



Historical Perspectives

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Volume 23, Issue I

Spring 2012

QUARTERLY MEETING PRESENTATION: WOMEN IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S. LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE

Just in time for the beginning of the new season at the Light Station, John Enright, lighthouse and marine historian and former Great Lakes sailor will give his presentation on the “ladies of the light.” Enright is a member of the Port Washington Historical Society and has served for many years as a docent at the 1860 Light Station. His PowerPoint presentation will include his photo collection, which illustrates his message for greater enjoyment and understanding. It will include our own lady light keepers, Marguerite Schommer and the descendants of the Lewis keepers, and also the Dallman sisters.

The Quarterly Meeting will be held in the Cove Room at the Holiday Inn on Wednesday, April 18th. It will begin with a business meeting at 6:45 P.M. with the Program beginning at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments will be served.



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Newsletter

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Mary Flierl

Membership

Ann Flierl

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Website

portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Historical Perspectives

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 the Port Washington Historical
 Society

Membership

\$20 Individual
 \$30 Household
 \$10 Student
 \$75 Business
 \$50-\$500 Enhanced

President's Message

Isn't this a great time to be a member of the Port Washington Historical Society? We are about to embark on a fantastic journey of deciding our destiny.

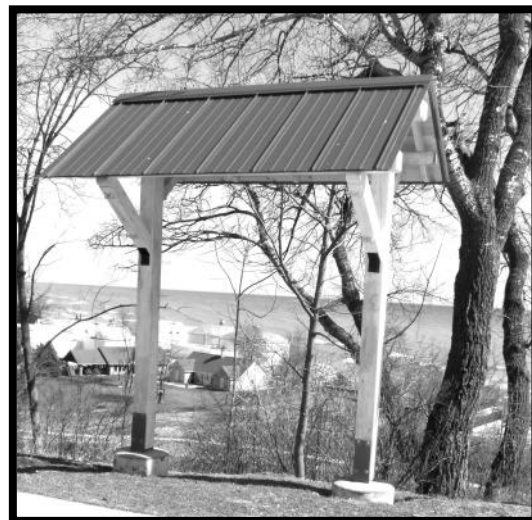
We have so many people who have helped us get to this point, and they and others continue to step forward to assist, whether it is through a donation or an offer to give time, talent or materials. It is this spirit that brought the 1860 Lighthouse to be the icon it is. It is this spirit and determination that will prevail once again.

We are unveiling another aspect of our fundraising campaign. Because we are fortunate that the building contains the original tin ceiling, a donation of \$1,000 can sponsor one of the tiles. Please look for further information in the newsletter. You can be one of 152 lucky individuals.

A project that has been ongoing for nearly two years is nearing completion with the installation of the panel for the informational kiosk at Mariners' Point. Kay Janisse Goodwin worked for nearly seven months with information provided by Linda Nenn and Rick Smith, adding photos, researching, and editing. Funds for the panel were provided by family and friends of Sue Ahner and the Lighthouse Restoration Fund. Watch for information to celebrate the conclusion of a dream that started with the lighthouse neighborhood.

As we head toward spring and then summer, consider how you might help. No effort is too small. Whether it is getting the newsletter ready for mailing, working in the office, guiding at the lighthouse, manning a booth this summer at the Farmers' Market or working a shift at the Maritime Heritage Festival, it all helps. Please say "yes" when called.

Jackie Oleson
President



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

On March 13th the Port Washington Historical Society mailed to members, friends and businesses a request for funds to help in the acquisition of the property at 205 N. Franklin.

Built in 1852 by Barnum Blake, the building's current look belies its historical significance. Under the present façade lies a building that can have the charm and character it once had with the upper three windows revealed. The original tin ceiling and wood floors provide much to the historical

setting. With a museum and public resource area on the first floor and an archive/artifact catalog area and office on the second floor, it will adequately meet our needs.

With our current fund balance at approximately **\$175,000**, we are halfway to our goal of **\$350,000** that will allow us to **purchase the building and complete Phases 1 and 2 of the renovation**. This will allow us to uncover the upper façade of the building. We are hopeful that with the continued assistance of donors we will accomplish our goals and look toward the complete outside renovation of Phase 3. We have until August 31 to meet our goal. If you have contributed, we are most grateful. If you are still considering, we would love to have you be a part of making the vision a reality.

