



Gibraltar Historical Association

Fish Creek, Wisconsin

Winter 2017

President's Report

Dear Friends:

On one of the busiest corners in Door County, the Alexander Noble House has closed its doors for the season after celebrating "Victorian Weddings" as the major show. It delighted visitors, young and old, as traditions and customs were shared with our guests. Wedding gowns dating as far back as the 1850's graced the parlor and other rooms of the house. Noble House was busy with Museum Tours and Ghost Tours, and we thank our docents for sharing this history with our visitors.

The scene since has changed; gardens have been put to bed, Alexander Noble House has been trimmed for Christmas, the tree in front is up and we celebrated the lighting on December 10th. We look forward to "All Things Chocolate" coming in February, and preparing for our next show for summer 2017. Thank you for supporting the task of collecting, archiving, and sharing our history.

✿ Barb McKesson

GIBRALTAR HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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Visit our website: historicnoblehouse.org
www.facebook.com/GibraltarHistoricalAssociation/

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

Clark Information

The Gibraltar Historical Association would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Alan Clark for the vintage clothing, and the old Clark information they donated to the historical association this spring. We are accessioning the clothing and are trying to go through and organize the information.

The copies of deeds and abstracts give us good records of property ownership. The problem with abstracts from George Clark's time, is that they are recorded in ledger form which was used before abstracts of today and can be difficult to decipher, but the letters and communications from Mr. George Clark and Robert Clark, (Alan's father), to the buyers reflect dates and much information that is very useful for verifying historic records.



Interestingly, one of the letters we came across shares information concerning the town dock and Clark Park. In 1905, the structure which is now the Fish Creek Dock and adjoining land was purchased from the Kellogg No.1 Bank of Green Bay by George Clark. In late winter of 1906, Mr. Clark had the dock repaired and built a warehouse. This dock and structure served the town for many years welcoming a variety of ships that carried goods and passengers from St. Louis, Milwaukee, and Chicago. It was an asset that helped to solidify Fish Creek as a summer destination for many visitors. Then, in 1938, the dock and

property was given to the Town of Gibraltar by the Clark family. We all enjoy Clark Park and the town dock today due to the forward thinking, generosity of the Clark family. Shortly after the gift of the dock, the town capped the dock with cement and shortly after that, the Fish Creek Yacht Club was formed and the club spent \$4,500 on building the clubhouse and digging a well.



It is amazing as to the information that can be gleaned from these documents. Old papers that you may consider trash can often include information that helps us puzzle our history together and/or reveals life in our little village and township from the late 1800's on. So if you are cleaning your attic or desk or basement, please remember that you may be in possession of some important history that we would love

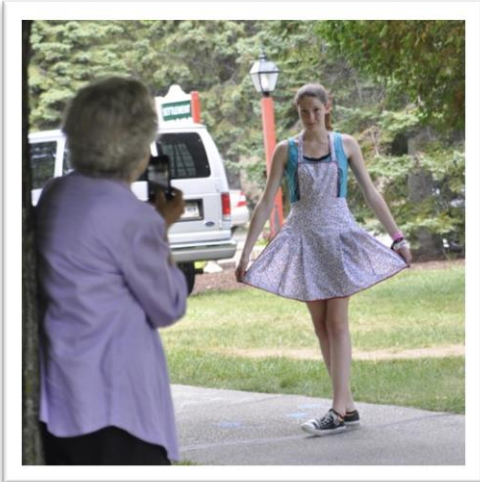
to have you share with us. Pictures, documents, letters, maps, whatever . . . please share ! We are working to collect these histories and share it with the community and visitors. The last couple of summers we have had people asking for information about their families. It is wonderful to be able to answer their questions. We have a lot of information and continue to gather what we can. The goal of the History Center is to organize these materials so it is easily accessible.



By: Myrv Somerhalder

A Tale of Two Families, A Pie Shop, and the Aprons Which Tie Them Together

Sweetie Pies, located at the Settlement Shops just south of the village of Fish Creek, is the old-fashioned pie shop where pies are made by hand using, literally, Grandma's recipes. Susan Croissant, who founded the business in 1995, used the recipes from her own grandmother in the making and baking of her signature pies. Beside liking old recipes, Susan took a fancy to vintage linens and aprons, and had collected a number of them.



