South Milwaukee Historical Society 717 Milwaukee Av South Milwaukee, Wi. 53172

PRESERVING THE PROUD PAST

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

DON BULLEY 764-7605 PRESIDENT LOIS SCHREITER 762-5214 V. PRESIDENT SUE ZIAREK 520-1959 SECRETARY TREASURER JUDY BALESTREIRI **BOARD OF CURATORS** JUDY BALESTREIRI RICHARD THINNES STEVE SCHREITER, GENEALOGY (TERM EXPIRES): BOARD OF DIRECTORS LEE LOVEALL (2014)301-9171 (2014)870-7857 CAROL BRABY 762-4279 (2015)ROSE NOSACEK (2015) 764-1135 **BOB PFEIFFER** 764-2118 ADDIE BECKER (2015)(2015)762-7605 IR BUILTY BARB MUELLER SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON



INSIDE THIS

5

+ 0.1



Events

Past Events

Tids and Bits/ Membership Renewal Form

Tids and Bits Contniued

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Most of you already know, Richard Raatz, our long term Treasurer was taken ill and is unable to continue as our treasurer. A big thank you is in order for his years of dedicated service. Richard is recovering at home.

Judy Balestrieri agreed to take over the unexpired Treasurers term on very short notice and we thank her for doing so. The account authorization forms at the bank have been changed. Judy and Lois are now signers. Our financial records were transferred and a large box of really old records sent to the archive, (placed in the museum for the curators to deal with). For a short time the lock box key was missing, but Judy found it tucked into the checkbook.

The Christmas ornaments have arrived and are available for sale at the Museum. The price is still \$12.00.

The museum is open to the public on the first Thursday of every month from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Our board/member meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month. We meet at the SM Public Library at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited.

Don Bulley

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? Give me a call or drop me a line. I'd love to hear from you. And, as always....If you'd like to sign up for the electronic newsletter just send an email to sziarek@wi.rr.com and I'll add you to the list.

Sue Ziarek

PAST EVENTS

Turn out for the fall Potluck was on the light side but as usual, everyone had a great time.











At the request of Sarah Lang of Crest House, Lois and I gave a one hour presentation of South Milwaukee history. We went to them rather than vice versa because of the difficulty of getting into the museum.

The visit actually stretched out to 1-1/2 hours, from 10:30 till noon. We talked about Alfred Lawson, Continental Faience and Tile Company, Midwest Pottery & the Yellowstone Trail and gave out sets of postcards.

Crest House has a nice small (maybe 35 chairs) theater room with a large TV and a counter in front. We put our display boards and books on the counter. Room is small enough that a PA system is not required. Everyone could hear us, and we could hear them. We tried to get feedback and questions from the audience and that seemed to work well. All in all, a good way to publicize the Society and make us known in the community.

Steve Schreiter



On Saturday, October 19 the Society hosted a garden talk at the Museum. Horticulturalist Jeff Jackson, who's gardens will be included in the 2014 Garden Tour, gave a wonderful seminar on Native Plants of Wisconsin and how to incorporate them into our gardens. He also gave lots of great tips on how to preserve our environment by using more natural means to control weeds and bugs. Jeff is a great resource on the types of native plants in Wisconsin that work well in our zone. Our thanks to Jeff for a wonderful seminar! If you would like to learn more please see Jeff's website at www.nativegardens.info And if you would like to see Jeff's garden for yourself, plan on attending the Garden Tour!







SAVE THE DATES!

Join the
Friends of the Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse, Inc
and the
South Milwaukee Historical Society
for an
Old Fashioned Holiday Tea



Saturday, December 7, 2013

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

at the

Grant Park Golf Clubhouse

100 Hawthorne Avenue - South Milwaukee

Enjoy a delicious lunch with tea and dessert in this beautifully decorated Historic building

Cost: \$20.00 per person. Invite a friend!

For reservations please call 571-1191 or 762-5214

or send payment to:

Friends of the Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse, Inc

810 Hawthorne Avenue

South Milwaukee WI 53172

Note: Reservations will be taken as of 11/1/13

Historical Society
Annual Dinner
Saturday
February 15, 2014
Details to follow in the Winter Newsletter



TIDS AND BITS

Some recent additions...

Back in July Mary Lou Dretzka gave us a box of items that mostly had to do with the formation of St. Sylvester's church.