Our thanks to Mike Ansay, Shirli Flack, Pat Wilborn, Roger Kison, Mike Didier, Ray Meyer, Port State Bank and the many others who have gotten us to this place.

Jackie Oleson



SOCIETY AND EGHART HOUSE MEMBERSHIP DAY

Our members are the heart of our organization; you sustain and support us through your donations and your time and efforts. We can never thank you adequately. For the third year the PW Historical Society and the Eghart House organization are planning a joint membership day: June 24th, 12:00 – 4:00. Admission will be open to members of either organization at both the 1860 Light Station and the Eghart House. Ice Cream and cookies will be available. Please come join us.

NEWSLETTER ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Someone to:

- Help decide what to include
- Gather articles
- Do first proofing
- Work can be done from home or at PWHS Office
- Newsletter issued four times a year
- Layout and printing done by co-editors
- Contact Jackie if interested: 262-284-9223

RECEIVE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

The PWHS is offering the option of receiving this newsletter electronically. Help save the costs of paper, printing, postage, and labor. If you would like to receive the *Historical Perspectives* newsletter via email rather than a paper copy mailed to you, please send your request to: **portwashhistsoc@att.net**. Please include your name and simply state that you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically.

GUENTHER POND MEMORIES

by Jackie Oleson

One of our members, Mary Boyle, writes an online blog called the Port Washington Community Voice. Recently she wrote about an excursion to Guenther Pond. From that excursion she came away with numerous questions. In seeking answers, she posed questions to her readers and to me as a member of the PW Historical Society and someone who works at the Resource Center. I became inquisitive myself, talking to several of our older members, including Edna Guenther, for whose family the area is named.



It is thought that the creek (sometimes called Canyon Creek and by some Stink Creek) that runs west of the property provided water to the brickyard by damming it up to create a holding pond for the brickyard. It is also thought that the pond could have been a natural spring-fed pond since artesian springs are common to the Port Washington area. Does everyone remember the artesian well that existed in the Guenther area that was removed when the sidewalk going up the west side of the road to Upper Lake Park was added for safety? A spring on the east side of the pond about halfway up the hillside drained into a pool which had an overflow cascading into the pond. This may be part of what looks like fountain remnants but are remnants of an enclosure that collected the spring water. Stairs near the stone enclosure provided another way to access the north bluff.

This pond was used by the Guenther/Gunther family in the winter months to make ice for the family iceboxes. The Guenther/Gunther boys would harvest the ice when it reached a thickness of 18

inches, using a saw to cut the ice into blocks. The blocks of ice were then moved and stored in a no-longer-existing ice house built into the side of the bluff along Jackson Street just to the east of the family barn. The barn still exists on Jackson Street and functions as a hair salon.

The pond was most likely further developed after 1930 when the city began to acquire brickyard land. It is possible that the stone walls that are evident on the edges of the pond were put in at that time. In the summer this was the municipal pool in which children swam and took swimming lessons. After the weekend the pond was drained, and each Monday the fire department would fill the sand-bottomed pond with fresh, very cold lake water. It took almost all week for the pond to warm up, and the sand bottom was more mud than sand. The bathhouse, now the PW Yacht Club, was built for those using the lake for swimming. Besides changing rooms, it had a concession stand. It also served as a changing room for those using the municipal pool even though it was quite a distance to go to change clothes. Eventually the swimming pool was replaced with the municipal pool on Webster Street.



In winter months children skated on the frozen pond and boys played ice hockey, using branches for their hockey sticks. Eventually the swimming pool/hole was abandoned and filled in by the city. Over the years the area was used by scouts and families to picnic and camp. A small building off the south end of the pond was used by scouts but later burned. A wishing well south of the pond was spring-fed and ornamental.

(Continued on page 5)

LIGHT STATION NEWS

by Kathie Gordon

Another season of tours of the 1860 Light Station will begin on Mother's Day weekend, May 12-13, 2012. This year we are adding Friday tours to our schedule. Our scheduled times of operation are:

- Fridays - Noon to 4 p.m.
- Saturdays - 11:00 to 4 p.m.
- Sundays - Noon to 4 p.m.

