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Mission Statement

The Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society will represent, serve and involve community members in preserving the history of our area.

Contact Us or Submit Articles to

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Editors:

- ◆ Leslie Walfish
- ◆ Patti Yana
- ◆ Austin M. Frederick



Visit Our Website

WinnebagoCountyHistoricalSociety.org

WCHAS 100 in 2019

This year marks the centennial of our historical society. On November 22, 1919, a meeting was called to organize a branch of the State Archaeological and Historical Society in Winnebago County. The original founding members were Arthur Kannenberg (secretary & treasurer), Charles Koehn; Clarence T. Olen (president); Ralph Buckstaff; Nile Behncke; Ed Crane; Mrs. Ed Crane; Ellis Roberts; Fred Walker; J. T. Armstrong; Publius V. Lawson and Florence Josephine Lawson. At that time the organization was called the Winnebago Archeological and Historical Society, and the purpose was to engage in identifying and researching the many important historical sites in Winnebago County.



The first marker placed by the society was on April 24, 1921 in Menominee Park, Oshkosh --which is still there today! The historical marker was a memorial to the first Catholic mass held in the area by Father Claude Allouez in 1670. An article in the [Oshkosh Daily Northwestern](#) described the day's festivities in detail and approximated nearly 1,500 people attended.

Since our founding 100 years ago, the Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society, as we are now known, has done a tremendous amount of work to preserve and share our local history. What is the secret to our century of success? It is our dedicated volunteers and supporters with a shared passion for preserving our past. It will be these same historical mindful people who see the Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society through the next century.

Book Club



February - *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage* - Alfred Lansing

March - *Blood at the Root: A Racial Cleansing in America* - Patrick Phillips

April - *Polio: An American Story* - David Oshinsky

May - *Berlin 1936- Sixteen Days In August* - Oliver Hilmes

June - *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* - Mary Wollstonecraft

July - *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* - Matthew Desmond

Interested in joining the book club or have questions? Email WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com for more information. The book club meets each month on the last Tuesday at 6 pm in the Morgan House. Join us for the fun!

Donations

Courthouse Lights - Anne Lerch

Oshkosh Yearbooks - Anne Lerch

Athearn Hotel Window - Anne Lerch

Victorian Christmas Decorations - David Schultz

German Books - David Schultz

Oshkosh Yearbooks - Margaret Kolb

Jerry Stadtmueller - \$1,000

John E. Kuenzl Foundation - \$5,000

Membership Dues

It's that time of year again! All annual memberships need to be renewed to remain current and to keep receiving your issues of the *County Fare* newsletter. Memberships can be renewed online at our website, or by mailing the completed form at the end of this newsletter with your payment. Those who are new members after October 1, 2018, your memberships are covered through 2019. If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact Membership Committee chairperson Denise Blaze.

Denise.Blaze@gmail.com

President's Message

"Where has the time gone?" is probably what we would hear from the Founding Fathers of this organization if they were here today. The year 2019 marks our organization's centennial. To celebrate this occasion, a commemorative book on the history of Winnebago County will be available this fall. These historical organizations located in Winnebago County have contributed: Oshkosh, Omro, Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Neenah, Menasha, Winchester and the Town of Black Wolf. Additional plans are still in the making and will be announced soon.

The Morgan House will soon be open for tours, and Pie on the Porch will be back on Main Street on Saturdays at the Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market. We need volunteers to bake pies and assist at the market. Call (920) 267-8007, or use the membership form in this newsletter to register as a volunteer for 2019.

The installation of our new roof is complete and our driveway has received a new coat of asphalt. Come see what these improvements have done to preserve the historic Morgan House.

We recently have received a few items from the estate of the late Ron Gartman. The family has donated a few items that once resided in the Athearn Hotel. The Collections and Events and Exhibitions Committees are discussing ways to display these items and present them to the community. We thank the Gartman Family for their generous donation.

Finally, don't forget to renew your 2019 membership. Forms are available in this newsletter or go to our website www.winnebagoountyhistoricalsociety.org to renew or join!

