

County



Fare

2nd Quarter 2019

The NEWSLETTER of the

WINNEBAGO COUNTY HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WINNEBAGO CO., WIS.

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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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Oshkosh, WI 54901
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Editors:

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



Visit Our Website

WinnebagoCountyHistoricalSociety.org

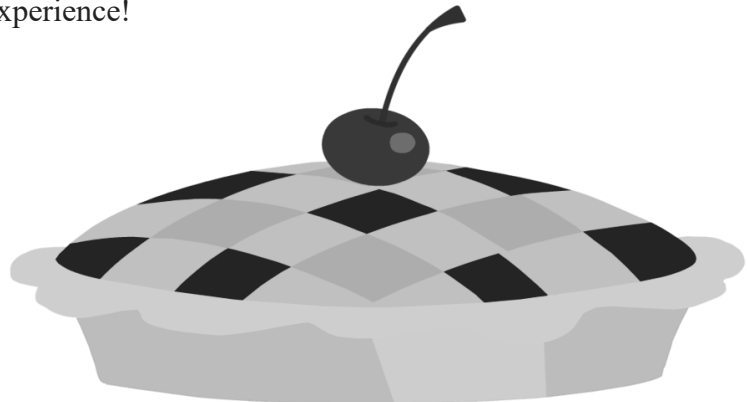
Pie on the Porch is Back

The Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society is happy to announce it's "pie time" again! Pie on the Porch is a hallmark of the Farmers Market which takes place weekly from June 1 through August 31 at the Oshkosh Farmers Market. Two years ago we moved to our new "forever home" in front of Crescent Moon at 537 N. Main St. The Karners from Crescent Moon Antiques and Salvage have once again allowed us to use them as our host location! Thank you J and Julie Karner! We couldn't be more pleased. It is a perfect fit!

We will continue to have the table service our patrons have asked for. We will still serve hot coffee, lemonade, bottled water and of course, those delicious home-made slices of pie! We generally offer one gluten free variety a week as well!

We are always looking for more pie bakers! If you can bake a pie to donate, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Doreen at volunteercoordinatorwchas@gmail.com and she will put you on our call list. You can donate a pie weekly, monthly, or as often as you'd like. All types and flavors of pie are welcome!

We also need volunteers to help us set up the booth, cut pies, serve tables, work in the booth, and to tear down the booth. You can volunteer two hours or all morning; every week; every other week; once a month, or as often as you'd like. Please contact Doreen at the email above. Helping at Pie on the Porch is a fun and rewarding experience!



Book Club



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

Aug. - *London Fog; The Biography* - Christine L
Corton

Sept. - *We Were Eight Years in Power* - Ta-Nehisi
Coates

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

Bauer Trunk Company Trunk - Angela Schaefer

Café Set - Jean Zimmerman

Oshkosh Streetcar Conductor Badge / Photos - Carol Gee

Events

Pie on the Porch - Saturdays June to Labor Day Week-
end at the Oshkosh Farmers Market

Fox River Cruise - Monday, June 24, 6-8pm. Tickets
\$35/ea. purchase through Loos Cruises Inc.

Sturgeon History - Tuesday, August 20, Oshkosh Public
Library, 6pm.

Oshkosh During the Great Depression - Wednesday,
September 18, Oshkosh Public Library, 6pm.

Annual Meeting - Sunday, October 13, 1-3pm

Holiday Open House - Saturday, December 7, 5-8pm

Holiday Open House - Saturday, December 14, 1-4pm

President's Message

As reported last quarter, plans to celebrate our 100th Anniversary are well underway. We are working with all the historical societies in Winnebago County to create a hard cover, coffee-table style book highlighting the History of Winnebago County. The book will be available for purchase this fall. A special program will be presented at the Grand Opera House on Sunday, October 27 to further celebrate this landmark occasion. This celebratory program will be a family-themed 100th birthday party, with tickets open to the general public. More information and updates on this event will be forthcoming on our website and Facebook page.

Our very popular Historic River Cruises are back again this year. Last year's maiden voyage was a quick sellout so act quickly to get your tickets for the 6 pm June 24 cruise. Tickets are \$35 each and can be purchased online at:

www.ontheloosecruises.com.

Finally, just another reminder if you have not yet renewed your membership for 2019 you can do so by using the form in this newsletter or go online to:

www.winnebagoountyhistoricalsociety.org

There you can pay by PayPal. And don't forget to visit our Facebook page – just search Winnebago County Historical Society.