We welcome group tours on other days of the week by appointment.

Contact Kathie Gordon at 268-9734 to arrange group tours.

The Society has added a new position to the LS with the addition of Kathie Gordon as Assistant Director of Tours, Tour Guides, and Marketing.

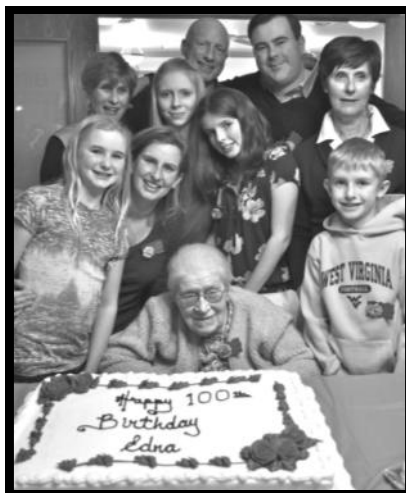
Linda Nenn is the Assistant Director/Historian, and Rick Smith is Director/General Manager of the LS.

We are also adding the opportunity for our guests to take a self-guided tour of the 1st floor museum, with a guide taking them to the tower. We always welcome new tour guides to our group and emphasize that you need not memorize the entire history of the LS—it sort of grows on you! Basically, we need folks to help with greeting and act as room guides.

Volunteering at the LS is a great way to help our Society promote our gem, and offering us just a few hours a month is greatly appreciated. If you or someone you know would like to help, please contact me—Kathie Gordon—at 268-9734 or e-mail me at momcat23@gmail.com.

EDNA GUENTHER TURNED 100 THIS YEAR!

On February 25th Edna celebrated her 100th with friends and family. Over the course of the days up to her birthday and subsequent weeks she received birthday cards that continue to arrive from across the country and the world. These cards have brought much enjoyment to her. We invited many of you to send Edna cards and we thank you for taking the time. Many are handmade.



Edna writes:

A special thank you to everyone who helped me celebrate my 100th birthday. I truly appreciate everything that you did to make my day so memorable. I can't believe the number of cards that I have received, and am still receiving. I will be re-reading them for weeks.
Thanks again,
Edna

(Continued from page 4)

The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company that ran from Milwaukee to Sheboygan journeyed along tracks that ran along the west side of the creek. Above the pond in Upper Lake Park was a barn which once housed all of Port's antique fire engines. Unfortunately, in the 1930s, the barn burned along with Port's fire engine heritage in a suspected arson fire. A WWI cannon in Upper Lake Park was probably lost to WW II's need for materials for the war.

The path that exists north of the pond area extends to Upper Lake Park north of the Lion's Club Pavilion. It was originally used to access the

upper bluff area. At one time it was hoped that a toboggan run would be created, but the unreliability of enough snow caused the plans to be dropped. By 1935 the city had acquired the Guenther/Gunther land that today comprises the lower and upper parkland.

If anyone has further information about the area, please let us know at the resource center (262-268-9150). We are equally curious about the fountain remnants and remaining wall fragments that exist on the property. Thanks to Mary Boyle for raising the topic of the pond area. Thanks to Edna Guethner, Leroy Bley, Mary Flierl, and Jim Fowler for their memories.

MARITIME HERITAGE FESTIVAL TIME

AUGUST 17, 18, and 19

By Geri Zehren

Once again our thoughts turn to summer and our beautiful lakefront. This festival has become a very special family event for our community, and we are proud to be a part of it. I was busy at the Lighthouse last year, but I hear the Cardboard Boat Regatta was a real hit, so it has been expanded to two days. The concept of taking to the water in a vessel of cardboard and duct tape leaves me a bit daunted, but the captains of those vessels went forth with great confidence... at least for the first few minutes.

Our part will be our presence out on the festival grounds selling our wares and promoting our Capital Fund. This year we will have the protection of a larger tent as we will share space with the educational tent. The PW State Bank has given us the

use of the Wilson House area. So now we are in the process of deciding how and what to display to show our history. Ideas for displays are greatly appreciated. Rick Smith will do some displays of maritime artifacts. I hope we can get other organizations to bring in their history. It is time to show all of our rich history throughout the city.