Randy Domer
President - WCHAS

The Woes of Labor

Winnebago County and the Great Depression

Part V

By Thomas J. Rowland

Conclusion to the Year of Strikes – 1937

We left off in the previous installment with the last of the great strikes to rock Oshkosh in 1937 – the strike at the Diamond Match Factory-- at a standstill. In a lengthy report to William Green, David Sigman, Organizer for the AFL, confirmed the dismal prospect for a speedy resolution to the match worker's strike in Oshkosh. While he hoped that both management and labor would agree to binding arbitration over the matter of wage increases, he believed that the owners were likely to be very obstinate in their deliberations. The hard line adopted by the Diamond Match Company was matched by the local union. For several weeks in August negotiations resumed only to break off, despite the best efforts of the NLRB, the AFL conciliation team, and the mayor of Oshkosh to broker a successful agreement.

At one point in late August the strike at Wisconsin Match assumed ominous tones, only to end up as one of the more colorful, even farcical, episodes of the long strike. Franklin Moore had on several occasions approached Mayor Weichering with requests to enter the plant along with a cadre of clerical workers to attend to administrative tasks, including the distribution of the last payroll dating back to the onset of the strike on July 12. Pickets had earlier denied Moore access to the plant. "It would be different," Weichering reasoned, "if the company wanted to go in and make matches." Informed of the mayor's position, local union leader, August Tiedje, defiantly postured that if the company was going to use such methods, then, "we're

going to use different tactics, too." The strikers' determination gave pause to the mayor to reflect about the situation, concerned, now, that using police force to break a picket line might be inviting violence and anarchy.

The mayor's indecision and timidity were suddenly reversed when, on September 2, he announced that company officials would receive police protection in gaining access to the plant and asked union officials to restrain pickets from making any attempt to block entry. The request fell on deaf ears. On September 4, policemen, with Chief Arthur Gabbert on point, formed a "flying wedge" and pushed aside a group of pickets,

chiefly women strikers, and finally overwhelmed the last line of defense assembled in front of the plant's door. Strikers had armed themselves with sticks, bricks and clubs but eschewed employing them in the fracas. One of the strikers, Elsie Cornell, was reportedly brushed off her feet and was carried away, having fainted in the rush led by Chief Gabbert. Two other women strikers, Frieda Kunde and Anna Junbauer, were placed in a patrol wagon, driven around the corner and then promptly released.

Strikers leveled jeers and catcalls against the police for their tactics and the resounding epithet, "scabs" was directed at the clerical staff that had been escorted into the plant. When the affair entered its final stages, the call went up to march on city hall to confront the mayor for his sordid role in the day's work. Several dozen strikers went off in that direction but largely dispersed before arriving at their intended destination. What could have ended up as a very bloody battle emerged as no more than a tempest in a teapot.

The strike at Wisconsin Match inexorably rolled into the fall of 1937. By this time striking workers remained firm in their resolve to win the strike but many of the rank and file were feeling the pinch of two-months' unemployment. This was reflected in Tiedje's

**Wisconsin Match
Plant Employees
Here On Strike**

**HEAD OF NATIONAL
MATCH WORKERS IS
LUNCHEON SPEAKER**

Francis B. Gerhart of Barber-
ton, O., Tells Lions Union
Seeks to Stabilize
Wages, Conditions

**VICTORY IN MATCH
STRIKE PREDICTED
BY SPEAKERS HERE**

Assemblyman Andrew J. Bie-
miller and Francis B. Ger-
hart, Talk at Labor
Day Program

**CONFERENCE HERE
IN LABOR DISPUTE
ENDS IN DEADLOCK**

Union Rejects Match Corpora-
tion Proposal—Meetnig
of Strikers and Mill-
men Slated

