

South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Ave

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 Domoie
- Lillian Dishong
- Chester Grobschmidt

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	ROBERT PFEIFFER	764-1135
V. PRESIDENT	LOIS SCHREITER	762-5214
SECRETARY	SUE ZIAREK	520-1959
TREASURER	RICHARD RAATZ	761-3941

BOARD OF CURATORS

JUDY BALESTREIRI
RICHARD THINNES

STEVE SCHREITER, GENEALOGY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(TERM EXPIRES):

LEE LOVEALL	(2014)	301-9171
CAROL BRABY	(2014)	870-7857
ADDIE BECKER	(2013)	764-2118
JB BULLEY	(2013)	762-7605
BARBARA SCHOUTEN	(2013)	764-2315
BARB MUELLER	(2013)	762-2712

SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON



HONORARY BOARD MEMBER
BETTY CHOVANEC

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

<p>Civil War Display</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>I hope everyone had a great holiday. Thank you to everyone who worked on the Christmas Tea. It was an outstanding success. Our Annual Dinner will be on February 9th this year. We apologize for the short notice but were unable to get the hall for our original date. Details of the dinner can be found on Page 3. We hope that you will join us at this great evening.</p>
<p>Dinner Details & Membership Renewal Form</p>	<p>3</p>	
<p>Museum Updates</p>	<p>4-5</p>	<p>This has been a busy year. We have a new boiler at the museum and we renovated the bathroom. You can see all the changes starting on Page 4.</p>
<p>Past Event/Upcoming Project</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>Next on the schedule is air conditioning set to be installed later this year so the museum can be utilized on those hot summer days that will be back before we know it!</p>
<p>Tids & Bits</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>It's time to renew your membership for 2013. Use the Membership Renewal Form on Page 3. You can send in your dinner reservation on the same form.</p>

Be sure to check out our upcoming meeting schedule on the back page and plan to join us for a meeting or two....or three.....or four.....

Bob Pfeiffer

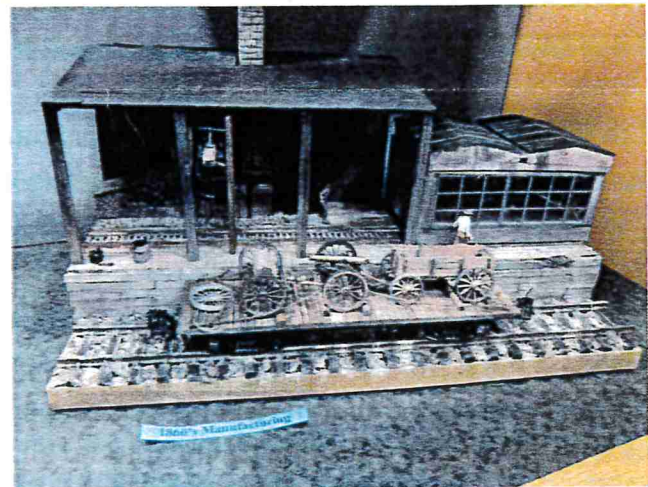
P.S. From the Editor/Secretary:

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

CIVIL WAR DISPLAY

During the month of January, the Historical Society has a Civil War display in the Library entrance. Not only does it showcase a few of the Civil War letters we're currently working to put into book form it has 4 dioramas created by Greg Mekka. The dioramas include a hospital, battle, battlefield artillery and 1860's manufacturing. Our thanks to Greg for the great job he did. The dioramas are quite detailed. Thanks also to Lois & Steve Schreiter who put the display together.



ANNUAL DINNER

Historical Society Annual Dinner

Please join us on

Saturday, February 9th

at Pat's Oak Manor, 1804 15th Avenue in S Milwaukee

Social Hour 5:30-6:30; Dinner at 6:45

Entertainment to be announced

This year's menu includes:

Sirloin Beef Tips with noodles and Baked Ham

Buttered Carrots and Green Beans

Mashed Potatoes with Gravy and Rosemary Redskin Potatoes

Italian Noodles, Pasta Salad, Tossed Salad, Veggies & Dip, Jello

Cake & Coffee for dessert

Cost is \$24.00 per person

Please R.S.V.P. by February 2, 2013

Use the membership form below or contact Addie at 414-764-2118



South Milwaukee Historical Society — Preserving the Proud Past

2013 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew my membership at the following level

___ Individual (\$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 2/16/2013

If payment is not received by then you will be removed from our mailing list

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Check here if you would like to receive your newsletters by email and write the address below

Email Address: _____

Annual Dinner Reservations: ___ attending @ \$24.00 each. Total enclosed: _____

Quite a lot has been happening at the museum lately. The biggest changes are the new furnace and the new bathroom!