The Lea family—Dave, Renny and Corinne—who bought Sweetie Pies from Susan in 2003 carried the business forward using those same recipes. Renny's mom, Frances Miller, had been quite a remarkable baker and seamstress. She had made the cherry pies for the White Gull Inn in the early 1960's, when Frances's sister, Elsie Redmann and husband Andy ran that business. Frances also made the pinafore aprons worn by the waitresses at the White Gull at the time, and had her own collection of old linens and aprons. *

Renny thought that her mother's and Susan's aprons were so pretty and unique that they deserved to be seen and appreciated. She reached out to other collectors and Dorothy Wickman of Sturgeon Bay got in touch. Dorothy had an extensive collection of vintage aprons. Together they collaborated on an "apron parade" in 2008, which became the "Vintage Apron Style Show," held biennially in summer on the grounds of the Settlement Shops.

Besides being pretty, these aprons do have stories to tell. They used to be worn a lot, as the women who usually wore them were constantly at work—in the kitchen, in the garden, tending and feeding children, sewing clothes and more. An apron could protect a dress, but it became much more than that. It was a way of expressing one's creativity, and aprons are as individual as are their makers. That's why we enjoy looking at them!

This past summer marked the fifth Vintage Apron Style Show and, this time around, the emphasis was on "apron memories." People were encouraged to bring in their own aprons and share the memories attached to them. As in previous years, volunteer models from the Sweetie Pies staff and from the community, including Elsie Redmann's granddaughter, Lia Smith, showed off the aprons accompanied by music—this year, from the local group "Small Forest."



*Incidentally, Elsie and Andy went on to found the Settlement Shops and Inn, raising their family in the house which now is the home of Sweetie Pies. Cathy and Larry Mazurek joined the pie business in 2006, running it with Dave and Renny for the past ten years.

Submitted by Renny Lea

From the Inside Out

“Welcome to the Noble House!” No matter how many times a day a docent greets people looking for a tour, it is always a unique experience. Many people have told me that teachers make the best docents. As a retired teacher, I can see the truth in that statement.



When leading guests around the Noble House, history comes alive. Ula Noble and her niece Gertrude Howe were women far ahead of their time. Neither one married, but led the Fish Creek community in developing education and medicine. Learning their backgrounds caused me to form a connection with the Noble family. As a docent I can share those connections bringing guests closer to knowing the family.

Another entertaining aspect of being a tour guide is the trivia. During the Victorian Funeral theme, guests learned the meaning of many of today's popular terms connected to death: dead ringer (ring that bell connected to the your body if buried alive), the living room (the name change from "parlor" after home funerals ceased to exist), and family photos were laid face down (since photos were the portal to the soul).

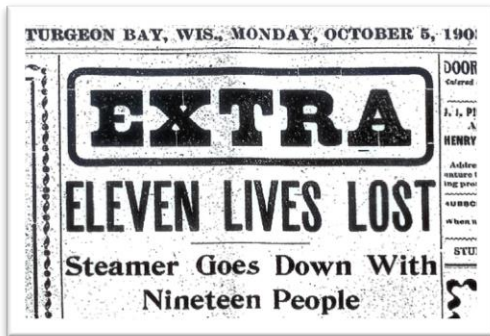
Victorian Weddings provided the opportunity to prove the saying, "You've come a long way, baby." Grooms demonstrated their dominance over their brides by breaking a piece of the cake over her head AND tapping her on the head with a shoe. All ages of women guests shudder to hear these archaic customs. Most men snicker and know that wouldn't work in today's world!

The last joy of being a docent includes the people visiting. Who knew I would recognize a woman from my eighth grade class who happened to visit. I never expected people to share stories and information that transforms them into the teacher. Suddenly, I become the student and grow my repertoire for the next round of tourists.

We know the past, present, and future are connected. But sometimes we become so entwined with the present and future, that the past is lost. The Noble House preserves a small piece Door County history. There is much to be learned from the strong Noble family, the entertaining trivia, and the tourist personalities floating among the ghosts of the house. Next season come visit, so I can welcome you to the Noble House!

Submitted by Lynn Herman

A Look Back at Gibraltar Talks 2016



seen before footage of the “failed” raising of the Hackley. Friend and former resident Mike Burda gave a first-hand account of diving on the Hackley.