So I'm appealing, once again, to those volunteers who have helped in the past to circle the dates on your calendar and to expect a call from me asking you to help with Maritime 2012. Please feel free to call me at (262) 284-2547 if you know of anyone who might want to share their history down at the Wilson House.

Think summer, tall ships, our park, and lakefront. How blessed we are.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society welcomes the following members...

ANNUAL

Douglas Ahsmann
Kitch Allen
Foster Dunwiddie
Mark Federspiel
Frank Germanson
John A. Niederkorn
W. M. Niederkorn
Annette Niederkorn
Robert H. Niederkorn
Donald E. Niederkorn
Robert G. Niederkorn
Beverly A. Niederkorn
Oliver E. Geiss
Madeline DeMaio
Shirley Mae Keene
Terry & Diane Tietzen
Terry Wozny
Roy Zehren

LIFE

The Karnsted Family
Kathryn J. Meek

BUSINESS

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BMO Harris Bank
Ewig Bros., Inc.
Shirley Gruen Studio & Gallery
Prom-El Tax & Accounting Service
RE/MAX United, Mike Didier
Schmit Realty Inc.

ENHANCED MEMBERSHIPS

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Susanne Ahner
Douglas Ahsmann
Charles Betka
Kay Goodwin
Todd & Kathie Gordon
Thomas Klein
Bill & Pat Moren
Dorothy Nowicki
Gordon & Sally Sharbuno
Steve Schlecht
Roy & Geri Zehren

SUPPORTING MEMBER

Samuel DeMerit



DONATIONS & MEMORIALS



With much gratitude for continued support:

CAPITAL FUND

SEAMAN (Up to \$499)

Eric and Laura Eberhardt
Rick Smith
Delos Smith Family
Douglas and Ardyce Ahsmann
Schmit Reality
Steven & Wendy Schowalter
Walter & Judy Dauska
Goebel Woodwork Inc
Karen Morris
Lois Swanson
Shirley Roller-Lee
Todd and Keelyn Lyon
Hometown Dental – Michael Hansen
Judith Jones
Bryon and Gwen Johnson
Ruth Sova
Leo Paul and Diane M. Singer
Betty Ewig
Jacqueline Jushka
Mrs. Richard Prom
Lawrence and Diana Verheyen
Michael Frome
Jo Ann R. Stade

WHEELSMAN (\$500-\$999)

Marianne Kartheiser
Steve Schlecht
Delos Smith Family:
Dennis Condon & Lenys Walden
Joy Bloemer, Kay A. Rego,
Amy L. Huwatscheck Gilhooly

BOSUN (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Mark and Catherine Schowalter
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Buser
Donald and Barbara Gilmore
Lu Steinert

COMMODORE (\$10,000 - \$49,999)

Anonymous 3

CEILING TILE (CAPITAL FUND DRIVE) (\$1000.00)

Frederic Gilomen
Bill & Pat Moren

ANNUAL APPEAL and OPERATING DONATIONS

Sue and Ken Bruner
Mary Kay Schuknecht
Bob and Bernadine Bretl
Bill Klein
Carol Heinen
James Fowler

Carl Federspiel

IN KIND DONATIONS

Kathie Gordon

MEMORIALS

Joyce Trepel in memory of Mary Holt
Marc and Grace Eernisse in memory of Annie Weyker
Kathryn J. Grady Meek in memory of Dr. Steven Grady

DONATED ITEMS

James Blank – Divers style upper binnacle cover
Aileen Wiltgen – Swing Rocker
Mary Flierl – Wisconsin Chair Company chair
Lenys Walden – Standing foot drill for dentists
Kohler Foundation – Schomer Lichtner sketches

PAINTINGS/PICTURES

St. Mary's Parish

LIFE HISTORY

Dick Liersch

BOOKS-SPECIAL PAPERS-PAMPHLETS- ABSTRACTS-MAPS

Mary Flierl
Ellen Hansen
Jim Koenen
Sandra Blumenberg
Tim Lewein
Michael Niederkorn
Suzi Schaefer
Judith Moeser Trump
Perry Duman
Mark Federspiel
Terry Wozny
Herbert H. Johl
Foster W. Dunwiddie
Friends of Niederkorn Library