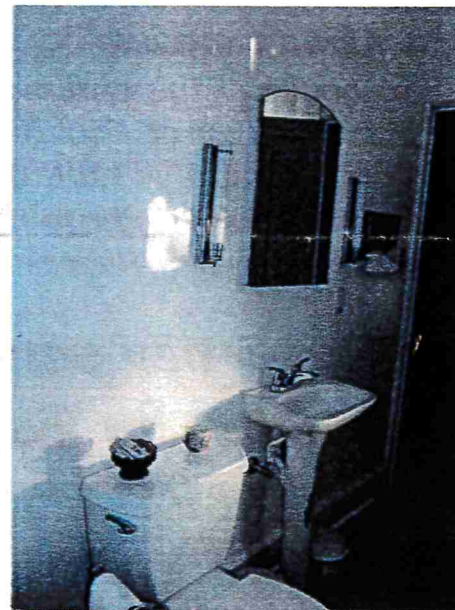
Tenant Richard Thinnies & Curator Judy Balestreiri check out the new furnace installed in October. Other than a little tweaking needed with the existing radiators, Dick reports the new furnace is working great!

An added bonus to the furnace installation was getting a fair bit of junk cleared out of the basement. We went from this.....to this!



We still have a lot of things to clear out but it's a start!

In November, handyman Brian Guthrie removed the sink, the toilet and the half-wall between the tub & toilet. The plumbing to the tub was disconnected so we could reposition it. We now have an environmentally friendly, low flow, luxury height!, toilet as well as a smaller pedestal sink donated by Sue Ziarek and new wood floors. Richard Thinnies cleaned the old paint off the rim of the claw foot bathtub & Brian was able to spruce it up with a fresh coat of paint. Judy Balestrieri donated and hung Battenberg lace curtains and Lois Schreiter picked up some accessories to finish off the room. Elmo on the old potty chair is little touch of whimsy for the time being! Next step ... deciding what other items from the museum we want to display.



MORE CHANGES!

Along with the furnace and bathroom updates we've gotten a few new donations.



Our thanks to Jilan Leschke and Dawn Hosmanek who donated the boots, jacket, helmet & shield of their father South Milwaukee Fire Chief Max Dinkelman (1960-1974). They're on display in the living room.



Visitors to the museum are now greeted by a row of manikins displaying some of the outfits previously stashed away in the alcove outside the bathroom

Judy Balestrieri donated and delivered this display cabinet. She and Richard Thinner shifted some things around in the dining room and gathered up the Midwest Pottery pieces that didn't fit in the old display cases. It's a great addition to the room and shows off the pottery beautifully.



Sue Ziarek found this little guy at a resale shop in Plymouth. It's one of the few pieces we have with decals and gold detailing.

A little side note about Midwest Pottery: According to an article by Gordon Lewis in the 1950s, Midwest Pottery bought the gold in bottles that cost \$23 each. It was painted on in the form of brown varnish and the pieces were sent back into the kiln where the varnish burned off leaving the gold behind. At the time, Midwest Pottery was producing 3000 pieces per day! One of the easiest ways to recognize Midwest Pottery pieces is by the kiln number on the bottom of the piece. Keep your eyes open! We're always on the look out for new additions.



It's BAA-AACK!!!



Richard Thinner found the cultivator that was stolen from the museum front yard a few months back. It was in the bushes a couple houses west of the museum. Apparently the thieves decided it wasn't worth the effort. Since the concrete anchoring it in the ground was still attached Richard was able to rebury it where it belongs.

PAST EVENT

The 6th Annual Holiday Tea, co-sponsored by the Friends of the Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse, Inc. and the South Milwaukee Historical Society was a big success - with a record 95 people on the guest list! Those attending the tea enjoyed sandwiches provided by Charlie's Catering and Christmas Cookies baked by members of both groups.

Thanks go out to all of the members who helped with this event. We would also like to thank the students from the South Milwaukee High School National Honor Society for their help before, during, & after the tea. These young people were cheerful, energetic, helpful and very much appreciated by the hosts of the Tea and our guests! Thanks also to everyone who donated Door Prizes and Raffle Items, always a favorite with the guests.



We look forward to working together on the 7th Annual Holiday Tea on December 7, 2013. Mark your Calendars!

UPCOMING PROJECT

The board is working on creating a book to showcase the Civil War letters recently rediscovered at the museum. The letters were written to Marietta Rawson by four Civil War Soldiers. No word yet on when it will be ready for publishing (we want to make sure we're doing it right!) but here's a sampling of how it's shaping up.....

April 30, 1863 Noon

Camp G. Stafer
Munich, Wis.

Dear Cat,

I received your merry letter yesterday and pardon the delay although I would not if I could do any other way.

