

# South Milwaukee Historical Society

## 717 Milwaukee Av

## South Milwaukee, Wi. 53172

P R E S E R V I N G   T H E   P R O U D   P A S T

**FOUNDED  
MARCH  
1972**

Founders

- Dennis Rankin
- Penny Rankin

Initial Directors:

- George Hook
- Mary McCarrier
- Bruce Rayeske
- Dora Lee Szewczuga
- William Domoe
- Lillian Dishong
- Chester Grobschmidt

<b>Officers:</b>		
President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
V. President	Patti Bergeson	768-9549
Secretary	Sue Ziarek	520-1959
Treasurer	Judy Bal estreiri	762-6382
<b>Board of Curators</b>		
	Judy Bal estreiri	
	Richard Thinnes	
	Steve Schreiter, Genealogy	
<b>Board of directors</b> (Term Expires):		
	Todd Michal ek	(2018) 762-6876
	Lee Loveal I	(2018) 301-9171
	Rose Nosacek	(2017) 762-4279
	Pharis Brooks	(2018) 762-2084
	Addie Becker	(2017) 764-2118
	JB Bul ley	(2017) 762-7605
	Vicki Bar toshevich	(2017) 764-2836
	Sunshine chairperson	



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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Hi all “his story “ lovers,

Our summer events planning are coming along well. Keep a schedule handy and if you have any questions, call me. History has always fascinated me and I feel lucky to have you and the historical society in my life. The latest “stories” I have learned about are 1. The Kensington Rune stone, first thought to be hoax and since the year 2000 more evidence points to the authenticity of the stone put in Minnesota in 1362 AD and 2. A ship found sunk in the water off the Turkish coast in 1985 was full of supplies which included 10 tons of copper with a purity of 99.5 percent. The ship “The Uluburun” is dated 1250 BC. Michigan is the only place with copper of that purity. More on the Lost Colonies of Ancient America to come at a later date. See you this summer. Lois Schreiter

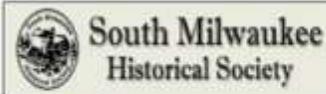
**P.S. From the Editor/Secretary:**

Help?? Do you have a memory of South Milwaukee you'd be willing to share with our readers? How about an interesting picture of a place or event from our city's past that we could use. Maybe you'd like to try your hand at writing a short article for the newsletter? Contact any one of the officers at the numbers above or send us an email. [southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you

Mark Your Calendars!

Preserving the proud past

We have a Lot of Events planned this year ...



Presents Annual Plant Swap

Saturday May 20, 2017  
9 a.m.-11 a.m.

South Milwaukee Historical Society  
717 Milwaukee Avenue  
Rain or Shine!

4th Annual Plant Swap hosted by the South Milwaukee Historical Society. This is a FREE EVENT and is an excellent opportunity to network with other gardeners. To participate, bring divided or no longer wanted/needed perennials, shrubs, vines, etc from your yard in pots marked with the type of plant & whether it is sun/part sun/shade. Then swap them out for the same number of different plants! The more variety the better. The Plant Swap isn't limited to just plants. You can bring seeds, bulbs or even garden tools.

Please RSVP to either Patti Bergeson at 414.768.9549, email pbergeson@wi.rr.com

OR

Vicki Maloney at 414.530.6020, email vmaloney@wi.rr.com

Get your tickets NOW to this year's fabulous event!

The South Milwaukee Historical Society Presents:

9th Annual

GARDEN TOUR AND VENDOR ART FAIR

June 24, 2017 \* 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Rain or Shine!

ADMIT ONE

1st 50 people to purchase their tickets the day of the tour at the South Milwaukee Historical Society will receive a free goodie bag!!

For more information or to purchase advanced tickets please contact:

Patti Bergeson 414.768.9549 pbergeson@wi.rr.com  
Vicki Maloney 414.530.6020 vmaloney@wi.rr.com

\* Casey Lynn Lawrence will be doing a demonstration "How to Create and Maintain a Unique Planter, 9 a.m. South Milwaukee Historical Society, 717 Milwaukee Avenue. Planter will be raffled off at the end of the demonstration.

- \* Seven beautiful gardens
- \* Great way to network with other gardeners and support our South Milwaukee Historical Society
- \* Hand-crafted garden items created by local artisans will be on sale at the South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum (717 Milwaukee Avenue) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Advanced Tickets \$8 \* Day of \$10

# MORE EVENTS.....

The *South Milwaukee Historical Society* will be holding a series of "Canopy Talks" at the museum. Each talk will be held outside in good weather, begin at 10am and last about half an hour.

**These are all  
FREE EVENTS**

**South Milwaukee Historical Society  
717 Milwaukee Av**

**July 1**  
*1932 Movie of South Milwaukee*  
Presented by Pharis Brooks

**July 8**  
*Civil War Battlefields*  
Presented by retired SM High School teacher & Museum curator Richard Thinner

**July 15**  
*Founders of the Village of South Milwaukee*  
Presented by Museum Curator Steve Schreiter

**July 22**  
*Prohibition in South Milwaukee*  
Presented by Gretchen Goelz



Please think about joining us for this self guided tour of the historical farm and village buildings that make up Old World Wisconsin, the world's largest museum dedicated to the history of rural life.

