

# Historical Perspectives

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Volume 23, Issue 2 Summer 2012

### QUARTERLY MEETING PRESENTATION: ROLL OUT THE BARREL, WE'LL HAVE A BARREL OF FUN!!

The program for the Quarterly Meeting, Wednesday, July 18, at the Patio Bar and Grill Banquet Room will be a presentation by Gary and Jim Hess, grandsons of Frank J. Hess, the owner of a cooperage factory in Madison, Wisconsin.

Gary and Jim will take us through the life and work of their grandfather, Frank J. Hess, beginning with his birth in southern Bohemia in 1870, his cooperage apprenticeship at the Pilsner Brewery in Pilsen, Bohemia, his immigration to America, his move to Madison, and his connection with the Fauerbach Brewery in Madison. Their slide presentation is accompanied by artifacts related to barrel making.

Port Washington advertised several coopers in the directories 1873, 1883, 1886 and 1898. The 1883 map of Port Washington shows Frank Barth's cooperage on Grand Avenue where the Shirli Flack residence presently is located. Other coopers listed are: Peter Reckinger, manufacturer of sugar and pork barrels and dealer in cord wood; Christoph Kraus, manufacturer of sugar and pork barrels and dealer in cord wood; Henry Machtle, manufacturer of barrels, and J. P. Brabender, whose address was 400 Washington St. in 1898. In 1886 Brabender provided tanks, casks, kegs, and other supplies for brewer-

ies. The 1898 directory showed the Barth Bros. as manufacturers of tables, folding tables, chairs, and barrels.

The Quarterly Meeting will begin at 6:45 P. M. with a short business meeting followed by the



program, Frank J. Hess and Sons Cooperage, at 7:00P. M.



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Michele Weiland

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### Website

portwashingtonhistorical society.org

### Historical Perspectives

is published four times a year by the Port Washington Historical Society

### Membership

\$20 Individual

\$30 Household

\$10 Student

\$75 Business

\$50-\$500 Enhanced

### President's Message

So many good things have been occurring with the Port Washington Historical Society this year. The quest to purchase the historic 1852 Barnum Blake building at 205 N. Franklin St. has brought assistance toward appraisal, attorney, realtor, architectural, carpentry, and design services. Offers to help with portions of updating the building will also help to minimize the expense of rehabbing the building. The Board of Directors is hoping to schedule a closing on the 205 N. Franklin St. location in August, 2012, with work on the building to begin early in fall. With funds donated and those pledged, the capital campaign fund to raise \$350,000 is nearly there, with about \$45,000 left to be generated. It is the hope of the Board of Directors to achieve the targeted amount, and cover the expenses of Phase I and possibly Phase II as well. The Blake building will house the Society office, Board of Directors' area, archival center, and resource center. There will be an artifact display area and gift shop.

Spring also brought the generous gift of the Business Men's Club. The acquisition of this 1907 building will mean that the Society has a building that will be dedicated to providing a local history museum. The building officially became the property of the Port Washington Historical Society at the end of May, and planning began on utilizing this building in the best manner. Donations by a family that wishes to remain anonymous will cover not only the purchase but also renovations necessary to bring the Business Men's Club back to again being a contribution to downtown viability and an attraction for residents and visitors. Plans are that the museum will be open in early 2014.

Both buildings will give our organization visibility within the community and allow us to continue our mission of preserving the history of the area and educating the population that lives here and visits. Both buildings give us the opportunity to restore their historic

nature and give them new life. Both buildings will contribute to community vitality and diversity.

It is a great time to be a part of Port Washington and the positive changes that are occurring.

Jackie Oleson President



### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### Capital Fund Campaign for 205 N. Franklin

Projected donations July 6, 2012: \$ 287,700 Additional August pledge: 23,500 \$ 310,000

Projected rehabilitation cost (Phases I & II): \$ 173,500

Purchase of building: <u>176,500</u> \$ 350,000

### Remaining \$ 40,000 needed by August 1, 2012

Phase I Rehabilitation:

Roof replacement

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning

ADA Bathroom – first floor

Carpentry for occupancy requirements

**Painting** 

Electrical Code work for occupation

Flooring

Insulation

Phase II Rehabilitation:

Rehabilitation of second floor external façade/windows

Phase III rehabilitation of first floor exterior façade/ windows to take place when monies are available and costs are determined



# THE BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB BUILDING AT 118 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET

Built in 1907 by George Henry and Clarence Hill, the Business Men's Club was intended for the recreational use of local businessmen. Both Henry and Hill were an early part of the Port Washington State Bank and its establishment. The Wisconsin Chair Company fire of 1899 destroyed what had previously existed on the site. The Business Men's Clubhouse building was built of cream city brick and manufactured block in the NeoClassical Revival style.