ANTIQUE METAL—GLASS ITEMS—FABRIC

Jim Fowler
Suzi Schaefer
Lloyd Smith
Perry Duman

PHOTOS/NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Suzie Schaefer
Judith Moeser Trump
Lloyd Smith
Mark Federspiel
Betty Ewig
Herbert H. Johl

CIVIL WAR DRAFT RIOT CONTEMPORARY REPORT

It is interesting to read about the Civil War draft riots in Port Washington in the words and judgments of the time. The following is extracted from a newspaper article in the Chicago Tribune on November 14, 1862.

The resistance of the draft in Ozaukee county has assumed quite a serious aspect. Early on Monday morning, the day on which the draft was to take place, processions came into the village of Ozaukee, and paraded the streets with banners on which was inscribed "No Draft." At a preconcerted signal—the firing of two cannon, the marched to the court house, where they found the commissioner, Mr. Pors, had just commenced operations. The mob immediately attacked the court house, the commissioner fled, a part of the multitude pursuing him and assaulting him with stones, brick bars and other missiles until he took refuge in the post office. The other part continued their assault on the court house, and destroyed the papers and other machinery connected with the draft.

The commissioner having escaped from the hands of the rioters, they turned round and wreaked their vengeance upon several eminent citizens who had been counseling obedience to the laws. Among those assaulted and beaten were S. A. White, the county judge; L. Towsley, the district attorney; Judge Downs, register of deeds, and A. M. Blair, a leading lawyer. All these gentlemen were severely injured, and narrowly escaped with their lives. It is reported that Judge Downs had his leg broken.

The rioters then commenced destroying private property. The houses of Mr. Pors, Mr. Loomis, Mr. Blair, Dr. Stillman, and H. H. Hunt, were sacked. The Ozaukee stone mills were leveled to the ground. They pursued the proprietor with the purpose of taking his life, but he managed to secrete himself, and afterwards escaped to this city.

Previous to this, they had obtained all the sheriff's papers in connection with the draft and destroyed them.

The house of commissioner Pors was also visited with particular vengeance. The furniture was smashed up and dumped out on the street. Jellies, jams and preserves were poured over the Brussels carpets, and ladies' personal apparel torn into shreds.

The mob continued in their high-handed career, and every person who was known to be a peaceful, law-abiding, and law-obeying citizen, was threatened with violence to his person and property. In many cases these threats were carried out with fearful exactness.

We are confident the leaders in this riot will be dealt with summarily. We believe the body of the people there have been led on by designing, factious men, who are never content unless engaged in some riotous proceeding, no matter what its nature, if it only be resistance to the lawful constituted authority. Pillage and plunder is their great object, and they have led on innocent, unsuspecting people to commit their devilish deeds under the cry of "No Draft." We expect these modern Santerres and Marats will be caged.

The provost marshal general of the State, W. D. McIndoe, arrived here last night, and accompanied by eight companies of the 28th regiment, about 600 strong, under command of Col. Lewis, left for the scene of the disturbances in Ozaukee county.

The steamers Comet and Sunbeam had previously been chartered by the governor, and at 3-1/2 o'clock Wednesday morning took their departure for Port Washington, with the provost marshal general and troops on board.

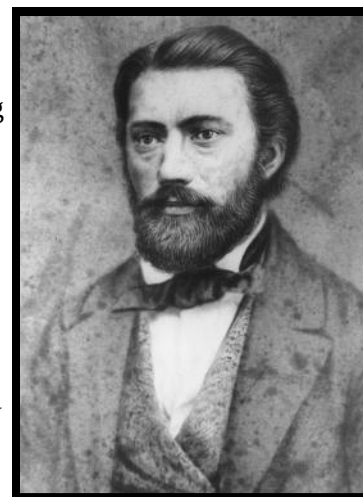
The propeller Kenosha, which arrived here at 9 o'clock Tuesday night, brought information that the mob at Ozaukee had three pieces of artillery, one of which was planted on the pier, and two on an elevation commanding the pier, and that they threatened to prevent the landing of troops. To avoid a collision at the pier, it was understood the troops would be landed at Port Ulao, five miles to this side, and march into Port Washington before daylight this morning.