Have a great summer everyone! See you at Pie on the Porch!

Randy Domer
President - WCHAS

Winnebago County Highway Dept. History

Knapp Street Garage 1938-1995

By Austin M. Frederick

The earliest discussion of building a new highway garage began in 1935. Winnebago County officials sought a federal grant through the WPA (Works Progress Administration) to build a new garage on the county workhouse property on Knapp Street--near what is Quarry Park. Instead, 7.5 acres of land north of the workhouse next to the Lutz Quarry was acquired for \$3,000. The Lutz family had a delinquent tax bill, but the county's purchase of this parcel was a credit towards it. The location was ideal because the railroad ran nearby--it's no longer there--and could be used for hauling in materials (salt, gravel, etc.) to the new highway shop. Additionally, the new garage could be hooked up to city utilities.



Highway garage interior - 1938
(Courtesy of Winnebago County Highway Department)

The first portion to be constructed was the storage garage area in 1938. The cost to build was about \$40,000 and measured roughly 200' x 80' with a 20' high arched ceiling. Fluor Brothers Construction Co. of Oshkosh won the general contractor bid to oversee construction.

The new garage was built to relocate and house the county plow trucks and equipment from its former Wisconsin Street garage. Some of the county plow trucks were also being stored in private garages due to the lack of space. By the time the garage was finished, the County Highway Committee was already looking

ahead to build a repair shop onto the new garage in the near future. A dedication ceremony and big dance--over 800 people-- was held in the building to celebrate the county's newest facility.

In December 1939 the county board approved a \$50,000 project to build a 104' x 80' repair shop addition onto the garage. The county broke ground in spring 1940 and completed the addition in fall of that year. The newest addition had all of the machinery needed to repair and maintain county trucks and equipment. Some of the features of the repair shop

included two overhead cranes for moving heavy equipment--5-ton and 2.5-ton-- as well as lathes, drills, and a paint booth. The addition also added extra storage space, a committee meeting room, the shop superintendent's office, and a sign shop. The final cost of the project was \$45,000--under budget!

The final addition to the highway garage was an office building to house all Highway Department staff under one roof. Since 1938 the highway commissioner and other office staff were located on the first floor of the county courthouse. Expansion of county services and staff increases over the years made for tight quarters in the courthouse. The county board approved a \$204,661 project to build an office addition onto the eastern portion of the complex. Ground was broken in January 1969, and the project was completed by the end of August that year.

The Winnebago County Highway Department was relocated in 1995 to the north side of Oshkosh on County Road Y--Near Highway 45 and I-41. The newer facility has a 85,000-sq. ft. main garage used for storage and repair. This area also has a steam wash bay, sign shop, parts storage, 12-bay repair area, prefabricating & welding shop, overhead cranes, bulk oil room, offices, locker rooms, conference/training room and lunch room. The new location also has a salt shed and a storage building for equipment.

Winnebago County Facilities and Property Management Department took over the old highway garage in 1998. A sizable crew of custodians, maintenance techs, and tradesmen work hard each day to keep all county buildings clean and operational from day-to-day. Despite the building's age, it continues to be a reliable, well-built facility that continues to meet the needs of Winnebago County.

**THROGS INSPECT
NEW ADDITION TO
HIGHWAY GARAGE**

More Than 1,000 Believed to
Have Visited County Building
Recently Completed
at Cost of \$45,000