The Business Men's Club began as a social gathering place for the businessmen of Port Washington, offering billiards and bowling. Over the years this building has housed a five and dime, and a grocery store in the 1940s, with business endeavors on the first floor and living quarters on the second floor. It eventually became a part of the First National Bank and then the M & I Bank. When ac-

quired by the First National Bank. the tiled façade was added.

Saved from demolition, the building will undergo rehabilitation that will restore the exterior prior to the tiled façade and will convert the interior into use as a museum.



# THE BARNUM BLAKE BUILDING AT 205 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET

Barnum Blake, born in 1810 in Massachusetts, came to the Port Washington area in 1848. Blake bought thousands of heavily timbered acres, much of it white oak forest, to the north of the city. The land was cleared, and most of the timber was sold for firewood and hauled by boat and sold in Chicago. The cleared land was sold to farmers.

Blake built two buildings side by side in what is now downtown Port Washington. The first of the buildings was built in 1852 of cream city brick. In 1857 a second building was built of cream city brick just to the south of the first building. The first floors of both buildings contained businesses with living quarters



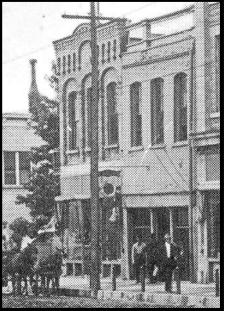
on the second floor. Blake went on to build a pier in Port Washington for the purpose of moving passengers and goods in and out of the community. Two additional long piers were built into Lake Michigan at Blakesville and New Amsterdam for the purpose of loading the timber. Blake owned a sailing vessel, the *Charlie Hibbard*, which carried wood and grain to market.

Blake built and operated wheat elevators in conjunction with the piers. The wheat was marketed in Buffalo, New York. Blake operated a general mer-

chandise store in Port Washington until after the Civil War when he sold the business as well as other business properties to his son Edward.

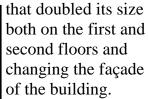
A family home, built in 1847 at 215 W. Grand Avenue, later became a storage site for the Kwik Mix Co. The home was owned by Barnum Blake from 1862 to 1867 when it was bought by his son Edward. Owned by successive generations, the home was torn down in 1948 when acquired by Kwik Mix.

In 1866 Barnum Blake moved to California where he lived until dying in 1889. He was twice married and was survived by eight children, one of whom was exsenator Edward Blake. Well known as a grain buyer, Blake owned several Port Washington properties, including the Arcade



and Exchange Building, and was involved with numerous business enterprises from 1848 to 1866. He donated the land upon which the Presbyterian Church was built.

The building at 205 N. Franklin St. went on to house numerous businesses over its 160-year history, including Radio Shack, a music store and, in later years, a framing shop with a furniture showroom. The Lueptow family acquired the building in the late 1940s, later putting on an addition to the building



It is the intention of the Port Washington Historical Society to rehab the exterior of the building to bring back the character of the 1800s.



### LIGHT STATION NEWS

by Kathie Gordon

Our new Friday tours of the Light Station have proved to be a great success. However, this means we need more help with keeping the Station open. We need more folks to help with greeting or help as tour guides. Climbing the stairs is NOT required! And, as I've said before, memorization of the tour is not a daunting task—our new guides shadow one of our veteran guides for several weeks me at momcat23@gmail.com.

before doing a solo tour. The history of the Station and its keepers really is interesting and it sort of gets in your blood—before you know it, you are telling the story without a second thought!

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

### **MEMORIES FROM THE PAST**

This being the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War in the United States, it is interesting to find that in the 1890s here in Wisconsin, 25 years after the war, there were still very strong feelings about those in the north and the Union versus those who supported the Confederates of the south.

NOTE: The following newspaper clipping is from a scrapbook donated by Judith Trump. The materials in the scrapbook were from the 1890s.