Our second talk was Maritime Markers and Melinda Roberts shared interesting stories and locations many of us have never traveled to but certainly have added to our list. She has developed a great website of historical markers You can take a grand historical tour of your own state just by click of your mouse. Enjoy!
Fish Creek is on this tour. wisconsinhistoricalmarkers.blogspot.com



This next (third) program was executed with perfection and if you didn’t attend you missed the fun. Ann Sullivan took us on a journey through time with “Hats Through the Ages”. It began with helmets and hoods to the latest in “head-wear.” Many guests came wearing their own fashion statement. Great fun! GHA complemented this hat show with a show in the History Center for the summer.

“If you want to get ahead, get a hat.”

Advertising slogan from the British Hat Council, 1965.

To bring Gibraltar Talks to a heartwarming conclusion, Bobby MacDonald shared the History of the Bayside. This was a fun and interesting recollection of our little watering hole where “everybody knows your name”, at least in the fall and winter. After MacDonald completed his part, members of the audience shared memories and “good times” they have had at Bayside. It was definitely a special evening, and we all took part in celebrating it!

Thank you to the Robert Sargent Family Foundation for supporting Gibraltar Talks!



Cranberry Upside-down Cake with Yankee Sauce

- 2 - 1 lb cans whole cranberry sauce
- 3 - TBSP. butter
- 1 - pkg yellow cake mix

Yankee Sauce Ingredients

- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sifted powder sugar
- 2 cups cold water
- 2 TBSP cornstarch
- 2 tsp vinegar
- 3 tsp vanilla



Break up cranberry sauce in a buttered 13" x 9" baking dish, spreading sauce over bottom. Dot with butter. Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Pour cake batter evenly over cranberry sauce. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until done.

Yankee Sauce: Cream butter, gradually add sugar, creaming until light and fluffy. Stir water into cornstarch: cook until clear and thick. Stir hot mixture into creamed mixture. Add vinegar and vanilla. Serve Warm

This recipe was handed down to me from my grandmother. Traditionally when she was a child they would all help prepare this recipe on Christmas Day, for all family and friends to enjoy. In later years she would continue the tradition with her own family. She would also serve the Yankee Sauce with warm gingerbread.

Submitted by Kris Warner



Landscape at Noble Square

Thank you, thank you, thank you is all I want to say. We have a very dedicated group of individuals who give so much of their time to keep our grounds looking fantastic. Shout out to Andrea, Linda & Jerry, Shirley, and our town crew. Thank you to Parks and Lands for the new sugar maple added this fall.

Submitted by Laurie Buske



Does anyone know this building? It is **one** of the oldest buildings in the village. Any guesses as to how old it is? It is these buildings that make Fish Creek truly unique. People that visit Noble House often speak of the lovely old building we have kept. Good job, Fish Creek!

GHA Membership

Print Last Name or Use Address Label

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Phone Number

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Membership

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|----------------|
| _____ | <i>Individual</i> | <i>\$20.00</i> |
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| _____ | <i>Historian</i> | <i>\$250 +</i> |

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| _____ | <i>Bakers</i> | _____ | <i>Greeters</i> |
| _____ | <i>"Archivers"</i> | _____ | <i>Gardeners</i> |

Alternate (Mailing) Address

Address

City State ZIP

_____ to _____
Date Date

Above is a membership card for this next year. Please feel free to cut it out and send it in with payment. PO Box 323, Fish Creek, WI, 54212. Thank-you!

The Bath House

Interesting history!!! The town of Gibraltar recently purchased the property just east of the Fish Creek Public Beach. I thought perhaps you would like to know a bit about the history of this building. This is an excerpt taken from a handwritten history by Alice Clark Peddle, written in 1987.

"Mr. Hotz also owned a house just to the east of the Fish Creek Beach, where once stood bath houses owned by Welckers Resort and I believe, Thorp Hotel. They are things of the past, I am sure. Today, it is so surrounded by trees and shrubs, one might doubt a house is there. Mrs. Mabley, my mother's partner at Camp Meenahga, purchased this house and turned it over to her eldest daughter, Frances, and two other young women. The three rented this charming one story house, and put up a small hand-painted sign, 'The Orange Tea House.' The tea house was a favorite place to have dinner, supper, lunch, or just the ticket for resorters from Cottage Row, and also an especially wonderful place for visiting parents of Meenahga campers to take their daughter(s) for a treat of lunch or just an ice cream treat."



Early photo the cottage built by Hotz circa. 1908.

Gibraltar Historical Association
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Winter 2017

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