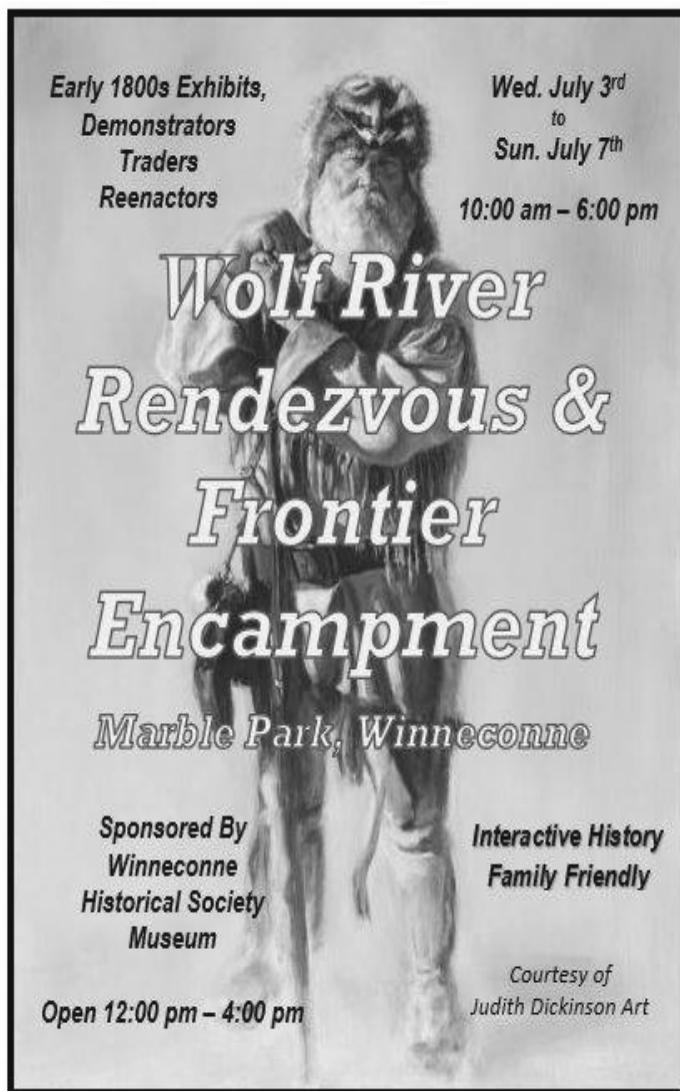
WCHAS Historic Fox River Cruise

Set sail with us June 24th at 6:00 pm for a two-hour historic tour of the Fox River, courtesy of On The Loos Cruises. Learn about the history of the Fox River from its early inhabitants to the booming lumber industry that sprang up in Oshkosh. Proceeds from ticket sales help fund the Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society. Drinks will be available at the cash bar aboard the vessel.

Seating is limited, so purchase your tickets today! Visit our website for ticket ordering information.

WinnebagoCountyHistoricalSociety.org

Winneconne Events



Early 1800s Exhibits,
Demonstrators
Traders
Reenactors

Wed. July 3rd
to
Sun. July 7th
10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Wolf River Rendezvous & Frontier Encampment

Marble Park, Winneconne

Sponsored By
Winneconne
Historical Society
Museum

Interactive History
Family Friendly

Courtesy of
Judith Dickinson Art

Open 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Neenah Historical Society Exhibit



This year the United States is marking the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote. Visit the Neenah Historical Society's newest exhibit titled, "Voting for a Change - The Impact of the 19th Amendment on Our Community," featuring the story of that moment in history and the local women who had a profound impact on it. This interactive exhibit will feature opportunities to learn about women's work, women's fashion, women in politics, and the profound changes taking place during the early 1900s. Visitors will be able to experience first hand the opportunity to vote, as Neenah's women did for the first time, in the 1920 presidential election using a voting booth from Neenah's past.

Sunday afternoons (12 to 4 p.m.) in May and June beginning May 19th, Also open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment, 920-729-0244

Neenahhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
Neenahhistoricalsociety.com

Last Chance to Renew

This will be your final issue of the *County Fare* if your membership dues have not been received. DON'T WAIT! 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

Recollections of Augustin Grignon

Part 8

By Joe Yana

In our last installment of the review of Augustin Grignon's 72 Years of Recollections, we left off at the time of the death of Augustin's grandfather, Charles de Langlade. The legacy Charles de Langlade left was a great one, recognized among the Tribes, the French, British and Americans, as he had fought battles in all the major conflicts of his lifetime, as early as age 16. His prowess in battle was so highly regarded, that the natives called him A-ke-wau-ge-ke-tau-so, or He-who-is-fierce-for-the-land, a military conqueror.

de Langlade served with a number of gallant men during his days as warrior. His nephew Gauthier De Verville was his constant companion during the campaigns of the French and Indian War and American Revolutionary War. Amable De Gere also accompanied de Langlade in the French and Indian War and later settled in Green Bay and engaged in the Indian trade.