### MARRIED HER REBEL LOVER

FORT WORTH, TEX., July 30 – [Special]–The midnight west-bound train last night on the Texas Pacific road brought a handsome looking lady of about 26 years. As she alighted at the Union depot she stood on the platform under the glaring gaslight, closely scanning the few passers-by at that hour. Suddenly a gentleman passed with a white handkerchief tied on his arm above the elbow. At sight of him the lady ran, grabbed the gentleman, and they immediately repaired to the ladies' waiting room in the Union depot and were married by Rev. Thomas Ash. The bridegroom at this strange wedding was Dr. H. C. Lane, well known throughout Texas as a heavy cattle dealer and ranchman. The bride was Miss Alice Towsley, of Port Washington, Wis., daughter of one of the most substantial citizens of that place. About five years ago Miss Towsley visited friends in San Antonio, and there

met Dr. Lane, whose first wife was then living. They became warm friends, and some two years afterward when Dr. Lane became a widower, he renewed by letter his pleasant acquaintance with the lady, and, addressing her father on the subject of marriage, received a blunt notice that pater familias had always been loyal to the union, and would never consent that a daughter of his should wed a rebel soldier. At this rebuff Dr. Lane took to the prairies and gave all his attention to stock raising, adding considerably to his fortune. Recently he reopened the correspondence with his lady-love, and urged her to flee from her unrelenting father. The midnight marriage is the sequel. They immediately left for the doctor's ranch in the womanless land of cowboys and rattlesnakes.

Alice Towsley's father was Lafayette Towsley, a lawyer, born in Williamstown, Oswego Co. NY. July 1824. He came to Port Washington about August 1, 1847. He taught in the school that winter and the year after was admitted to practice as an attorney at law; was elected Clerk of the Court the same year, and held the office three terms; has been District Attorney Clerk, Chairman, Justice of the Peace, Court Commissioner, and in 1881 was the County Surveyor, which office he held with one exception for twenty years. He was a Democrat but took little interest in local politics. He lived in a residence on the hill just west of the train depot.

Source: The 1881 Ozaukee/Washington County History

## DONATIONS & MEMORIALS



**VOLUME 23, ISSUE 2** 

### With much gratitude for continued support:

### **CAPITAL FUND**

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Anonymous 3

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BOSUN (\$1000 to \$2,499)

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Port Washington/Saukville Rotary Club

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Anonymous

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Sharbuno Jewelers

The Bley Family

Michele Weiland and M. Lee Olsen

Marc and Grace Eernisse

### CEILING TILE FUND (CAPITAL FUND DRIVE - \$500.00)

### CEILING TILE FUND (CAPITAL FUND DRIVE - \$250.00)

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Mary Flierl

The Wiggins Family

The Walch Family

Vicky and Doug McManus

Rick and JoEllen Schlereth

Tom and Jane Veale

Wayne and Marguerite Lueptow

#### **MEMORIALS**

In Memory of Luella Buechler

Deb Neulreich

In Memory of Gehl Cornell Schaefer

Ken and Joanne Gundrum

In Memory of Col. Dale B. Ward

Marc and Grace Eernisse

In Memory of Sophia Bostwick

Francine and Bill John

Tom Rusch

Paul M. Karcher

Michael and Colleen Mijal Family

Thomas & Patti Mijal Family

John and Cheryl Mijal Family

In Memory of John E. "Jack" Gahan

The members of the Class of 1957 Breakfast

Group at Harry's

In Memory of Marjorie Poole

Dan and Kathy Tesker

Shelly and Mark Kichura

Joe Schinkton

Vicky Ott

Donna Stepaniak

Gina and John Taucher

Judy and Neil Thill

Harold and Katie Medinger

Marion Norman

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Cindy, Mark and Mike Kolbach

Jill and Bob Thiel

Gail and Pete Toler

(Continued on page 7)

## MARITIME HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2012 AUGUST 17, 18, and 19

By Geri Zehren

The committee is hard at work to promote the Society during this wonderful family festival. Thanks to the Port Washington State Bank we have the use of the Wilson House, 200 N. Franklin Street, to set up a display museum. Rick and daughter Sara Smith are in charge of this feat and as always will provide displays that will educate and entertain the public. There will be two slide programs offered. Both presentations will be at noon each day.

On Saturday, August 18, John Enright has the fascinating program, "Women Keepers in the History of the U.S. Lighthouses." On Sunday, August 19, Rick Smith will do his noteworthy program, "The History of the Port Washington Harbor." Do you know it is the first man-made harbor on the Great Lakes? It was dredged in 1870 to create the harbor at the mouth of Sauk Creek.

Plan to attend these exceptional programs. Both the museum and the programs are open to the public at no charge.