Around the same time the ancestors of Ralph "The Elf" Welbes gave us a number of boxes with photo albums.

In September Kim Matson who lived at 516 Hawthorne joined our member meeting and gave us 2 horseshoes that were found on the old bridle path in Grant Park. Steve is still looking for more information on the path. If you have anything please give him a call. Kim also gave us a platter and small pitcher from the park system and a number of vintage clothing items.

In early October I received an email from Marian Jamieson in California. She is a great-great granddaughter of Electa Rawson Mansfield of South Milwaukee. She's in the process of sending us a box of Civil War era items that she inherited. I am anxiously awaiting their arrival any day now and hope to share more information on them in the next newsletter.

Lisa Podewils of Germantown, ran across these three postcards while going thru her mother's things and donated them to us. They are: 'High School", "C and N W Ry. Depot" and "New High School"









Concrete Pavement, South Milwaukee, Wis.

Who knew paved roads were something to brag about on a postcard!

One mystery solved!...

During a recent open house at the museum Steve had a chance to look through articles by Florence Johnson. Lois recalls her as the first curator of the museum and a prolific writer for the South Milwaukee newspaper. In a February 1975 article entitled "Basketry Once Big Business Here" she located the early factory:

"The basket factory was located 100 feet west of N. Chicago Rd. on the west creek bank of the present Parkway Drive."

Thanks Florence.

It's that time again.....

Please renew my membership at the following level:	
Ilr	ndividual (\$10)Family (\$15)Business (\$25)Individual Life Member(\$100)
!	Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society and mail to Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Av, South Milwaukee WI 53172
! :	All Payments due by 2/16/2014 If payment is not received by then you will be removed from our mailing list
Name:	Phone:
Address:	The state of the s
Check here if you would like to receive your newsletters by email and write the address below (please print clearly)	
Email Address:	
5	

TIDS AND BITS (CONTINUED)

A question came up recently: Did South Milwaukee have a chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic (an organization of Civil War Veterans). Nancy Dzidzan was able to answer that for us. We did. Rufus King Post 175 originally had 17 members and there is a brochure in the museum with the member names hand written on it. The post was started 30 years after the Civil War (November 15, 1893) and lasted until 1922 when the last veteran died. Steve & Lois are checking with Dora Lee Belfield who did the original research to see if they can get any more information.

The Society has an overabundance of the South Milwaukee Post cards, Series 1 and Series 2! If anyone has any suggestions for getting rid of some of them please let us know. In the mean time we'll continue to sell them whenever and wherever we have the chance.

The 2014 South Milwaukee Ornaments are here! The picture this year is of Nancy Nelson's painting of ice skaters on the pond. There are a limited number of them for sale at the Museum; Cost is \$12 We also have some of the older ornaments available at reduced prices

Work on the Civil War book *Letters to Mettie* is progressing nicely. We hope to have copies available for sale in time for the holidays. They'll make great Christmas presents.

Another great Christmas present would be tickets to the 5th Annual Historical Society Garden tour. All the details you need to order can be found in the flyer on page 3.

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 wishes, condolences or congratulations to its members. Please contact Sunshine chairperson Barbara Mueller at 762-2712. Be sure to leave a <u>detailed</u> message or a number where she can contact you.

It's that time again

You can renew your membership for 2014 any time now. Use the renewal form on Page 4. Unfortunately, if we don't hear from you by the Annual Dinner we'll have no choice but to assume you no longer want to be a member and remove you from the membership list. Be sure to include your email address on the form if you'd like to switch over to the electronic newsletter.

Since the next newsletter won't go out until 2014....





COMING EVENTS

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.

2013-14 BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Nov 11, Dec 9, Jan 13, Mar 10, Apr 14, Jun 9, Jul 14, Aug 11, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8
Potluck meetings on May 12 & Sept 8

Dec 7 Christmas Tea

See the flyer on Page 3 for details

Save the dates in 2014

Feb 15 Annual Dinner

Details to following in the Winter Newsletter

June 28 5th Annual Historical Society Garden Tour

See the flyer on Page 3 for details—Tickets are on sale NOW!

tosizizies

S MILWAUKEE WI 53172 104 BROOKDALE DR MES STEPHEN SCHREITER (L2)