Another hardy companion who served under de Langlade, Pierre Caree, later acted as an interpreter during the War of 1812. A British expedition led by Col. Robert Dickson embarked from Mackinaw to deliver government goods to the Indians at Prairie du Chien, with Caree serving as interpreter. By the time they reached Lake Winnebago, the rages of winter had started and they could proceed no further. They spent the winter on Garlic Island. When spring broke, the goods were delivered to the Indians in Prairie du Chien, but Caree encountered difficulties when they attempted to return to Mackinaw. He became separated from the expedition after he wandered away to hunt. Dickson and the expedition waited 2 days and when he didn't return, they resumed the trip back to Mackinaw. Caree attempted to survive on his own by eating roots, decaying fish and game after he lost his flints and could not use his rifle to hunt. According to the legend, a hawk which had just taken a partridge

spotted Caree, was startled and dropped the bird. So hungry, he ripped the partridge apart and ate it raw. He somehow made it back to Mackinaw 50 days later, but in such an emaciated state, that it took months to nurse him back to health. This remarkable story illustrates the hardy endurance of soldiers who served under the great warrior, Charles de Langlade.

Another of Charles de Langlade's companions in arms was his uncle Marchar, who also had a reputation as a fierce fighter. He later settled in Chippewa Falls and established a trading post. He saw the unsettled relations between the local Chippewa and the Sioux in the area. He attempted to broker peace between the two to assure his business would not be impacted by the conflict. A pipe of peace was smoked, but when they departed from the meeting, the Sioux ambushed the Chippewa and killed one of them. The Chippewa returned to Marchar's trading post and soon used up all of their supplies. They asked Marchar for help in the way of supplies, which he provided without immediate payment. Marchar provided them with powder and ammunition, and as the legend goes, they hunted and after one day returned with 30 deer to repay the debt incurred for the supplies.

In the latter years of de Langlade's life, he remained in Green Bay. He conveyed these many legends and stories to a young Augustin Grignon, who was born in 1780 in Green Bay. Augustin's first recollections of Green Bay were at the age of 5. He recalled there being only 7 families, and including their servants, numbered only 56 people. The servants engaged by the de Langlade and Grignon families were Pawnee natives. Two stores were operating in Green Bay at the time, once operated by the Grignon and de Langlade families and the other by Marchand, an agent of a Mackinaw trading company. At that time, there were no settlers located on the Fox River anywhere south of Green Bay.

Next episode: Augustin's memories of life in Green Bay.



Col. Robert Dickson

Omro's Living Link to Lincoln

When Vicky Reany Paulson was growing up just south of Omro, she was told that her family genealogy led her back to Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham Lincoln's mother. It was family lore, and well known in the surrounding countryside. Unfortunately, no one was quite sure how they were related. By the time Vicky was in High School here in Omro, she had become an expert on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. She had connected with two great-aunts and exchanged letters with them throughout her youth. It was clear to Vicky as she graduated high school: her life mission was to find her family's lineage.

And find it she did. For the next several decades she connected with scholars, traveled around the country, researched birth and death certificates and began writing books and speaking to groups. To say that she is the foremost expert in the much disputed lineage of Abraham Lincoln is an understatement.

This past February, Vicky temporarily donated her incredible display of artifacts, photos, paintings, scrapbooks, books and framed certificates to the Omro Area Historical Society. This display is now open to be viewed during museum hours which are new this year: **5-7pm on Thursdays, starting after Memorial Day through Labor Day.**

The Omro Area Historical Society is proud to share our local history with the most famous President our nation has ever known. On June 5th, Vicky will be giving a talk detailing more about her life's work and the direct connection she has with the Hanks family. Come hear her presentation and see the incredible collection now on display.

When: Thursday, July 25th at 1pm

Where: Heritage Hall (Masonic Temple) 160 East Main Street

Summer Exhibit

This summer a special exhibition of the clothing designed and created by George F. Procknow will be on display in the Morgan House. George Procknow was one of Oshkosh's premiere couturiers. He was born in Oshkosh, served in the United States Army, and after WWII he came back to Oshkosh and worked in and managed the Men's Department at Sears before becoming a designer.

Procknow believed that "good fashion was timeless" so he focused on well-styled garments with simple lines and good construction that allowed his garments to be worn for years without the styles appearing outdated. He created dresses, gowns and outfits from a variety of fabrics including wool, tweed, and organza; and favored silks and chiffon for ball gowns and bridal wear. He had the ability to choose fabrics and colors to suit the wearer's figure and personality.