As an added bonus September 16 is Oktoberfest at Old World Wisconsin! Enjoy beer brewing and seasonal activities on the German farms. See the enclosed flyer for detailed information.



*Join your friends from the South Milwaukee Historical Society for an evening of fish, fiends, fun & frolic at the Grant Park Golf Clubhouse.*

When: Friday June 9, 2017 at 5:00 pm

This will be a social evening where we eat and talk with no formal program planned after.

When: Friday August 25, 2017 at 5:00 pm

This evening will be the big event. Following dinner will be a fascinating program about Grant Park. Come and learn things you never knew you knew and maybe hear a thing or two you **got you forgot! You'll go home enlightened and overjoyed that South Milwaukee is home to that wonderful jewel we call Grant Park.**

**These are both "Dutch Treat" events. You are responsible for your own food and drinks. We're just providing the excuse for a couple fun evenings out with friends!** Dinners consist of Baked or Fried Cod, French Fries or Roasted Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Rye Bread and a Cookie. Beer and wine are available.

**While we don't need an exact head count, we would like an idea of how many people will attend** so the dining room can be set up to accommodate us. Please contact Todd Michalek at 414-762-6876 with the number of people planning to attend by Monday June 5. If your plans change, not a problem. No need to call.

**If you can't make these events consider stopping by some other Friday. The Grant Park Fish Fry runs Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekend from 4-8pm. You'll enjoy a lovely evening in a historical setting.**

Looking for something different to do while chilling on the deck this summer? How about sorting thru those boxes of photos we all have stashed away in the attic? We're planning a Picture Scanning event on October 7 from 10am to noon. The society is looking for old photos of South Milwaukee that we can scan and add to our archives. We're especially interested in businesses and buildings like churches, hotels, schools, neighborhood grocery stores and taverns, houses, barbershops. Do you have any multigenerational family photos?? How about events at Grant Park? Any wedding photos that include a good view of the local hall it was at? Hunt them up, identify the place or people please, and bring them to us. ALL PICTURES

WILL BE RETURNED IMMEDIATELY AFTER SCANNING unless you prefer to donate your originals.



While the Oak Creek is certainly very well known in South Milwaukee, it's not the only creek. Have you ever heard of ***Eb's Creek***?

Joseph Dibley was one of the original settlers in our area. His home was located on the bluff in Grant Park Area 7-8-9 where the pavilion is to the left as you go into the park entrance. The creek ran through the south end of his land and is named for his son youngest son Ebenezer.



*Eb's Creek on Brookdale Drive*

Eb's Creek starts in Cudahy north of College Avenue in a swamp west of Barland Avenue and north of Ramsey Avenue. It flows to the south and east in three places. One goes east toward Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, south thru the west edge of the cemetery and across College Avenue under the house at 505 College Avenue. It continues to and through the property at 104 Brookdale Drive (which is owned by the current Society president and her curator husband, Lois & Steve Schreiter) and continues on to a creek basin in the 200 block of Brookdale. In the 1950s the creek was routed underground in a storm sewer running from the cemetery to the 200 block of Brookdale Drive where it is returned to a concrete creek bed to flow one block south to the pumping station on Lake Drive.

The second stream flows south along Barland Avenue and toward the area north of College Avenue, west of the railroad bridge. It was routed underground when the Walnut Creek condos were being built (guess "Eb's Creek Condos didn't sound quite as marketable??") It crosses under the tracks near the south end of Wal-mart, flows east between the Badger Apartments and the bowling alley then crosses Fairview Avenue just north of Park Avenue. In the summer of 2016 this part of the creek was routed underground as well. It continues east to the pumping station on Lake Drive where the two streams unite.

The third stream is under ground at Oak Street and Lake Drive, We don't know where it comes from but it enters Eb's Creek east of Lake Drive in Grant Park where it all finally flows into the creek just south of the Seven Bridges parking Area. It's final path to Lake Michigan is one of the most beautiful and scenic trails in the park.



*Eb's Creek entering Seven Bridges*

*Our condolences to the family and friends of long time member Roger Dibley Wick who passed away in March.*

## MEMBER MEETING DATES

Our monthly meetings are now held at the South Milwaukee Library. Meetings begin at 6:00PM and are held on the 2nd Monday of each month. **We'd like to invite ALL our members to attend.**

May 8  
June 12  
July 10  
August 14

September 11  
October 9  
November 13  
December 11

Just a reminder that all new Historical Society members are entitled to one hour of genealogical research from Steve Schreiter. If you haven't taken advantage of that yet give Steve a call. You can download the basic information form from the *Contact Us* page of our website if you have access to a computer.

The Historical Society would like to extend our condolences or congratulations to its members. Please leave a detailed message for the Sunshine chairperson at 414-764-2836. Be sure to include a phone number where you can be reached if she has questions.

As always...I'd like to encourage anyone who's able but hasn't done so yet to sign up to receive electronic notification of the newsletters. You get access to it sooner, the picture quality is much better, it saves the Society money on printing & postage and it helps the environment! If you'd like to give it a try send an email to the Society email address:

[southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com)

You can always change your mind.....