

County



Faire

2nd Quarter 2022

The NEWSLETTER of the
WINNEBAGO COUNTY HISTORICAL & ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

WINNEBAGO CO., WIS.

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Mission Statement

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

Contact Us or Submit Articles:

WCHAS
234 Church Ave Oshkosh, WI 54901
(920)267-8007

WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:
Michael McArthur



WinnebagoCountyHistoricalSociety.org

*Pie on the Porch
Returns this
Summer*

Oshkosh Farmers Market

June 3rd thru September 4th

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

(Rain or Shine)

525 N. Main Streets

(in front of NAMI)

*Drop by for
a slice with us!*

A Message From Our President...

Occasionally I am asked about the work we do as a historical society. I usually explain the mission of the organization and give examples of the work we do in the community. As I always like to say it's about "Preserving Our Local History for Future Generations".

But the real question here is why is preserving our local history so important?

Our history gives our city its unique character and provides a sense of community. It provides a link to the roots of the community and its people while deepening our sense of unity, belonging and pride from where we came. Our cultural heritage is central to protecting our sense of who we are and gives us an irrefutable connection to the past, our social values, beliefs, customs and traditions.

Our community was founded on the backs of industry. From match-making to overalls, machining to brewing beer, and the paper industry in Neenah and Menasha. Work could be found here for anyone with a strong back and work ethic to match.

The lumber industry also played a big role. At one time, 28 sawmills lined the banks of the Fox River in Oshkosh alone, causing Oshkosh to be known as "Sawdust City".

Today, historic Morgan House is one of three former homes belonging to families from those earliest woodworking days. Sawyer gave us his home - now the Oshkosh Public Museum, the Paine family donated their home, now used as an art center and exhibition venue. Our Morgan House is a "house museum" which depicts the lifestyle of how a lumber family like the Morgans would have enjoyed.

We invite you to join us on this journey as we work to keep our history alive. You can do this by becoming a member (use the membership form included in this newsletter) or go to our website www.winnebagoountyhistoricalsociety.org and click on the "become a member" tab.

Preserving Our Local History for Future Generations

Randy Domer

President – WCHAS

rrdomer@gmail.com

CIVIL WAR TOKENS OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY

by Jeff Reichenberger and Larry Spanbauer

PART ONE

(This article is a continuation of research and collaboration with my friend and mentor Larry Spanbauer, who passed away September 4, 2018. As many of you know, Larry was a treasured Oshkosh historian. What you may not know, is that he was also a highly respected numismatist. I write this in his memory.)

Civil War Tokens, or 'Store Cards' as they are also known, are cent-sized tokens (19 mm) used in place of federal coinage during the Civil War years 1861-1865. Sixteen Oshkosh merchants and three merchants in Neenah/Menasha issued tokens during this period.

At the beginning of the 1860's, money circulating in the United States consisted of Federally issued coinage and State Bank-issued currency. Coins included copper cents, six different silver denominations, and six gold denominations. The war began April 12, 1861, and by the end of the year it was apparent that the outcome would be undetermined any time soon. Commerce was invariably disrupted. Citizens began withdrawing gold and silver coins from banks. Meanwhile state-chartered banks were obligated to retain gold and silver coinage as backing for their currency, so the depletion of specie in bank vaults rendered their currency unreliable.

By July of 1862, even copper cents had vanished. There was no coinage circulating in most of the country. The government declared postage stamps could be used as legal tender, and they issued fractional currency in small

denominations as little as one cent, to compensate for lack of coinage. In addition, printers and merchants collaborated to produce private merchant-scrip just to keep daily commerce alive. But paper currency of any type had a poor reputation and wore out quickly, and the Federal fractional paper notes rarely circulated outside of New England.

It was in this atmosphere that Civil War Tokens were born. Privately minted cent-sized tokens, made of copper, or sometimes brass, came to be produced in the millions.

