

South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Cr

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 Szewozuga
 - William Domoe
 - Lillian Dishong
 - Chester Grobschmidt

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	DON BULLEY	762-7605
V. PRESIDENT	LOIS SCHREITER	762-5214
SECRETARY	SUE ZIAREK	520-1959
TREASURER	JUDY BALESTREIRI	

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
ROSE NOSACEK	(2015)	762-4279
BOB PFEIFFER	(2015)	764-1135
ADDIE BECKER	(2015)	764-2118
JB BULLEY	(2015)	762-7605
BARB MUELLER	(2015)	762-2712

SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Our book, "Letters to Mettie" is published! A great big thank you is due to Judy Balestrieri, Steve and Lois Schreiter, Nancy Dzidzan, Sue Ziarek, Jim Shelenske and several others for bringing this story to life. The story helps to bring our history to life for a new generation. It is a book that all of us can treasure and be proud of.

The glass display case that the BE museum donated to us is now at our museum and our curators have created a great new display in it. Be sure to check it out the next time you are at the museum.

A reminder that our board/member meetings are held the second Monday of every month at the South Milwaukee Library and everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there.

Don Bulley

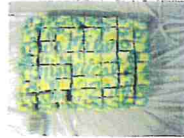
P.S. From the Editor/Secretary:

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

2014 ANNUAL DINNER

The 2014 Annual Dinner was held on February 15 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Lots of good food, good music and plenty of fun. Thanks go out to Lois Schreiter and Barb Mueller for the party favors at each place setting and to Bob Pfeiffer for treating us to an especially delicious cake from Gregg's Soup-R-Desserts!



Adie Becker and her niece got everyone checked in



JB started us off with a blessing before dinner. After everyone had gotten their fill, Chet Grobschmidt shared some memories of early South Milwaukee with us including his mother sending him over to Markiewicz's Meat Market on Milwaukee Av with a few pennies to see how many soup bones they could get that day. He talked about those deep entryways you can still see on some of the oldest buildings in town. Especially the one at Poland's where the window acted like a funhouse mirror. If you moved to one side you got tall and skinny; move to the other side you got short and wide! He told us how he and his wife would go to Polands to get bloomers for his mother-in-law. They were always on the very top shelf and Maxie Poland would have to use the reacher to get them down while Katie watched from her rocker. The evening ended with an hour or so of socializing and some great tunes provided by Sweet Music. Thanks to everyone for their hard work making this a fun evening for everyone.

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

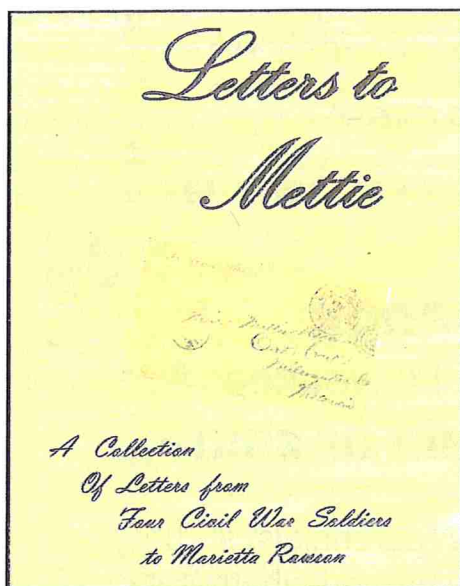
The open house held on March 9th was well attended. About 15 people, mostly members stopped by to check out all the changes that have been happening. Of special interest was the Civil War display featuring the items belonging to Frederick Fowle Jr. that were recently donated by the family of Margaret Mansfield Javorski.



The chessboard in the display was created for the museum by Frederick's great-great niece Catherine Hensiek and donated to the Society specifically for this display. The white squares are made from a copy of what's believed to be the last letter written by Frederick to his parents dated March 18, 1863 while he was awaiting release from Libby Prison

THE SOUTH MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

Letters to Mettie is finally available! Cost of the books is \$7.50 each. Shipping & Handling cost is \$2.50 to anywhere in the continental United States.



