



# South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue  
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER Jan. 1, 2019

## OFFICERS

President Todd Michalek 762-6876  
V. President Lois Schreiter 762-5214  
Secretary Sue Ziarek 520-1959  
Treasurer Judy Balestreiri 630-8604

## Curators:

Judy Balestreiri  
Richard Thinnnes  
Steve Schreiter

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Lee Loveal 2018  
Rose Nosacek 2018  
Don Bulley 2019  
Stephen Schreiter 2019  
Vicki Bartoshevich 2020  
Carol Novak 2020

The South Milwaukee Historical Society would like to welcome the following new members:

Business Member: South Milwaukee Industrial Museum LLC

Family Member: Craig and Judy Maass

Individual Member: Thomas Briesemeister, Debra Wilhelm

We would also like to thank those members who have joined or renewed as Lifetime Members:

June Acheson	Mr. and Mrs. Preston Haglin	Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Ryan
Teresa Aghbashian	Ken Heise	David Sartori
Jackie Anderson	Catherine Hensiek	Schlaraffia Milwaukia
Judy Balestrieri	Rachel Krupkat Blume	Don Schmidt
Dave Bartoshevich	Alan Ladwig	Colette Schoemung
Vicki Bartoshevich	Ruth Lewis	Lois Schreiter
Allan Bassett	Dean Marlowe	Stephen Schreiter
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Dora Lee Belfield	Todd Michalek	Jane Shore
Benkowski Builders	Molthen-Bell Funeral Home	Jennifer Lynn Stolpa
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Pat Bordak	Linda J. Noll	Mrs. Carol Theisen
Don Bulley	Rita Olson	Richard Thinnnes
JB Bulley	Bob Pfeiffer	Jim Today
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Jan Cook	James Potter	Jacqueline U'Ren
Mark Draeger	Dennis Rankin	Carol A. Watkins
Chet Grobschmidt	Margie Riess	Butch Webb
Barbara Grobschmidt	Bruce Ruddock	Bonnie Wilke

Is it time for you to renew this year? Why not consider giving yourself a gift that will last a lifetime, upgrade your membership to Lifetime Membership. You'll be happy, and the Society will be thankful, that you did. Who knows, your Lifetime Membership may be your secret "Fountain of Youth"!

FOUNDED MARCH 1972 BY MR. AND MRS. DENNIS RANKIN

INITIAL DIRECTORS — DENNIS RANKIN • PENNY RANKIN • GEORGE HOOK • MARY McCARRIER • BRUCE RAYESKE  
DORA LEE SZEWCZUGA • WILLIAM DOMOE • LILLIAN DISHONG • CHESTER GROBSCHMIDT

## The President's Letter

Welcome to 2019!

Who could imagine that 20 years ago today it was 1999, and we were on the cusp of a new millennium – 2000 – Time and History March On (along with change). As with most organizations, a new year is a time to say goodbye and a time to say hello. The South Milwaukee Historical Society is not immune to this almost inherent fact. As we enter 2019, it's time to say "Goodbye" to two of our board members who are retiring after a number of years of dedicated service on the board: Lee Loveall and Rose Nosacek. Thank you for all your involvement in the Society. While you are no longer on the board, we still welcome your involvement and seeing you on occasion. Don't be Strangers! It is also a time to say "Hello" to our two newest board members: Carol Munia and Kris Schell. We look forward to all the contributions you'll be making to the Society over the next 3 years, and hopefully many more years after that.

With the new year comes some new programs, and the return of some all time favorites (Yes, Canopy Classes will be back in 2019). On Thursday, April 11, 2019 the St. Francis Historical Society has invited the South Milwaukee Historical Society and Friends to an evening talk on the "Early History of the Irish in Milwaukee" presented by historian Carl Baehr, at the St. Francis Historical Society. Whether Irish or not, please consider attending. The Society will also be having the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Swap at the Museum on Saturday, May 18, 2019, and it would not be spring if the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour & Art Fair was not on the calendar. This year's edition will take place on Saturday, June 22, 2019. Start by putting these on your calendar, with more details to follow. Also, don't forget to stop by and say "Hi" as the Society will once again be at the South Milwaukee Downtown Market, on the first four Thursdays of the Market. We always enjoy seeing your smile.

One final thought. Who's been past Bucyrus-Erie, in downtown South Milwaukee, in the last couple weeks? It's kind of quiet, isn't it? Since 1893, Bucyrus had been producing and designing equipment that built America, and the World, right here in South Milwaukee, with many of our neighbors being actively involved. As of this December, 2018, this 32.5 acres has been eerily quiet, and now only produces memories for those who were once involved, or lived/grew-up in South Milwaukee. I, as I'm sure most South Milwaukeeans would agree, am looking forward to signs of new life in this integral part, in the heart, of downtown South Milwaukee.

Todd Michalek

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### Live Life with a Purpose..... Volunteer

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#### Office Wall Clock Lives

For several years our Historical Society office has had a Gruen "RADES JEWELERS 2110 10<sup>th</sup> Ave South Milwaukee" electric wall clock. A recent visitor to the museum remarked that the time was incorrect. That's because when Richard Thinness and I checked the clock loud noises came from the motor and it seemed inadvisable to let it run. Hawkins Clock Service said the motors for old clocks are no longer available but was able to install a new battery operated mechanism without changing the clock's appearance, Richard added a dummy cord that hangs down the wall and we now have an original looking (and functional) Rades Jewelers clock in our office.