These little tokens filled the needs of the citizenry and merchants alike and were readily accepted as one-cent pieces. There are more than 8,500 different Tokens/Store Cards known that were issued by approximately 1,500 merchants from 22 different States and almost 400 towns - Oshkosh, and Neenah/Menasha among them. Civil War Tokens would continue to be used in commerce into the 1870's until they gradually

faded from circulation.

Store owners typically had the name of the business and a brief description of its wares on one side of the token and the other side



depicted a picture or symbol of some sort. The engravers/minters who made the tokens carried stock dies with images of various types for the merchant to choose from; for example, a patriotic-themed die might include an eagle, shield, or bust of Liberty; a store-product die might depict a stove, hat, or saddle. There are many varieties of these dies; some with stars, some without, some with date, some without, sometimes an engraver would sign or initial the die, etc. Occasionally a die would seem to have been randomly selected and has no connection with the products the store was offering.

In those days, Oshkosh was thought of as the second largest city in Wisconsin, thus it was second only to Milwaukee in number of merchants who issued these tokens. Some of the sixteen Oshkosh businesses used more than one stock die on their tokens, creating a total of 40 varieties. One token from Neenah/Menasha is very interesting. Instead of a merchant on one side and stock image on the other, this token is a rare example of two merchants sharing the same token. One side describes the merchant from Neenah (grocery), the other side describes the merchant from Menasha (mill). Perhaps they were acquainted and decided to join forces and issue the token together.

For patient collectors, there are examples of Oshkosh Civil War tokens that come available in the marketplace from time to time. Some are scarcer than others, and there are several varieties that are near impossible to obtain, but with time and diligence a collector can put together a basic set of the sixteen Oshkosh tokens. Prices vary widely based on rarity and state of preservation of each token, but a mid-grade collection might be realized for around \$1500.00. The Neenah/Menasha tokens are similar in scarcity and price.

Three tokens (City Hotel, Jaenicke & Klotsch, and McCabe/Hunt) were manufactured by the company, Mossin & Marr, of Milwaukee. All others were made by the Lanphear Co., of Cincinnati, OH.

Oshkosh Civil War Tokens

All the merchants who issued tokens were located on Ferry Street (North Main Street), or Kansas Street (South Main Street). Two of the tokens list their address, however, back then most residents knew where the stores were, so the address was not an important element to have on the tokens.



**CITY HOTEL, G. BOCK, PROPRIETOR,
OSHKOSH, WIS.**

**THE NEAREST HOTEL TO THE STEAM
BOAT LANDING, FERRY ST.**

Research has revealed that German immigrant, Mr. Gustavus Bogk (Surname misspelled on the token) was a bit of a renaissance man in early Oshkosh, though there are gaps to be filled. He advertised as proprietor of the Oshkosh City Bakery in 1857, offering "The Best Quality of Breads, Crackers, Cakes, Pies, etc.", located at No. 6 Ferry St. This is the same address as was the "Oshkosh Hotel", which burned down in the great fire of 1859.

Presumably, Bogk operated his bakery from a store on the ground floor of the hotel, which was then owned by Manoah Griffin. By 1863, Draft Registration records tell us that Bogk was a hotel keeper at age 36. This must be the "City Hotel" engraved on the token, based on the Draft Records and the date (1862/3 was the timeframe when the vast majority of Civil War Tokens were produced).

There was a City Hotel located on Ferry Street that also burned in the 1859 fire, however, the address is unknown. I can only speculate that somewhere between 1860 and 1863, Bogk

acquired a hotel that occupied No. 6 Ferry St and called it the “City Hotel.” By 1868 the hotel at No. 6 Ferry was known as the “Revere House,” Proprietor, G. Bogk. This proved to be his last year as hotel keeper.

The next year he changed course and opened “Bogk’s Pleasure Gardens”, complete with “Driving Park, Bathing Houses, and Refreshment Saloon.” “Always Open, Sail Boats furnished, the Best Bands on Sunday afternoons.” The Pleasure Gardens were located on “10 Acres on the Banks of Lake Winnebago, between Ceape and Waugoo Sts.” (The entire shoreline at the end of Otter Street). By 1876 Gustavus Bogk had disappeared from the City Directories. By all indications he was quite an entrepreneur during his time in Oshkosh. We were unable to locate an obituary for Mr. Bogk.



