear Members and Friends:

Slowly, slowly winter is fading. A few robins have braved the weather and like the robins, people are coming back to Fish Creek, if only for a weekend. The months have flown by while the GHA board has been busy preparing for the upcoming season. We have an exciting schedule of events and programs planned beginning with Heritage Week, June 4th –11th and ending the year once again with a Christmas Tree Lighting in December.

New at Noble House this season will be one room upstairs set up as a Country Doctor's Office. Since Dr. Gertrude Howe had an office in her home when she lived there, we found it fitting to honor her and the many other Country Doctors of Door County.

Painting and repair work was done in the Noble House and soon Spring House Cleaning will take place. We will open Memorial Day weekend for the season. We look forward to seeing you!

✧ Eunice Rutherford

GIBRALTAR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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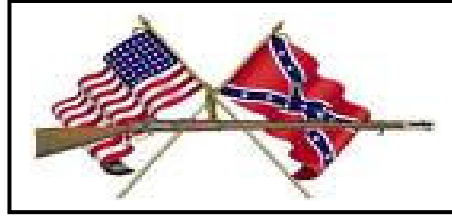
Administrative Asst.	Sara Sohns
Newsletter Editor	Barb McKesson

Our Mission

The Gibraltar Historical Association has been established to collect, research, and preserve objects and archival materials which directly reflect or illustrate Gibraltar Township history; to pass on from person to person, to advance history, and to educate residents and visitors about this history; and to plan the preservation of historical buildings and green space in the community of Fish Creek, Wisconsin.

Noble House Museum
920.868.2091

GHA Kicks Off Observance of Civil War



The Civil War had a profound effect on nearly all aspects of life in Wisconsin including in Door County. All residents regardless of whether they became a part of the Union effort felt the repercussions of war. With the departure of men in uniform, farms faced labor shortages and women and children were left to carry on the daunting farming task alone and faced many hardships.

Door County historian, Hjalmar Holand, in one of his books stated, "Door County's population in 1861 was less than 3,000." From this number the county sent 167 recruits into the war. Most of these young men enlisted voluntarily.



Of the 21 Door County soldiers who died in the war five were from Nasewaupee, four from Gibraltar, three from Forestville, two from Sturgeon Bay/Sawyer and one each from Liberty Grove, Egg Harbor, Brussels, Gardner, Clay Banks, and Washington Island. Twenty are buried in seven states across the South. Only Albert Claflin is buried in Door County. Other Door County Civil War soldiers who died after the war are buried in various cemeteries throughout the county. Check for flags in area cemeteries on Memorial Day, you might find these historical graves.

In observance of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, the Gibraltar Historical Association has planned several related events. The first is Gibraltar Talks... "Civil War Reflections", with Joe and Laura Knaapen on May 9th at the Old Town Hall in Fish Creek at 7:00 P.M. The second event is a Civil War Encampment weekend at Fish Creek Park to be held on August 13th and 14th. Be sure to join us!

~ Douglas C. Blahnik



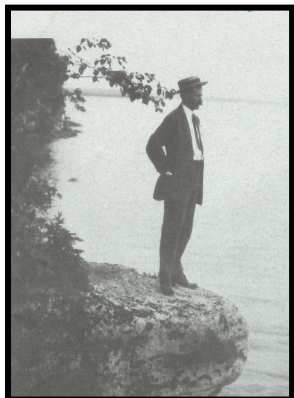
Third Graders Visit Noble House

The 3rd Graders from Gibraltar Elementary School hiked down to the Noble House and met Mr. Noble (Doug Blahnik) and learned about the lives of the Noble family in the 1800's.

~ Barb McKesson

“Love of the Land: Historical Photographs” Centerpiece of Heritage Days

The Gibraltar Historical Association is organizing an exhibit of Door County historical photographs from their collection of Ferdinand Hotz photographs. These exceptional images of Door County towns and landscapes from the early 1900s have never before been exhibited.



Throughout most of his life, Hotz was an avid photographer, and while he took hundreds of photographs on his business travels around the country and Europe, he focused on the natural beauty of Door County and its small towns. The exhibit, “Love of the Land: Historical Photographs by Ferdinand Hotz” features fine examples of Pictorialism, an aesthetic movement in the history of photography that established photography as a fine art. Each of Hotz’s prints is a carefully crafted work of art, characterized by soft-focus images, watercolor washes and his aesthetic sensibilities.

