

Historical Perspectives

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 21, Issue 4 Winter 2011

Port Washington Historical Society Celebration

The January quarterly meeting will be held at the Harborview Holiday Inn, the same location of the first annual membership meeting on April 15, 1992.

Nearly 20 years ago the Historical Society applied to the U. S. Coast Guard to lease the Lightstation as a museum for displays and a home for artifacts and photos. This quarterly meeting will reflect on that

success as we strategize toward a similar goal through the Capital Fund Campaign.

At the meeting we will recognize Charter members and members who served on the



Anna Ubbink, one of the founders of the Historical Society

Board of Directors since 1992. A slide show and refreshments will accompany a talk and we hope you'll come and join the conversation.

Quarterly Meeting
January 19, 2011
7:00 pm
Cove Room,
Harborview
Holiday Inn
Port Washington

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Angie Cope, Vice-President
Sue Bruner, Reporting Treasurer
Kathie Gordon, Secretary
Patricia Moren
Grace Eernisse
Michele Weiland
Mike Keller
Mark Dybdahl

FEH Committee
Chair—position open
Co-Chair—position open

Light Station Museum Rick Smith, Co-Director Linda Nenn, Co-Director 262-284-7240

Newsletter Angie Cope

Quarterly Programs
Mary Flierl

Membership Ann Flierl

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Website portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

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

Membership \$20 Individual \$30 Family \$10 Student \$75 Business \$150 Lifetime

President's Message

As January brings us into 2011 and the beginning of the second decade of the new century and millennium, we as a Society have seen organizational changes as well as the launch of a Capital Fund Campaign. It will also mark twenty years that the Port Washington Historical Society has been evolving, utilizing four different locations, supported by Mike Ansay and then Mrs. Shirli Flack. We began as a part of the 1860 light station, moved to the Freeman Chemical Building, then the Mike Ansay building on Grand Avenue and now to our present location at 429 W. Grand Ave. In the past three years we have moved away from what was a genealogy focus into more of an education and preservation effort.

Through the years we have benefitted from the leadership of numerous dedicated individuals who gave of time and energy to create what we now have. Through this leadership we have restored and continue to maintain the 1860 light station that graces our bluff and draws thousands of visitors. Over the years we have reached out to the community and its visitors to create school programs on the city's history, walking guides through the historic downtown, participated in the Maritime Heritage Festival with temporary museums, and published books that share the history of the city and its maritime legacy. After nine years of relying on others to house us, this year marks an effort to create our own location, whereby we will continue to share the city's history and safeguard what is entrusted to us for future generations. This is a huge step forward for our small organization.

I hope at our January quarterly meeting you will join us in celebrating the past and looking to the future. We are planning on using this meeting to look both backward at our journey to this point and ahead as we prepare for the future.

See you on January 19th.

Jackie Oleson President

Capital Campaign

by Jackie Oleson

The Fire Engine House Committee has evolved into the Capital Campaign Committee whose mission is to find a home for the Port Washington Historical Society and its artifacts and archives. Such a location would also allow for the establishment of museum space. Whether this home will be the Fire Engine House is unknown. The goal of the PWHS Board is to find a location that will be the most beneficial to the Society and its mission of education and preservation.

Donations made to the AI Haacke memorial helped to get the fund going in July. Our upmost thanks go to the Haacke family for designating Al's memorials toward this campaign. In December 2010, monies raised equalled \$7,740 toward the \$100,000 goal.

Please consider contributing. If you have given already to the campaign we are grateful. If in the future you are able to give more, we will be most appreciative. If you would like to speak with a committee or Board member about donating, please call the office at 262-268-9150.



Brochure created by Kay Goodwin and sent to society and community members.

Maritime Heritage Festival 2011

by Geri Zehren

Save these dates! Plans are underway for the 2011 festival on the weekend of August 19th – 21st. The Maritime committee met in early December to go forward with plans for the next festival.