importuning the national labor union of match workers to provide sustenance. Noting the justness of the cause, Tiedje appealed to “sister unions and individual members as the one hope against being victimized by a huge monopoly.” Francis Gerhart investigated the possibility of a sympathy strike at the other plants within the Diamond Match Company, as well as these workers donating part of their dues for a relief fund for the Oshkosh strikers. Unfortunately, little became of these schemes. Moreover, since the local union in Oshkosh had not been in formation for a full year in September 1937, its members were not automatically entitled to strike benefits. The precarious financial situation was echoed again by Gerhart in his report to AFL chief, William Green, on October 5, 1937. Referring to the local Oshkosh union, Gerhart pleaded for financial assistance as all means of raising funds locally had been exhausted and that they were, in fact, flat broke. He warned that the fight in Oshkosh was of paramount importance as a litmus test because the Diamond Match Company was resolutely embarking upon a scheme to undermine all unions among match workers. “If these workers are left by themselves,” he argued, “you can rest assured that they will take a licking from their employer.” Strangely, however, it was the Diamond Match Company which blinked first. In early October corporate headquarters sent a representative to Oshkosh and it resulted in a tentative agreement being reached. An exuberant Gerhart cabled Green on October 16 that the strike had been settled, that the company offered a 4 cent per hour wage increase and that 95% of the union voted to accept.

Despite this apparent resolution, employees were not convinced the company was faithful in its implementation of the terms of the agreement. In fact, Gerhart had to inform Green in January 1938 that the local union had taken the strike vote because of its dissatisfaction with the good faith of management. David Sigman of the AFL was dispatched by Green to Oshkosh to handle the next round of negotiations. It took a revised agreement between management and employees in September 1938 to finally bring a close to the match worker dispute. With that agreement relative labor peace descended upon Winnebago County.

Gearing Up for Pie on the Porch

By Patti Yana

Are you looking for a fun way to volunteer for the Winnebago County History & Archaeological Society? Look no further than helping us with our annual Pie on the Porch adventure! We are always looking

for new volunteers to help out at our booth at the Oshkosh Farmers Market on Saturdays during the summer. It’s never too early or too late to think about volunteering.

“What can I do?” you might ask. We have several opportunities! We need pie bakers who can drop off a home made pie by 7:30 AM. We operate out of the Crescent Moon Antiques and Salvage Shop at 537 N Main St. Not a baker? Not a problem! We need volunteers to help set up our booth and cut pies (7-8 AM), or wait on tables, sell pie, coffee, and lemonade (8AM-12PM). Don’t want to work 4 hours? Not a problem! Many volunteers choose to work 8-10 or 10-12. It is a fun morning where you can meet other WCHAS volunteers, greet the public, and help out your local historical society. Want to join us? Have any questions? Please contact Patti Yana at pattiyana54@gmail.com or 920-582-9616. We’d love to have you!

Morgan House Historic Landscaping

In 2017, Winnebago County Master Gardeners began a project at the Morgan House to restore and create a yard that would accurately reflect the gardening practices and plantings of the period when the house was built in the 1880s to the 1920s. Over the past two summers, the Master Gardeners have worked diligently to depict what types of gardens would have been common around the turn of the century here in Oshkosh. We’d like to recognize their work and thank them for adding to the historic value of our Morgan House.

The following article is provided by Kathy Schultz of the Winnebago Master Gardeners Society.

East Bed by the House

The peonies, ground roses, resurrection lilies, and Anabelle Hydrangea were present in the planter when we started. Although doubtful that they are original plantings, all are plants that would have been found in Wisconsin in the 1880 – 1920’s period. The Wisconsin Horticultural magazine, in May 1911, stated that peonies “ought to be in every Garden”.

Shasta Daisy, Purple Coneflower, Bleeding Heart, Europa phlox, Stella D’Ora lily, and Jackmanii clematis, were recently added. All but Stella D’Ora are perennials used in this era. Red geraniums, coleus, and alyssum, annuals that were prevalent in the years after the Morgan House was built, are added for color and interest.

There are several resurrection lilies in this bed. This plant comes up in early spring, with strappy green leaves in a clump. However, it does not flower at this time, and in fact, by mid-summer, most of the green turns brown and withers away. In August, bare stalks quickly emerge and bear lavender-pink tubular, mildly fragrant flowers. This seeming to “rise from the dead” is likely why the lily is called Resurrection lily, surprise lily, or naked lady.

A Jackmanii clematis is planted near the back porch. This clematis was recommended in 1886 by the Wis-



consin Horticulture Society as a suitable vine for the homeowner. The trellis was handmade in cedar, a wood that weathers well and would likely have been used for trellis construction back in the day. The style and spacing of the trellis reflect the woodwork of the front porch.