FRAKER BRO’S., DEALERS IN BOOTS AND SHOES, 51 FERRY ST. OSHKOSH, WIS.
FRAKER BRO’S., DEALERS IN LEATHER, HIDES, WOOL & FURS.

Fraker Brothers advertised as the ‘Oldest Firm in the City’. ‘We always keep The Largest Stock, and consequently can offer BETTER BAR-GAINS’. Mitts, Gloves, Hats, Caps, Furs, Buffalo Robes. The Highest Price Paid for Furs, Wool, Hides, and Pelts. No. 51 Ferry Street.



JOS. BOLES, MERCHANT TAILOR, AND DEALER IN CLOTHING, OSHKOSH, WIS.
QUICK SALES AND SMALL PROFITS (Man’s suit)

Joseph Boles’ business was located at 36 Ferry Street. Somewhere between 1864 and 1865, Ferry Street became Main Street in Oshkosh. So when Boles moved his business in 1864, he now resided at 29 Main Street.

Boles took on a partner in 1865 forming the firm of Boles & Bartlett. He advertised as a Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Ready-Made Clothing, hats, and caps. At their peak they employed 40 people.



ANDREW HABEN & CO., DEALERS IN CLOTHING, OSHKOSH, WIS.

Four die varieties are known for the back of this token (Eagle w/date), (Eagle w/o date), (Union Shield), (Man’s suit)

Andrew Haben opened his clothing store in 1862 at 41 Ferry Street. In February 1863 the store was consumed by fire along with six other businesses. Haben rebuilt by 1865. He advertised Ready-Made Clothing for French, German, English, and American Broad-Cloths, Doeskins, Cassimeres, and Gentlemen’s Furnishing Goods.

This story will be continued in the following County Fare coming September 2022.

LINCRUSTA & ANAGLYPTA WALLPAPER PART 1

BY MICHAEL MCARTHUR



One of the most unique characteristics of the Morgan House is the Lincrusta and Anaglypta wallpapers. These wallcoverings were highly prized during the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries.

Invented by Frederick Walton in 1877 in Surrey, England, Lincrusta shares many of the characteristics of Walton's previous invention: linoleum. It was durable, waterproof, and easy to clean. However, Lincrusta was designed to be far more decorative, mimicking the intricate, three-dimensional plasterwork popular during the Victorian Age. As it is in the Morgan House, Lincrusta designs were often hand painted.

It was an immediate hit, finding its way into upper class Victorian homes throughout England. By the early 1880s, Lincrusta had become an internationally recognized brand that could be found in the home of JD Rockefeller, the California State Capitol Building, and The White House. It also graced the walls of many state rooms on the RMS Titanic.

The durability and washable nature of Lincrusta-Walton won it a Gold Medal at the International Health Exposition in London in 1884.

However, Lincrusta can be expensive and complicated to install as it is heavier and less flexible than traditional wallpaper. In response, a Lincrusta showroom manager named Thomas J. Palmer developed Anaglypta wallpaper in 1887 as a more affordable and flexible wallcovering. This too was a run away success. The Morgan House features both.

Though production never fully stopped, the two wallcoverings fell out of style after World War II, but enjoyed a resurgence in popularity starting in the 1970s as people began restoring older Victorian homes.