To order: Mail a check for \$10.00 to:
Mettie Book
South Milwaukee Historical Society
717 Milwaukee Av
South Milwaukee WI 53172

Please make checks payable to the
South Milwaukee Historical Society
Be sure to include your name, address and a
contact number in case there are questions
Call 414-520-1959 for S&H charges if you're
ordering multiple books

It may be possible to pick up the book(s) in person if you want to avoid S&H charges, call to find out.

Four Civil War Soldiers from South Milwaukee Wrote

Letters to Mettie

The South Milwaukee Historical Society has published the letters which
tell Mettie Rawson their first hand Civil War experiences

Please join us for a Book Talk on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 6:30PM
at the South Milwaukee Library, 1907 - 10th Ave in South Milwaukee

The editors and researchers who prepared the book will
share the story of how this book came to be

SAVE THE DATES!

MAY POT LUCK MEETING



MONDAY, MAY 12TH

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1111 S CHICAGO AV. AT 5:30PM.

DON'T FORGET....IT'S ALSO ELECTION NIGHT!

BRING A DISH TO PASS!

1st Annual Plant Exchange

at the Historical Society Museum, 717 Milwaukee Ave
Saturday May 31, 9am-11am (rain or shine)

How to Participate: It's easy! Bring a plant or plants (perennials, shrubs, vines) from your garden in a pot marked with the type of plant and whether it's sun/part sun/shade. The more variety the better! And it's not limited to plants!! Bring seeds, bulbs or even garden tools. This is an excellent opportunity to network with other gardeners.

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.

Volunteers are still needed for the Garden Tour. Please call Pattie Bergeson or Vicki Maloney if you're interested.

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

The South Milwaukee Historical Society Presents:

6th Annual
GARDEN T*O*U*R

June 28, 2014 * 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Rain or Shine!

ADMIT ONE

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
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- * Eight 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) 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

TIDS AND BITS

Election of officers & board members will take place at the Spring Potluck meeting on May 12. If you are interested in running for any of the positions please contact Don Bulley at 762-7605.

Lois & Steve Schreiter along with Richard Thinnes gave presentations to cub scout groups on February 13 and on March 3. The first group included 7 scouts and 4 or 5 parents. They wanted to talk about maps so they showed them old maps and new maps with an emphasis on South Milwaukee. They even used a GPS to show the longitude and latitude of the museum and then locate it on a map. The group also spent about 30 minutes looking thru the museum. The second group of 8 scouts and 8 parents wanted South Milwaukee history so Lois showed the beginning of her Power Point slide show and then they viewed the museum for about 1/2 an hour.



Lois Schreiter & Addie Becker held a Pysanky egg decorating class at the library on March 22. They were expecting a dozen students but 23 showed up!! It was a bit of a scramble to

find materials for everyone but they managed and all who attended had a great time. Pysanky is the Ukranian art of decorating eggs using hot beeswax and dyes.

Caterpillar recently donated a glass display case to the museum and they were even nice enough to deliver it! It's located in the living room and currently displays items related to the South Milwaukee Fire and Police departments.



Sue and Judy moved a few other things around to fit it in.



With winter *finally* over, we're ramping up efforts to get the concrete work at the museum done. The plan is to redo the walkway around the house, fix the section in front of the steps as well as repair the broken step, raise the piece at the street and deal with a slab in back that's also causing water to drain into the basement.

We recently got copies of the photo file the city has of the Lawson Building at 909 Menomonee before it was torn down. We're still trying to get at least one reasonably sized piece of Continental Tile to display in the museum.

Culver's in Oak Creek donated a couple of pictures they're no longer displaying in their restaurant. Of special interest was one showing the South Milwaukee Speedway.



Steve Schreiter did some rather extensive research on the Speedway and unfortunately it was actually located on 5th Avenue at the far eastern end of Puetz Avenue but it's still a very interesting story we hope to share in a future 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.

As always...I'd like to encourage anyone who's able but hasn't done so yet to sign up for the electronic version of the newsletter. You get 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 sziarek@wi.rr.com. If you change your mind I can always put you back on the list for paper copies.

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

Jun 9, Jul 14, Aug 11, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8

Potluck meetings on May 12 & Sept 8

- May 12 Spring Pot Luck**
- May 21 Letters to Mettie Book Talk at the SM Library**
- May 31 Plant Exchange at the Museum**
- June 28 5th Annual Historical Society Garden Tour**

Look inside for details on all these events



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