Procknow became best known for his work with the Miss Oshkosh and Miss Wisconsin pageants. In June 1963, when the Miss Wisconsin Pageant was moved to Oshkosh, George was chosen by Gimbels-Schuster stores, a sponsor of the Miss Wisconsin Pageant, to design a coronation gown for the current Miss Wisconsin to wear as she would hand off her crown to the next Miss Wisconsin. Two years later he would design dresses for Sharon Singstock, Miss Oshkosh/Miss Wisconsin, for her appearance at the Miss America Pageant.

The exhibition at the Morgan House features ten original designs by George Procknow including a few of his pageant gowns. Come learn about the legacy of this unique Oshkosh designer and see his beautifully made dresses Saturdays 10 – 1 pm from June 1 through August 31 or during Oshkosh Gallery Walk evenings 6 – 9 pm the first Saturday of each month from June through August.



Society Gifted Historic Treasure

By Randy Damer

WCHAS recently received a donation from a local family with deep roots in Oshkosh history. In 1898, Charles Bauer, who was an apprentice for the Schmitt Trunk Company in Oshkosh opened his own business in a store at 190 Main Street. He hired Carl Spoo, who was also a trunk maker, and together they built a business building and selling trunks, luggage, and other fine leather items. The business would become Bauer Trunk & Bags. It was the era of the traveling salesman with Oshkosh boasting as many as 400 of the merchants who left the city each Monday morning doing business in all reaches of the country. The demand for business travel accessories was high, and combined with luggage and trunks, Bauer and his colleague reportedly sold 40-50 trunks each month, as well as numerous sample cases to the salesmen who lived their work weeks on the road in hotels and rooming houses. In addition to the trunks and sample cases, Bauer also made suitcases and special fiber cases to hold snare drums for musicians. It is said that Charles Bauer built the first up-

right wardrobe trunk. Until that time all trunks had been the flat steamer type. The trunks were usually fiber or metal covered. Bauer Luggage eventually moved to 23 Washington Avenue.

The most famous Bauer trunk was recently donated to WCHAS by the great, great granddaughter of Charles Bauer...Angela Troudt Schaefer. Built by

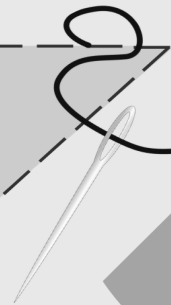


Charles in 1874, the trunk was made as a wedding gift to his bride. Today, the trunk is still beautifully preserved and will be on display in historic Morgan House this summer. The large trunk has a rounded cover made of wood and held together by bands of steel. Squares of wool tapestry in flower design are placed between the wooden frames. The interior of the trunk is exquisitely lined with paper cutouts and flowered border outlines the numerous "secret" compartments in the trunk. For many years, the trunk was poised in the display window at Bauer Luggage at Washington Street. Perhaps you remember seeing it there.

The Bauer Wedding Trunk fits in nicely with the new exhibit of Designs by George Procknow, our new exhibit in Morgan House for 2019. We invite you to come visit us on Saturdays this summer between 10 am and 1 pm and see the new exhibits from our historic past.

Designs

By George Procknow



On Exhibit
June 1 - August 31, 2019

WINNEBAGO COUNTY
HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
EST. 1919