Plants in Front of the Carriage House

Hollyhocks were popular in the early era of the Morgan House. Here you see the single blossom variety, along with winter onion.

Plants Along the Fence

Along the east property line, a chain link fence is part of the adjoining church property. Plants such as phlox, Stella D’Ora lily, and aster were planted there to distract from the look of the fence, and to add interest and color.

The Stella D’Ora is a daylily, and was first introduced in 1975, so it is not a plant that the Morgan House family would have seen. It is not in the lily family at all. Daylily is members of the genus Hemerocallis. As their name implies, the blossoms only last one day. But it is a very hardy, re-blooming plant, so we are

confident that Victorian gardeners would have been thrilled to have it in their gardens.

The mulch you see in the fence line planter is cut up and dried grass. This is what gardeners in the 1880s would have used to mulch their gardens. The wood chip products that we use today were not available, so gardeners either used no mulch or a method similar to what is seen here. The area by the hollyhock is also mulched with the grass.

The Morgan Family business was wood products, so many people ask if sawdust was used to mulch. Sawdust likely was not used, as it depletes the soil of nitrogen as it decomposes.

Front of the House

The sidewalk coming up to the house is lined with boxwood, a plant that was used in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The boxwood creates a more formal walkway and represents the Victorian desire to have low, uniform hedges to line sidewalks or enclose yards.

Although wood chip mulch was used here, it was not a mulch that would have been available in the 1880s to the 1920s. We decided to use the mulch here to hold moisture for the new boxwood and to make it stand out in the shady area.



The porch area is also very shady, so Hosta and coral bells

were added to accentuate the porch. These plants will stay low and allow the beauty of the porch wood work to show. Several varieties of Hosta were available during this era, and what is planted is representative of what was likely available. Similar Hosta can also be found lining the west side of the carriage house.

On the west side by the front porch, a bridal wreath spirea was added. This variety of spirea was very popular as a home shrub and was recommended by the Wisconsin Horticultural Society. Our current neighborhood rabbits like it as well, so care will be taken this winter to protect it.

Burning Bush Hedge West Side of the Property

There is a row of burning bush on the west side of the property which was planted many years ago. In fall it displays a beautiful red color. However, Burning Bush is now on the invasive list for Wisconsin and is a restricted plant. It is spread by birds carrying the seeds and by suckering of the plants. We will work to keep the hedge trimmed and prevent the berries from forming to stop its spread.

Future Projects

Some upcoming projects for the Morgan House will include an herb garden for the west side, and a rose garden near the carriage house.

Trees at Morgan House

You may have noticed the trees that are on the Morgan House property.

The Bur Oak is the mighty tree in the backyard. Native to Wisconsin, this tree is thought to be over 200 years old, and could have been growing before the house was built. The Bur Oak was listed as a recommended deciduous tree for homeowners by the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society in 1920. You will note wiring has been added to help bear the weight of its branches.

In the front yard, by the porch, is a beautiful Japanese lilac. The trunk is unusual with its twisted shape. We speculate that several trunks grew together to achieve this look. We are not sure of the age of the tree but guess it has seen change and progress on Church St. for many decades. If you are visiting the Morgan House in late May or early June, you will be able to smell the beautiful fragrance from the flowers of this tree.

There is a Silver Maple on the West front lawn and believe this was planted in the last few decades. It appeared on the Wisconsin Horticultural Society list in 1904 as a recommended tree for homeowners.

Next to the Silver Maple is a Horse-chestnut. This tree was recommended in 1886 by the Wisconsin Horticultural Society and was used for yards and terraces.

The other maple (we are checking with the city arborist to determine which maple variety this is).

The tree next to the side porch near Franklin St. is an Amelanchier. This is a member of the Rose family and has several common names, including Serviceberry, Shadbury, and Juneberry. Tradition or folklore has it

that the Serviceberry got its name because the flowers on the tree bloom about the time roads became passable in the spring (in the Appalachian Mountains), allowing the circuit preachers to resume church services. Another tale is that the tree bloomed about the time the ground was thawed enough to dig graves and a service could be held for those that passed during the winter. The name Shadbury refers to a fish that runs in New England about the time the tree flowers in spring. Juneberry was a name given to some species of the tree because it bears fruit in June.