Our second location will be in Rotary Park sharing the large tent with other educational venues. We will promote and publicize the activities of the Society. Our 1860 Light Station will also be open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

All of this will take many volunteer hours, and I thank those of you who have stepped forward to help. Please contact me if you think you could assist as I still need volunteers to watch over the museum and be out in the tent promoting. And of course help is always welcome at the Light Station. Spend a couple of hours greeting visitors at the doorall you need is a welcoming smile and, of course, the ability to take the admission fee as the visitors walk in to tour the LS. If you are willing to help, call me at (262) 284-2547 or Kathie Gordon for the LS (262) 268-9743.

Be sure mark your calendars to attend this wonderful festival which promotes your city so well.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

### ANNUAL

Franklin & Catherine Plier David & Bonnie Ewig Tom Petri Bill Provis

### ENHANCED MEMBERSHIPS

Member Plus Carol Heinen Joe & Joan Groh Lonie Ross Frank & Peggy Scarpace



### IN MEMORIAM

Marjorie Poole, a Charter Member Sophia Bostwick



### **BUSINESS**

Josh Leute DDS SC

(Continued from page 6)

Dennis and Connie Schmitz Grace and Marc Eernisse Jackie Oleson

### **FURNITURE**

Nancy Bodenstein Marge and Erin Poole Holly and Bob Wilke St. John's Lutheran Church Julie Roepke

### PHOTOS-NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Nancy Bodenstein Patrick Poole

### BOOKS-SPECIAL PAPERS-PAMPHLETS-ABSTRACTS-MAPS-DVDs

Nancy Bodenstein

Jane Fredrick

Foster Dunwiddie

Doris Chortek

McBunsen II (Ken Jensen/Rick Bunting/Doug McManus)

Holly and Bob Wilke

Angela Cope

### ANTIQUE METAL & WOOD-GLASS ITEMS-FABRIC

Nancy Bodenstein

Carole and Jerry Smaglik

Rick Smith

Ned Huwatschek

Doris Chortek (Mother's Wedding dress)

Harland Haas

Rich Plier

Holly and Bob Wilke

### RENDERING OF PANEL FOR KIOSK AT LIGHT STATION

Mike Erhlich

### **GOVERNOR SALOMON RESPONDS TO DRAFT RIOT**

By Michele Weiland

When Wisconsin Governor Edward Salomon was informed of the draft riot taking place in Ozaukee County, he did not hesitate to take action. The day after the rioting began he drafted letters dispatching the military to Port Washington and urging the people of the county discontinue the violence. Following are two of his letters in their entirety.

Nov. 11, [18]62 Walter D. McIndoe Esq. Special Provost Marshal for [the] State of Wisconsin Madison Sir:

Information having reached this office of a violent interference with the draft of the militia at Port these crimes promptly arrested. They, as well as every Washington, in the county of Ozaukee, by a large number person interfering with or resisting the draft, will be ar-

of people whose names are unknown to me, accompanied by destruction of the boxes containing the names of those subject to the draft, and personal violence to the Commissioner duly appointed, and to other persons and property. I hereby authorize you to proceed immediately to Port Washington with a sufficient military force to enforce the draft, and arrest the leaders and aiders and abetters in the riotous proceedings referred to, as being included in the number of those subject to arrest and punishment under the provisions of the 1st section of the Proclamation of the President of the U.S. of September 25, 1862.

You will call upon Col. James M. Lewis comd'g 28th Reg't Wis. Vol. at Milwaukee, for the necessary military force. He has been ordered to place himself under your directions. You will be furnished within 48 hours with a duplicate list of all the men subject to the draft in the several towns of Ozaukee County, and the number of persons to be drafted in each town, and on the receipt of such list, you are requested to aid such person as shall act as Commissioner under Gen'l Order No. 99 in proceeding with the draft. You will make publication of the names of the person drafted by posting them in conspicuous places in each town, or by publication in a newspaper should its day of publication be within two days of the draft, and should the persons so drafted not appear at the County Seat on the day appointed, which day will be designated by you in your notices. At five days from the day of the draft, you are requested to proceed with such measures as are necessary to secure their attendance forthwith at the County Seat, and transportation to the camp of rendezvous at Milwaukee. You will please communicate frequently with the office as to your proceeding.