A World of Partings

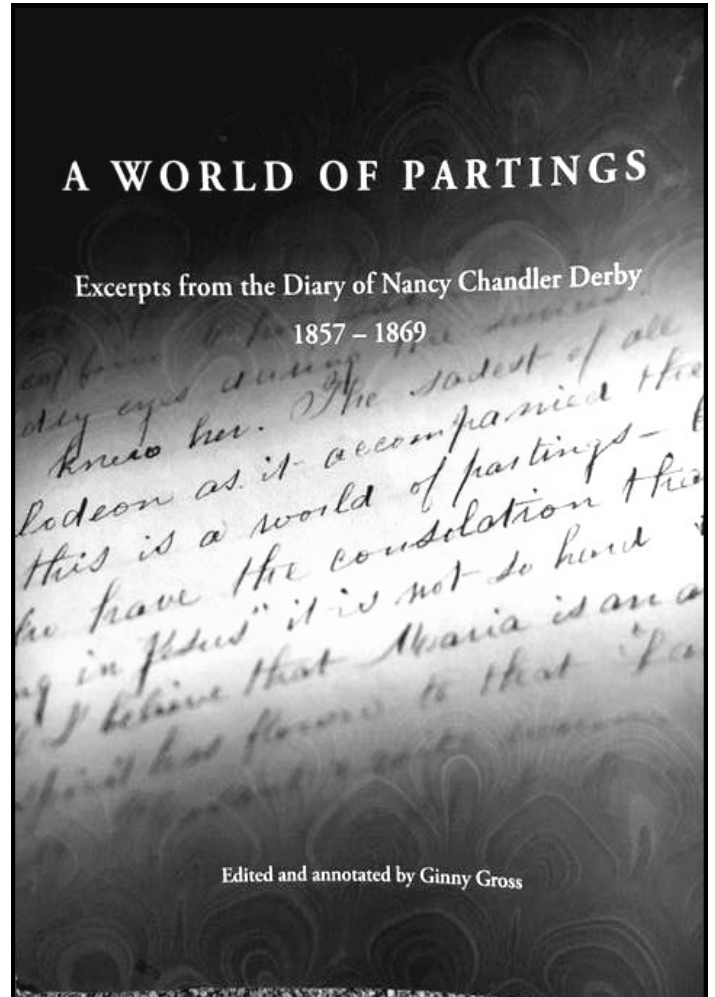
Book Review by Patti Yana

Looking for a book that takes you back to a time in Oshkosh long forgotten? Look no further than *A World of Partings*! Ginny Gross, a local author, takes us back to life during the Civil War. This book gives a detailed description of the time period leading up to and through the Civil War and how it impacted the daily life of the folks right here in our area. Gross adds a unique perspective by explaining the terms and lifestyle of the time period. What was daily life like “back in the day”? You will be amazed!

The book is based on the diary of Oshkosh resident **Nancy Derby** as she recorded her life back in the 1850s and 1860s. Derby lived right on Algoma Boulevard and the reader will be able to visualize where many activities took place. Gross edits the diary in an easily understandable fashion by using annotations to further explain what the family and community were going through. Derby takes us through her family’s two-year move from Oshkosh to Alabama and back again. One might not think about how the Civil War directly impacted life in Oshkosh, Wisconsin when the war was fought so far away. However, Derby’s diary gives us that perspective.

For example.....During this time period, doctors were in short supply and did the work of dentists as well. This was quite evident as Derby lost her rotting teeth and was fitted with the “dentures” of the day. Friends, relatives, and neighbors frequently faced severe health risks and possibly death. Activities such as shopping and traveling had to take place during the day as there was no light at night. We don’t give traveling across town a second thought today. But in the mid-19th century if you had no horse you would have to wait until a friendly neighbor or relative could take you where you needed to go. The reader will certainly get a sense of how difficult local life was during

this challenging time in our history. The book is available at the Oshkosh Public Museum for purchase and well worth the read!



DID YOU KNOW... The former Revere House opened on November 30, 1881, on Main Street at the old location where it had been destroyed by fire back in 1877. The rubble from that fire was an eyesore for several years, but new entrepreneurs came up with plans for a grand, new, three-story hotel and the new red-brick structure would be unveiled with grand festivities. George W. Athearn a long-time Oshkosh businessman in the livery and stage line operator field, decided to go into the hotel business and would be the proprietor of this great new facility. Athearn himself was a great loser in the Great Fire of 1875.

(Source: *Oshkosh Aflame! Traumas and Triumphs of Its Sawdust Citizens (A History)* by James I Metz, pg 132)

Brick & Mortar History

No. 6 Fire Station

This former fire station is located on the NW corner of Ohio Street and W. 10th Avenue in Oshkosh. This fire station was built in 1939 utilizing funds from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program offered by the federal government during the Great Depression. The building was designed by local architect Julius Dreger and was constructed using recycled materials from two dismantled buildings in Oshkosh--the old Winnebago County Courthouse on Ceape Street and the old post office building on Washington Ave. WPA workers broke ground on May 1, 1939, and by February 1940 the building was staffed and had one fire truck.



924 Ohio Street, Oshkosh



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

- ◆ **Welcome New Members!**
Charles Johanns
Tom Bollom
- ◆ **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.**

Morgan House Tours

Saturdays
 June through October
 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
 Or By Appointment



Winnebago County
Historical & Archaeological
Society, Inc.

234 Church Avenue - Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901



Winnebago County Highway Department repair shop addition - 1940
(Courtesy of Winnebago County Highway Department)



Winnebago County Highway Department garage east entrance- 1938
(Courtesy of Winnebago County Highway Department)