The tree here has fruit that ripens in July. Pies can be made with the berries if you pick them before the birds do.

Sources:

- Vintage Wisconsin Gardens by Lee Somerville
- UWEX Wisconsin Horticulture website
- Missouri Botanical Gardens

2019 Volunteer Coordinator

This year we are happy to have Doreen Olson as our volunteer coordinator! She will be working with committees to recruit and help train volunteers. Doreen has previously worked in digital marketing and has experience recruiting student interns. In her free time, she enjoys attending concerts, knitting, and beekeeping. She is excited to work with the WCHAS board and volunteers.



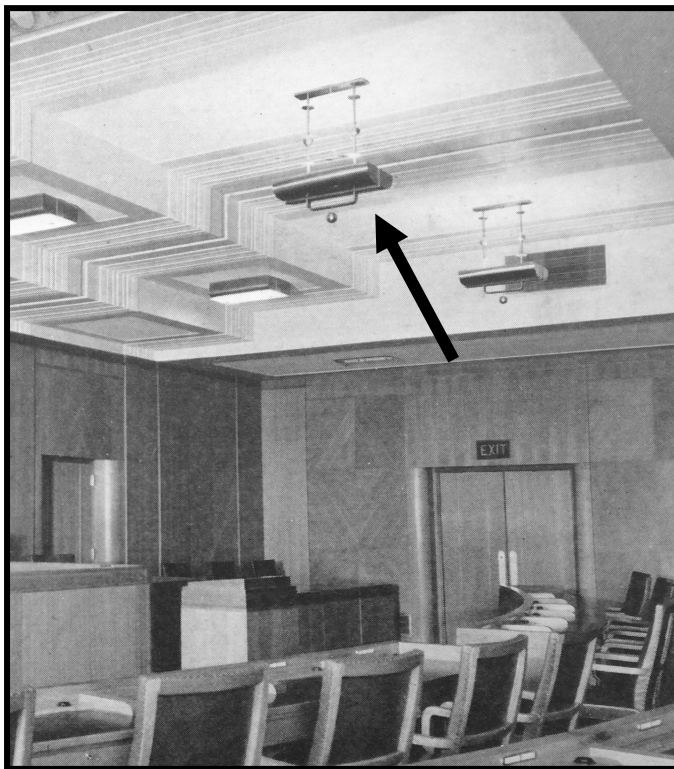
Courthouse Lights Acquired

By Austin M. Frederick

Last May an original, bronze light was reinstalled in the Winnebago County Courthouse after it was removed over forty years ago. Our organization played a pivotal role in returning the fixture to its rightful spot in the building. It hangs above the main staircase between the first and second floor lobbies.

After the reinstallation, the *Oshkosh Herald* did a feature piece on the light's journey home. Ronald Gartman, Oshkosh resident and former owner of Gartman Mechanical Service, saw the story in the paper and called me to say that we he had some courthouse lights he had acquired many years ago from one of the contractors that did work there. Of course, I was ecstatic to hear that more courthouse lights were out there. I met him at his storage shed to take a look, and I couldn't believe what he had.

He had two original, bronze, light fixtures from the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors room located on the fourth floor. Many of the lights in the building were specially made for the courthouse when it was constructed in 1937. Keil Werner Electric Company of Neenah was contracted to supply the electrical fixtures and run the wiring. In the years after its construction, the courthouse had been renovated and retrofitted with



County Board Room 1938

newer fixtures. During the effort to modernize and update, many of the original fixtures were removed.

The lights are in amazing condition for their age. They will just need to be cleaned up and rewired. Gartman offered them back to Winnebago County first, but the offer was turned down. Our organization arranged to accept them into our collection. Sadly, he passed away a week after arrangements had been made to pick them up. His daughter, Anne Lerch, was very happy to fulfill her father's wishes of donating these lights to the historical society so that they might be preserved and hopefully make their way back to the Winnebago Country Courthouse someday.