The band are playing our noon serenade. I had no time yesterday to write for we gave up our large tents and moved into our shelter tents. We were not sorry of the change for the small tents are healthier than the large ones. We have built up beds (six) in them and two men get along very comfortable in a tent.

Co. K is getting small as you say and a great many of them are going home. But the old and steady veterans are on hand for duty every time.

What is the reason Fred (Fowler) has written to no one and let us know how he fared among the rebels. Today is the day appointed by President Lincoln as a day of fasting and prayer and Gen. Rosecrans issued an order that it should be observed in the army of the Cumberland.

We had inspection and muster in the morning and cleaning up the old ground where the old tents stood. These have took the time until now and perhaps we shall have the rest of the day for rest. I guess I will go and see about dinner.

We live on the far of the land while our money runs and when that is gone we live on Uncle Sam's rations.

Afternoon

It is pretty warm today and I cannot get my knowledge together and I am afraid that I shall write all I know before I can cover the sheet. You spoke about gathering early flowers. We have had flowers for some time and the forest begins to look quite green. We have got a new Brig. Gen. His name is Lytle. That is all this heathen country...

I heard you were to have a party for Fred (Fowler). I did not get an invitation but John and I talked of going if the weather was fair. There seems to be a great deal of sickness in Oak Creek this season. Charley's death will cause deep sorrow in Mr. Hobart's family.

It almost seems as if our punishment was more that we could bear for our national sins when we think of the fathers, mothers and sisters in the land mourning for relatives lost by this unholy war. But such is the reward of a nations sins. But I must close so remaining your humble friend. I sign myself

Byron C. Covatt
Brave old Co. K

A B The boys are all well

Letters to Mettie



A Collection
Of Letters from
Four Civil War Soldiers
to Marietta Rawson

TIDS AND BITS

It's that time again....

It's time to send in your dues for 2013. 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.

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 detailed message or a number where she can contact you.

We're still looking for someone to step up and take over the Garden Tour in 2013. If you're interested, contact Lois Schreiter. She'll be happy to turn over all her files and help get you started.

A reminder that the Society has a number of things for sale including postcards and ornaments. You can also order a South Milwaukee Historical Society t-shirt. These are red with the Society logo in white on the front and are available in sizes Small to XX-Large. The t-shirts are printed to order, cost \$10 for any size and must be paid for in advance. Stop by the museum during open house hours or give Lois a call.

The Historical Society is always in need of docents to staff the museum during open house

hours the first Thursday of each month (1pm-3pm). You don't have to commit to every month but any help would be appreciated. If you are interested you can contact Lois Schreiter. Training will be provided.

We're always on the look out for more gently used Christmas items. As you put away your holiday decorations please keep us in mind if you run across anything we could use. But please remember...no broken knick-knacks or strings of lights with missing bulbs or overly weathered outdoor decorations. We need *gently used, quality*, items. You can contact Sue (520-1959) or Carol (870-7857) to arrange a pick up or drop off.

With the fall newsletter I found another advantage to receiving the electronic newsletter. I had the date of the December meeting wrong on the back page! I was able to email the correction to those of you who got the electronic version. Unfortunately, I couldn't do anything for those of you who got the paper version and I sincerely hope my mistake didn't cause problems for anyone. Any time you'd like to give it a try just send me an email. You can always change your mind if you decide you want to go back to the paper version.

Finally, I'm always on the look out for contributing editors. If you'd have a story or old pictures you'd like to share with our members please contact me and we'll work something out. You can call me at 414-520-1959, or email me at sziaiek@wi.rr.com.

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. As an added incentive, we'll be serving refreshments.

2013 BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Mar 11, Apr 8, Jun 10

Jul 8, Aug 12, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

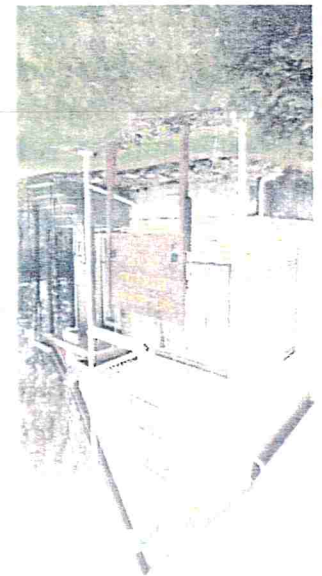
POTLUCK MEETINGS are May 13, Sep 9

Everyone is Welcome!

Feb 9th 2013 Annual Dinner at Pat's Oak Manor
Details inside—**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DATE!!**



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



29 JAN 2013 PM 4 L

MILWAUKEE, WI 53172

South N. Historical Society
717 Milwaukee Av
South Milwaukee WI 53172