P.S.—The Comet has just returned—3 o'clock. The troops landed at Port Ulao and proceeded by land to Port Washington, arriving about 7 o'clock in the morning. The rioters were completely taken by surprise, not one of them expecting that anything would be done by the state or United States authorities.

Seventy of the rioters have been captured and are in the custody of Provost Marshal McIndoe. Some prominent citizens of Port Washington are among the prisoners. The destruction is represented as much greater than at first reported, six houses having been gutted—clothing, furniture and pianos were piled up in promiscuous ruin.

The troops marched to the rear of the town on the west side. Col. Lewis immediately sent out scouts and extended his lines so as to completely surround the town. Advancing in this manner, the scouts soon came in contact with some of the rioters, who appeared frightened out of their wits, having become aware of the presence of a body of troops. They rushed wildly from one side of the town to the other, endeavoring to make their escape. But it was no use. The lines of the soldiers gradually closed up, and the rioters were completely bagged—caught, amid the ruin and destruction they had made. In a very short time the soldiers had arrested about seventy including several women. The prisoners were taken and confined in the court house under guard.

We can only surmise what will be the fate of these men. The law provides that all who resist or counsel resistance to the draft, shall be sentenced to serve in the ranks of the army during the war. This is a very mild sentence, and will be carried out to the letter.



Draft Commissioner William A. Pors

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2012 MEMBERSHIP FORM
--

REGULAR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**Individual \$20****Household \$30****Student \$10**

- Voting privileges at PWHS membership meetings
- Quarterly *Historical Perspectives* newsletters
- Free admission to Research Center at the Luxemburg American Cultural Center in Belgium
- Use of Resource Center at 429 Grand Avenue, PW
- Free admission to 1860 Light Station Museum
- 10% discount on PWHS gifts, excluding publications

Business \$75

- Advertising in quarterly *Historical Perspectives* newsletters
- Designated person voting privileges at PWHS membership meetings
- (All benefits of Regular Membership for designated person)

Note: Business memberships run from April to April

ENHANCED ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS**Member Plus**

- Individual \$50 or Family of two \$100
- All benefits of Regular Membership
- Complimentary admission to Spring Reception

Premium Membership

- Individual \$200
- All benefits of Regular Membership
- Complimentary admission to Annual Dinner

Supporting Membership

- Individual \$500
- All benefits of Regular, Member Plus and Premium Member
- Special Recognition in newsletter
- Private tour of Light Station for 8 guests

Please cut and return completed form

PWHS MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**Type of Membership:**

- ☐ Regular (\$20/\$30/\$10)
- ☐ Business (\$75)
- ☐ Member Plus (\$50/\$100)
- ☐ Premium Member (\$200)
- ☐ Supporting Member (\$500)

Gift Membership:

- ☐ Regular (\$20/\$30/\$10)
- ☐ Business (\$75)
- ☐ Member Plus (\$50/\$100)
- ☐ Premium Member (\$200)
- ☐ Supporting Member (\$500)

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e-mail address: _____

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PWHS will send a gift card to above person/s

☐ I would like make a donation to the Society at this time in the amount of \$_____

Date: _____

Amount enclosed: \$_____

☐ Please charge to my Master or Visa Card:

Card No. _____

Exp. Date: _____

Amount: \$_____

Signature: _____

Please note: When charging with credit card, it is necessary to use the address and zip code where credit card is billed

☐ Please add me to your e-mail mailing list so that I can receive updates on upcoming events and *Historical Perspectives*