Grant Awarded from 4imprint

WCHAS has been awarded a grant of \$500 from 4imprint. 4imprint is a nationwide company that provides promotional incentives for companies and brands. The grant is designed to be used to purchase materials from their catalogue. This is the second grant received by the Society in the past 3 years. Previously, the grant was used to purchase t-shirts and aprons worn by workers at our Pie On The Porch fundraiser. This year the grant will be used to purchase shirts and vests, recognizing our volunteers who work as docents at Morgan House and assist with Pie On The Porch.

Scholarship Fund Started

The WCHAS is very proud to announce the inception of the Clarence "Inky" Jungwirth Scholarship Fund. Clarence was a scholar of local history and authored several books about Oshkosh and Winnebago County. When Clarence passed away last year, the WCHAS was named as a beneficiary in his memorial fund. We know that Clarence appreciated education and enjoyed opportunities to share his stories about local history with youth of the Oshkosh area. To honor his legacy, the WCHAS board of directors decided to use the memorial funds to initiate a scholarship in his name. Each year, a student or students will receive scholarship money to support either a historical project or to put towards higher education. Recipients must live in Winnebago County to qualify. We are accepting donations toward the scholarship fund through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. Oshkosh was very fortunate to have Clarence as a lifelong citizen and we are proud to have the opportunity to honor him in a cause that was close to his heart.

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS



Leslie Walfish grew up in Northern Virginia, near Washington D.C. where she developed an early love for art, history, and museums. Leslie studied Art History at James Madison University, receiving a BA then got an MA in Art History at the University of Arizona and an MA in Museum Studies at Johns Hopkins. She moved to Wisconsin in 2007 to work in University Art Galleries in the area and is currently the Director of the Gallery, Campus Curator, and Instructor in the Art Department at UW Oshkosh. Her connection with the WCHAS started when she learned that the beautiful Morgan House was rented for events, and she had her wedding in the house in 2016. Leslie got involved with Pie on the Porch. Soon after she was asked to join the society's board of directors.



Patti Yana grew up in the Milwaukee area and graduated from UWO with a degree in Early Childhood, later receiving her MA in Education from Viterbo University in LaCrosse. She taught Kindergarten for over 3 wonderful decades! After retirement she developed an interest in historical research when she began working on her family genealogy. That research soon led her to research her own little community of Butte des Morts. Patti wanted to know more about the interesting old building she and her husband Joe lived next to! The Grignon Hotel is one of the oldest buildings in Winnebago County. Thus began a mission of starting the Butte des Morts Historical Preservation Society, along with her husband and Randy Domer. She began serving on both Historical Society Boards about 5 years ago. Patti is currently working on a book with several other local authors on the history of Butte des Morts. The history of this little hamlet will also be included in the soon to be published book from WCHAS. When she is not busy researching, writing or helping out at the Morgan House, you will be able to find her volunteering at Pie on the Porch every Saturday at the Oshkosh Farmers Market. Feel free to contact her to volunteer!

DID YOU KNOW... The EAA's annual AirVenture, once known as the Fly-In Convention, started in 1953 at Milwaukee's Timmerman Airport. The convention had outgrown the Milwaukee airfield by 1959 and had to be moved to an airport in Rockford, Illinois. In 1969 the event had to be moved once again due to space constraints. Oshkosh was chosen as the new site for its open area around the airfield that would allow the event to grow, and because the runways did not intersect one another. The annual airshow will celebrate 50 years in Oshkosh this summer.

Brick & Mortar History

John R. Morgan House

This Queen Anne style home was built in 1884 for John and Eleanor Morgan. John and his brother, Richard, arrived in Oshkosh in 1855 and founded one of Oshkosh's earliest and prosperous saw mills, Morgan Brothers & Company. Their home was built by Adam Bell and Edwin Cole. The Morgan family owned the home until the early 20th century, then Constance Misky bought the home in the 1940s where she operated a cosmetology school on the first floor until 1963 and lived on the second floor until 1970. The Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society acquired the home from the Misky family in 1987 and began an extensive effort to restore original features of the home. The Morgan House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.