Our 1933 City Directory lists Rades Jewelers at 1013 Milwaukee Ave and Edwin Rades, jeweler at his home address. 1945 and 1959 directories list the firm at 2110 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, an address occupied by C3 Designs.

Join the St. Francis Historical Society in  
Welcoming  
the South Milwaukee Historical Society and Friends to an  
Evening Talk on the Early History of the Irish in Milwaukee  
Presented by Carl Baehr

When: Thursday, April 11, 2019

Light Refreshments and Reception: 6:30 p.m.

Talk: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: Free - Open to the Public

Where: St. Francis Historical Society

3400 E. Howard Avenue, St. Francis, WI 53235

Historian Carl Baehr, a native Milwaukeean, is the author of two books on Milwaukee history. A rich and fascinating history of Milwaukee is told through Mr. Baehr's first book, *Milwaukee Streets: The Stories Behind Their Names* (1995). His most recent book delves deeper into an ethnic group that has held Mr. Baehr's interest for a number of years, *From the Emerald Isle to the Cream City: A History of the Irish in Milwaukee* (2018). This new book mainly tells the story of the Irish and Irish American experience in Milwaukee, from Milwaukee's humble beginning in 1835 to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. One such story, is the story of Robert B. Lynch, a scoundrel to both family and friends, convicted of treason against Britain for his part in the Fenian Brotherhood's invasion of Canada, but never executed. Another story, is the story of the Cudahy family, a family who made their fortune in meatpacking and for whom several places are named, including Cudahy, California. Besides these, and many more Milwaukee Irish stories, there are additional stories, and fun facts, about the Irish in Wisconsin. For instance, while Wisconsin threatened to secede from the United States of America in 1860, if the federal government did not abolish slavery ASAP (Wisconsin was generally for the abolition of slavery), the Irish, for the most part, were against the abolition of slavery – for primarily economic reasons. The Irish, who were at the bottom of the economic ladder, would have had to compete against the newly freed slaves for jobs, that were open to the Irish. For a good portion of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Irish were the immigrant minority that everyone loved to hate with NINA (No Irish Need Apply) caveats existing even in cities with sizable Irish populations, like Milwaukee. Besides the stories of struggles and triumphs, there are also the stories of tragedy that befell the Irish Community in Milwaukee: Cholera outbreaks in 1849/50, the Lady Elgin disaster in 1860, the Newhall Hotel disaster in 1883, and the destruction of the Third Ward in 1892.

*From the Emerald Isle to the Cream City* tells the story of how the Irish influenced the political, educational, religious, and sports landscape of Milwaukee and their impact on other ethnic groups as they overcame poverty and bigotry to help make Milwaukee the city that it is today.

For additional information please contact the St. Francis Historical Society, via phone (414-316-4391), e-mail ([st.francishistoricalociety.org](mailto:st.francishistoricalociety.org)) or their website ([stfranciswihistoricalociety.org](http://stfranciswihistoricalociety.org))  
[@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancishistoricalociety@gmail.com)

Copies of *From the Emerald Isle to the Cream City: A History of the Irish in Milwaukee* will be available for purchase at the talk.

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Canopy Classes will begin the week after the Garden Tour and continue into July. Canopy Classes are on Saturday mornings at 10 am. They last for about an hour. We try to do them outside under a canopy. We could use volunteers to set up.

2019 suggestions are:

The History of Plumbing,  
Oak Creek Township, 1840-1890,  
The Lady Elgin Ship Wreck, 1860,  
History of Continental Faience and Tile Co, 1925  
How to make pottery

If you have a topic that you would like to hear about or talk about, let us know. Our phone numbers are on the front page.

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South Milwaukee Historical Society would like to extend our wishes, condolences or congratulations to its members. Please contact Sunshine Chairperson, Vicki Bartoshevich, 764-2836. If you leave a message, please indicate if the card should be sent to their home, hospital or nursing home. The name of the hospital or nursing home would also be appreciated.

**Genealogy by Steve Schreiter: One hour of genealogy for anyone with a new \$10.00 membership.** Basic information forms must be filled out and returned with dues to SMHS, 717 Milwaukee Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172.

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Someone famous said, "It is easier to spend money on entertainment than on learning." It seems to be true. Entertainment is more fun. Or is it? My husband gave me a DNA kit for Christmas. Silly me said, "all my grandparents came from the same area in Central Europe. I know I am all German." Well, it turns out I am one third Swedish, and bits of other places. My husband interprets this to be Viking, and he says that explains a lot. I am a graduate history and education major from Marquette U. and I did not study about the Vikings. Now I had to know. We visited Alexandra, MN to see the Rune stone dated 1362. We visited the farm where farmer Olaf Olman found this stone. We tried to picture how much higher the water level was in 1360's. We listened to Scott Walker's TV shows, and read Frank Joseph's books. We watched a Great Courses DVD on "The History of the Vikings". It is amazing how much fun we have had talking about the who's, why's, and how's of all the theories that exist. It has been great fun. Lois Schreiter

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Books on Sale at the Museum – First Thursday of Month, 1:00pm to 3:00PM

*Images of America, South Milwaukee*, a picture history book by Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$20.00.

*Then to Now (History of South Milwaukee)* by Gertrude Endthof \$10.00.

*Letters to Mettie* Civil War Soldiers letters to Mettie Rawson, \$7.50.

*Growing Up Polish in South Milwaukee*, by Carol Wagner Demarco, \$15.00

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