Welcome New Members



Terry Laib & India Clark

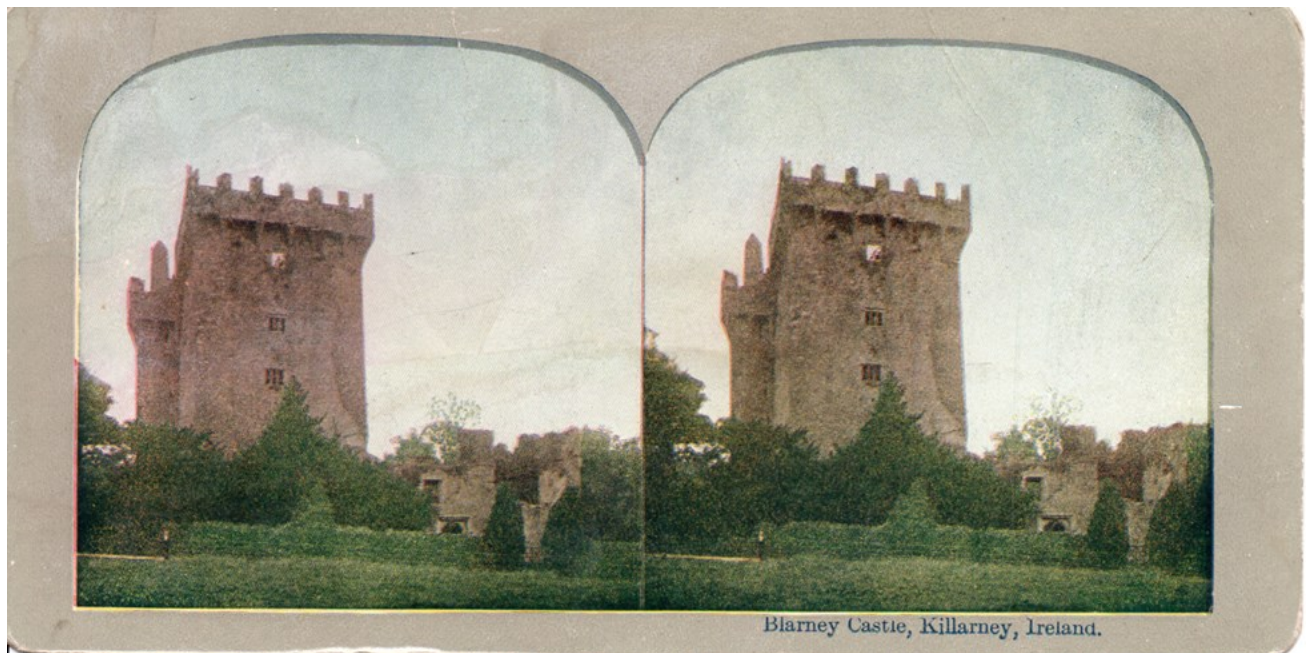


From Our Collections

Before the advent of moving pictures, people looked at pictures on cards like this. Taken with a camera with two lenses, one beside the other, the images appear three-dimensional when viewed through a device called a stereoscope. Exotic locations from around the world sparked the imaginations of people in the parlors and sitting rooms of Winnebago County. This image of Blarney Castle must have been especially intriguing around St. Patrick's Day.



Source: Wikimedia Commons



Blarney Castle, Killarney, Ireland.

Source: Winnebago County Historical & Archaeological Society Collection

Winnebago County Historical & Archeological Membership Form

Join or renew your membership
with the Winnebago County Historical & Archeological Society

(check one)

(check one

_____ \$5 Student (15-25 yr old)

_____ \$15 Individual

_____ New Member

_____ \$25 Couple

_____ Renewal

_____ \$35 Family

_____ \$250 Lifetime Membership

Complete/Update Information

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

In an effort to be more green and reduce postage costs, newsletters will be sent via email unless you signify you require a printed copy below.

_____ Please send me a printed copy of the newsletter .

Interested in Volunteering? Let us know what you're interested in! (check all that apply)

_____ Give tours of the Morgan House (docent training available)

_____ Historical research on specific topics determined by committees

_____ Social Media/Publicity

_____ Newsletter Editing or Content Creation

_____ Locate and/or events and speakers

_____ Decorate for the Holidays

_____ Develop exhibitions (in-person and digital)

_____ Transcribe Historical Interviews

_____ Event Photographer/Videographer

_____ Archive artifacts

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WCHAS

234 Church Ave.
Oshkosh, WI 54901

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Pay electronically via Paypal by sending
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Winnebago **C**ounty
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234 Church Avenue - Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54901