The exhibit will be on view in Fish Creek’s Old Town Hall throughout the week of Heritage Days, June 6-12, 2011. On the evening of the 6th at 7:00 P.M., Dr. Leonard Apfelbach will share with the audience bits and pieces of his grandfather’s life, love of photography, and love of Door County.

Later, the show will be installed in the Link Gallery at the Door Community Auditorium through the start of the school year. This will allow for a very broad audience, including summer residents, visitors and school children. It is anticipated that this exhibit will appeal to those visitors with a wide range of interests, especially the history of Door County, land conservation and vintage photography.

~ Barb McKesson

Spring Thinking

With winter slowly leaving us, it's time to think Spring in our little corner of the world. We are so excited to see our flowers wake up and our trees fill with buds. It will be our first year to see our lilac hedge bloom, our second year to see our lovely red bud tree blossom and time to relocate our little cedar trees we have been nurturing along. We are anxious to have people join our “Bud Club” to keep our grounds looking lovely and to help our dear Bud. Our projects include moving our peony bushes to a new location, hoping they will put down roots and blossom boldly.

We also want to work on our herb garden so it can be an area to learn more about our past. Interesting thoughts come to mind when considering the use of herbs. Most think what a great way to add flavor to your cooking. While this is true, herbs of our past and now our future have value in a medicinal way. After more than a hundred years we are discovering natural herbs are working better than some of the synthetic drugs and easier on our bodies. We are also discovering that many of the drugs we use are some form of a natural product like tree bark, roots of our flowers or even just a comforting scent. Interesting how our lives can run full circle.

Feel free to stop by Noble Square and relax on our bench and listen to the birds chirp.



~ Laurie Buske

The Country Doctor



Have you ever seen a pair of pacers coming down a country road in the early 1900's? Many elderly folks can recall the days of the country doctor and his faithful team. Not only did the country doctor have to rely on a fine team of horses, but the ill or women in child birth also depended on them. When someone in the house was sick, people would wait day or night for the doctor, and how relieved they would be when they heard the sound of horse's hoofs coming in the distance.

Whether using horses or an early model auto, doctors traveled nearly impassable roads at various times to bring their medical knowledge and skills to those in need. The mysterious big black bag was a constant companion and its sight was a visual reminder that relief was soon to come. Because of rural isolation, it is said that most people lived closer to death than a doctor.

As time passed it was quite common for doctors set up shop in their homes in small communities. The fees ranged from less than 75 cents to \$1.50 per visit. Many times doctors were paid with meats, vegetables, fruits and home baked goods, or people worked for the doctor to pay off the debt. Many times that doctor just provided charity. A doctor was well respected in the community and treated everyone equally, from the poor to those who were able to pay.

The doctor's office at the turn of the twentieth century now seems completely unfamiliar to most of us. The typical physician of our times operates out of a hospital or office complex with a vast array of high-tech equipment. The doctor's office of the past, however, was quite different. Doctors of the past operated out of the front room or upstairs room of their house. The interior of these offices were not particularly attractive. They were extremely cluttered and quite simple.

Most offices consisted of an examination table, the doctor's desk (usually cluttered with books, papers, and bottles), a few chairs or stools, and a spittoon-a necessity in the tobacco chewing days. Many other pieces of medical equipment and supplies could be seen scattered around the room. Many had a human skull or a whole skeleton in plain view because it exhibited their knowledge and interest in anatomy.



A special exhibit at Noble House Museum this season will be called, The Country Doctor.

The last person to live in Noble House was Dr. Gertrude Howe, the granddaughter, of Alexander and Maria Noble. She had an office at Noble House during the 1970's. Many of her medical artifacts will be part of this season's special exhibit.

~Doug Blahník

Students Explore Their Heritage

Karin Kopischke worked with Gibraltar eighth and ninth grade students this winter to create “historic renderings” of an ancestor or local historic figure as part of Friends of Gibraltar’s (FOG) Artist in Residence Program. The week long project was based on “Garments of Our Foundation: Pioneering Door County Women and Their Clothing”, that Kopischke was commissioned to create for the Gibraltar Historical Association in 2010.

The project consisted of several parts, including students interviewing family members to find out about ancestors they might want to research, conducting the research, writing a first-person narrative as if they were their chosen ancestor or local Door County historic figure, and creating an historic rendering of their person.

The students worked on the week long project with their history teachers, (Lauren Mittermann and Andrew Holdmann), their art teacher, (Sally Bahrke) as well as Ms. Kopischke who is a professional costume designer by trade.