Annual memberships expire December 31, 2012

Port Washington Historical Society 429 W. Grand Avenue P. O. Box 491
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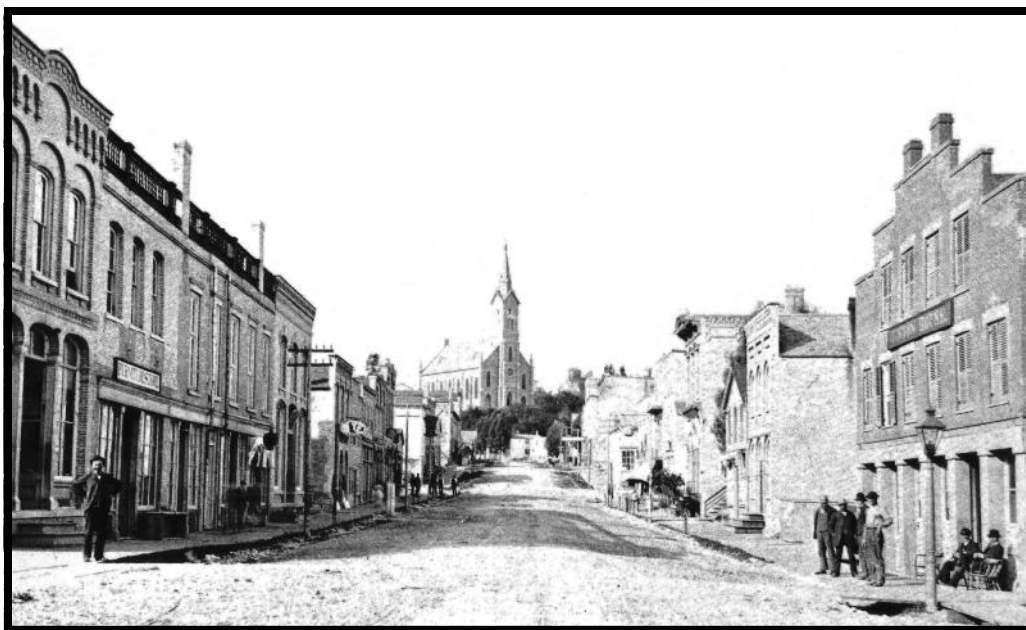
2012 ANNUAL DINNER

Save the date -- Friday, October 5, 2012. That's the night of our ANNUAL DINNER.

Co-chairs Marc and Grace Eernisse and Kathie Gordon are planning a great celebration at Memories Ballroom: buffet dinner, silent auction, live auction, raffle, and something new -- dancing to the Big Band sounds of a well-known Wisconsin group. Watch the mail for your invitation. This is going to be a commemoration of our achievements in 2012, and we look forward to all of our members helping us celebrate.

JOIN US IN "CEILING THE DEAL!"

No, that is not a typo, but rather a play on words. The PW Historical Society is promoting a new way to help "seal the deal" of the purchase of 205 North Franklin Street by asking folks to sponsor a ceiling tile. This will raise funds for the purchase and restoration of this wonderful old



building, which was built in 1852.

Donors may sponsor a large 4-square tile for \$1000 or one square of the tile for \$250. Donors will receive a proclamation from the Society (suitable for framing). Donors' names will also be placed on a plaque that will be displayed at our new location once we are settled in. Help us attain our goal by "ceiling the deal."

YES!

I would like to help "ceil the deal" by sponsoring a ceiling tile in the building at 205 N. Franklin Street.

☐ I would like to sponsor a large 4-square tile. My donation of \$1000 is enclosed.

☐ I would like to sponsor a small single-square tile. My donation of \$250 is enclosed.

Name (as you wish it to appear on donor plaque): _____

Address: _____

PW Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization

Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law

Thank you for your support!

Please mail this form and your check to:

Port Washington Historical Society, P.O. Box 491, Port Washington, WI 53074



PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 491
Port Washington, WI 53074-0491
www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming Events

QUARTERLY MEETING
Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 pm
6:45 pm Business Meeting
Cove Room at the Holiday Inn
Public and guests welcome!

1860 Light Station Opening
Saturday, May 12

Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 16
7:00 pm
Holiday Inn Cove Room
Members welcome

Community Street Festival
Sunday, May 17

Membership Appreciation Day
Sunday, June 24
Noon to 4:00 pm
1860 Light Station and Eghart House

Quarterly meeting
Wednesday, July 18
Coopers, Manufacturers of Barrels
Location to be announced

Fish Day Parade
Saturday, July 21