Yours respectfully, Edward Salomon Governor of Wisconsin

To the People of Ozaukee County:

Information has reached me of a disgraceful and violent disturbance of the public peace and forcible resistance to the draft, accompanied with personal violence to the Commissioner for drafting, and other persons, and destruction of private and public property in your county. I have taken steps to have the perpetrators and abettors of these crimes promptly arrested. They, as well as every person interfering with or resisting the draft, will be ar-

rested and punished according to the Proclamation of the President of the United States, of September 25th, 1862.

It is one of the inherent and necessary powers of every government to call upon its citizens, or subjects, to take up arms in its defence. This power exists, beyond question, in the Government of the United States. An act of Congress has Authorized the President to call out the Militia, and the draft ordered in this state, as in all other loyal states, is made in pursuance of that act of Congress. Resistance by you to the Government of the United States, or of this State, is both wrong and vain, and

9

Wisconsin Governor Edward Salomon

can only lead to calamity and misfortune to those who attempt it. The draft will be executed in your County as well as in every other county in the State, where it has been ordered.

I have sent a sufficient Military power into your County under the command of the special Provost-Marshal of the State, appointed by the President of the United States for such and other purposes, in order to arrest those who are guilty of the recent violent resistance to the draft, and to see that the draft is properly enforced in your County, and I now call on you to Make no further resistance to the lawfully constituted authorities, but to submit to the laws of the country.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State, at Madison, this 11th day of November, in the year of our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and sixty-two. Edward Salomon

### 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:  | Gift Membership:   |  | Gift Membership: |  |
|--|--|--|------------------|--|
| Regular (\$20/\$30/\$10)  Business (\$75)  Member Plus (\$50/\$100)  Premium Member (\$200)  Supporting Member (\$500) | Regular (\$20/\$30/\$10) Business (\$75) Member Plus (\$50/\$100) Premium Member (\$200) Supporting Member (\$500) |  |                  |  |
| Name:  | Name:  |  |                  |  |
| Address:   | Address:   |  |                  |  |
| City State Zip:  | City State Zip:  |  |                  |  |
| Telephone:   | Telephone:   |  |                  |  |
| e-mail address:  | PWHS will send a gift card to above person/s   |  |                  |  |
| I would like make a donation to the Society at this time in the a  | mount of \$  |  |                  |  |
| Date:  | Amount enclosed: \$  |  |                  |  |
| Please charge to my Master or Visa Card:   |  |  |                  |  |
| Card No.   | Exp. Date:   |  |                  |  |
| Amount: \$ Please note: When charging with credit card, it is necessary to   | Signature: 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 up   | dates on upcoming events and Historical Perspectives   |  |                  |  |

Annual memberships expire December 31, 2012

### PLEASE PATRONIZE THESE **BUSINESS MEMBERS TO** SHOW OUR SUPPORT

## Ewig Bros., Inc.

Ō

121 S. Wisconsin St. Port Washington, WI FRESH, FROZEN and SMOKED FISH Open Daily 8AM to 5 PM Closed Sundays



## Shirley Gruen Studio & Gallery

303 North Franklin St. Port Washington, WI 53074 262-284-2273

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TITO

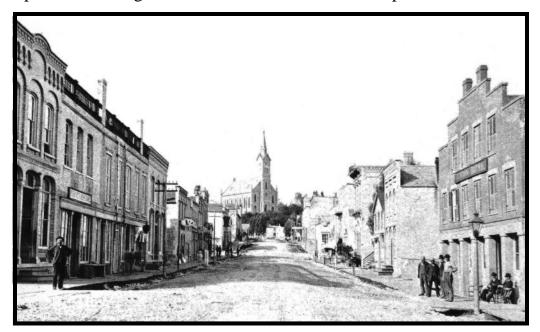
### **2012 ANNUAL DINNER**

Save the date, Friday, October 5, 2012. That's the night of our annual dinner. Co-chairs Marc Eernisse and Kathie Gordon are planning a great celebration at Memories Ballroom: Buffet dinner, silent auction, live auction, raffle and something new: dancing to Bill Sargent's Big Band.

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."

| I LS:                                |                                     |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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, July 18, 7:00 pm

6:45 pm Business Meeting The Patio Bar and Grill Banquet Room *Public and guests welcome!* 

Fish Day Parade Saturday, July 21

Maritime Heritage Festival August 17, 18, and 19

PWHS Annual Dinner Friday, October 5

Society Annual Meeting Wednesday, October 17 Program to be announced

**Civil War Draft Riot Commemoration Saturday, November 10** 

For more events, visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/PortWashingtonHistoricalSociety