The student’s painting and narratives were featured also with the original exhibit at the Link Gallery in the Door Community Auditorium throughout the months of February and March. A number of these renderings will be exhibited during Heritage Days at the Gibraltar Community Center. Be sure to visit!

Special thanks to the Gibraltar Historical Association, the Wisconsin Arts Board, and the Peninsula Arts Association for funding the original Historic Rendering Project.



**Call 868-2091 and ask for
a Brick Campaign form.**

The Brick Campaign

A great way to remember a family member or friend and support the Gibraltar Historical Association is to buy a brick that will be placed in the brick walks around Noble House. For \$75 you can honor your person in a lovely way.

Heritage Days 2011



There is something for everyone at the 2011 Fish Creek Heritage Days celebration, June 4th to 12th. Borrow a fishing pole from the Nature Center in Peninsula State Park and take your son/daughter fishing. View the Hotz exhibit; “Love of the Land”, or have a “Picnic in the Park”. Take a walking tour, or hike through an orchard and Fish Creek Park looking for birds and flowers of Door County. If that is not your cup of tea, have a cup of tea at a style show, or bring your treasure to Hometown Road Show. There’s music, art, tours, and so much more. Check out the Calendar of Events enclosed in this newsletter.

Albert Claflin- Civil War Soldier

from Old Peninsula Days; the First Pioneer



... In the summer of 1862, when the President called for troops to save the Union, Claflin sent his three sons as volunteers, saying: “If I had twenty more, they should all go!”

~ Hjalmar Holand

Albert Claflin was born September 6, 1826, in Cleveland, Ohio, the first child of Increase and Mary Ann (Adgedent) Claflin who are credited with being the first permanent settlers in Door County, arriving in 1835.

Albert and his brothers, Charles and William, all enlisted for three years on August 15, 1862, and mustered on September 25, 1862 into Company E of the newly formed 32nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment at Camp Bragg in Oshkosh.

The “Muster and Description Rolls” listed him as a sailor, single, six-foot-tall with blue eyes, brown hair, and a light complexion. He was from the Town of Gibraltar.

The 32nd left the state on October 30 and proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee, assigned to General Sherman’s command. They engaged in operations in southwestern Tennessee and northern Mississippi. About January 1863, they returned to Memphis and were assigned to patrol and provost duty in the area.

In February 1863, Albert was listed as “sick in hospital” in LaGrange Tennessee. The next month he was “sick in hospital” in St. Louis Missouri. On December 18, 1863, he was sent to the General Hospital in Memphis and sent home on furlough. Private Albert Claflin died at home on June 7, 1864, of chronic diarrhea. He is buried in The Thorp Cemetery, Gibraltar Township, the only Civil War casualty to be buried in Door County. He was 38.

Note: The above is from the May 28, 2007 Dedication Ceremony Booklet for the Veterans Memorial in Sturgeon Bay.

The “Bud Club”



We’d love to have your help!

The grounds at Noble Square are beautifully kept by our wonderful, volunteer gardener, Bud Barta. However, the work continues to grow, and Bud needs help. Please think about becoming a volunteer gardener.

Call 868-2091

The
Gibraltar Historical Association
is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit
and is a member of
The Door County Community
Foundation.

Consider a gift to sustain the
history of Gibraltar by donating to
our Endowment Fund or Flagship
Account through
The Door County
Community Foundation.
Thank – you!

Tea and Fabric Returns

As promised, the Gibraltar Historical Association will present another Historic Fashion Show “Tea & Fabric 2011” this June at the historic Gibraltar Town Hall, featuring many of last years pieces, and more period clothing from Door County’s past.



Last August we presented our first high tea and historic clothing show at the White Gull Inn in Fish Creek. Tickets were limited, and the event sold out within the first week. GHA promised to reprise the event. This year it will take place during Heritage Days on Friday, June 10th, at 4:00 P.M. The Gibraltar Town Hall was chosen so we can seat more guests and allow a little more time to enjoy the wonderful desserts and tea. GHA is



working to provide a “runway” so that everyone will have a wonderful view of the clothing.

Local high school students will once again model in antique Door County clothing. This year we will also feature men’s clothing. All the antique looks will reflect summer fashion in Door County from the 1860’s through the 1940’s. Expect to see pioneer clothing along with vintage beach wear.

Delicious desserts and tea will be provided by GHA. The event will cost \$20, and the proceeds will benefit future projects by GHA.

~ Karin Kopischke



Do YOU know anything about this photo? Where was it taken? Who were the people? What were they celebrating? Let us know . . . Call 868-2091