234 Church Ave., Oshkosh, WI



2019 Membership Form

Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society

(Check One)	(Check One)
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Student (15-25yrs/old)	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Couple	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Family	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Life Membership	

Name(s): _____
 Street Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email Address: _____

(Check One)

- Send my newsletter by E-mail
- Send my newsletter by mail

I am interested in volunteering for.... (Circle All that Apply)

- | Morgan House Tour Guide | Pie on the Porch | Artifact Inventory |
- | Archiving | Holiday Open House | Volunteer Recruitment |
- | Newsletter Editor | Fundraising Events | Program Planning |
- or
- | **Not Interested in Volunteering** |

Mail this form with enclosed payment to:

WCHAS Membership Committee
 234 Church Ave.
 Oshkosh, WI 54901



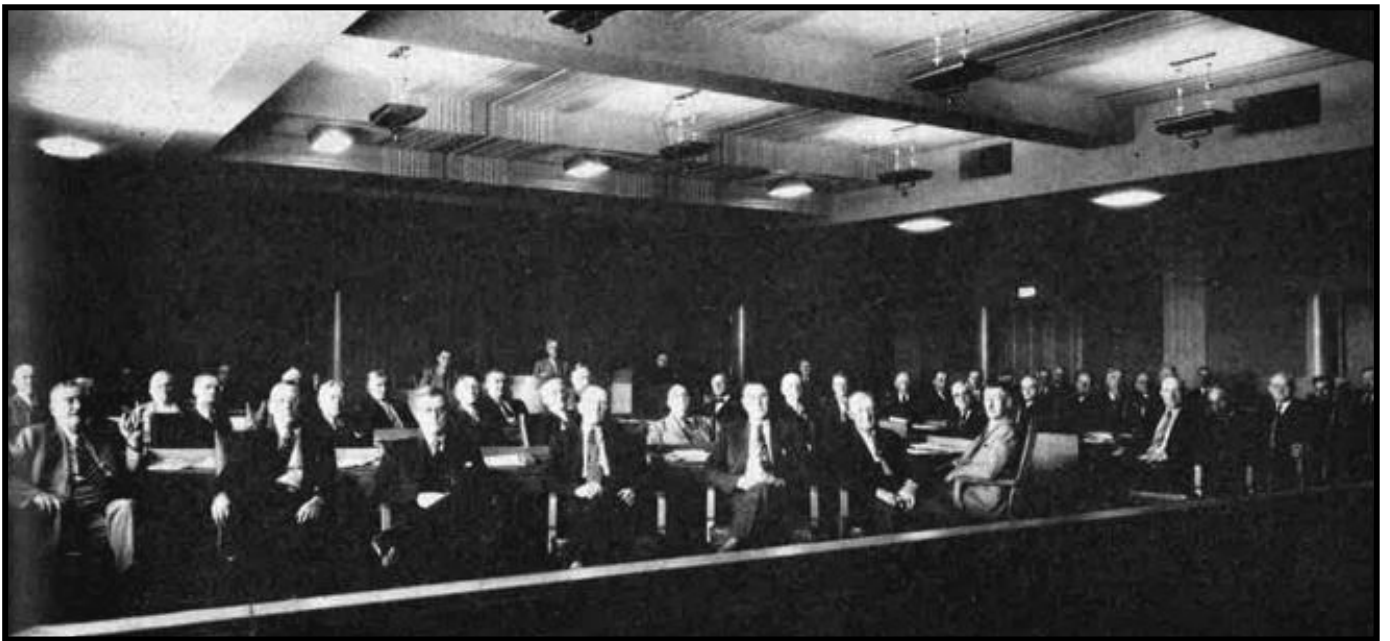
FINAL POINTS

- ◆ **2019 WCHAS Officers:**
President - Randy Domer
Vice President - Austin M. Frederick
Treasurer - Greg Bellmer
Secretary - Philip Marshall
- ◆ **Welcome New Members!**
 Anne Lerch - Life Member
 Charles Radke
 Deborah Van Swol
- ◆ **Don't forget that it is time to renew your membership for 2019! You can fill out the form to the left and send it back to us with enclosed payment.**



Winnebago County
Historical & Archaeological
Society, Inc.

234 Church Avenue - Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901



Winnebago County Board of Supervisors in newly constructed courthouse- 1938
(*Wisconsin Counties Magazine*, August 1938)