So what will our part be in the 2011 festival? Rick Smith has done an outstanding job of providing a maritime museum for two years. Should there be another museum or perhaps some reenactments of scenes that took place down on our waterfront in past years? There were Indians settled at Sauk Creek, schooners unloading and fishing tug with crews mending nets. Lots of possibilities to show our history.

Please call the office, 268-9150, with any ideas you might have for the event. Whatever presentation is made period costumes are always needed so we will also be looking for those. Enough thanks and praises can't be said for last year's volunteers and we hope they help out again in 2011.

We are only a phone call away, Geri Zehren (284-2547) or Jackie Oleson (284-9223)

Historical Society 2011 Calendar of Events

March – Friday, March 18^{th,} A Wee Bit of Irish. Irish beer tasting & dining on Irish fare.

April - Wednesday, April 20th, Quarterly Meeting: History of auto dealerships in Port

May – Saturday, May 28^{th,} Opening of the Light Station & treasure hunt gathering

July - Wednesday, July 20th, Quarterly Meeting

July Annual Picnic date to be announced

<u>August</u> – PWHS rummage sale

October – Wednesday, October 19th, Annual membership meeting

- Friday, October 28th, 2011: Annual Dinner

- Saturday, October 29th, 2011: Ghoulish fun for families

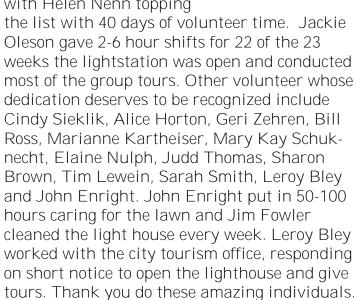
December - Christmas on the Corner

The 2010 Lighthouse Season

by Linda Nenn

2010 marked the 10th Anniversary of the Lightstation being place on the National Register of Historic places.. Part of the original restoration plan, windows were replaced this year at a cost of \$26,000. Rick Smith repainted window stops and framing helping to keep the costs

down and six basement and attic windows remain in need of replacement. The lighthouse was open mid May through October for 23 weeks. 2,000 guests, including 22 group tours, were guided through the Lighthouse by 17 dedicated volunteer docents. Over 1,250 hours were put in by volunteers, with Helen Nenn topping



The new touring company, Caper Co. began their "Ghost Walks of Port Washington," at the Lighthouse with Elaine Nulph sitting in place of the kitchen mannequin and startling more than one visitor. January 2011 will see the Kaukauna Catholic Schools back for their 3rd year in a row to tour the Lighthouse

During this amazing summer, \$5,500 was collected in admission fees with \$550 extra being given as donations. A "Flotsam and Jetsam" rummage sale section netted about \$500 for the Lightstation and a generous \$1,200 came in for

the Lightstation restoration fund. Original art work was donated by Linda Nenn, Rick and Ellen Smith and Geri Zehren.

As most of you know, the 1860 Lighthouse and Light Station is just one facet of the Port Washington Historical Society. Since the Restoration began in 2000, funds received and

expended are from a restricted account. Other than sharing the apartment rental income that covers Lighthouse utility costs, the Lighthouse is self-sufficient. As such, we continue to rely on a small but dedicated number of benefactors that donate \$250 to \$1,000 or more annu-

restricted ac Other than sapartment re come that co house utility Lighthouse i sufficient. As continue to resmall but de number of be that donate statement and the continue to resmall sufficient.

ally and the many donors that step forward and contribute to specific projects we undertake each year. It took two years to raise the \$26,000 for our replica 4th Order Fresnel Lens. Another two years for the \$26,000 window project and so on. The Lightstation Fund currently stands at \$12,000, of which about \$3,000 were direct donations. We could easily spend all of it and more on planned 2011 projects, as ten years into the Restoration we are facing numerous Renewal Projects.

Rick Smith's dedication continues and exceeds any volunteer at the Light house. Rick has been on duty nearly every day maintaining the grounds and property. Linda suffered some health issues during this last summer and she hopes to be back up-and-at-'em in 2011.

If you are able to donate to 2011 projects, send your checks to the Lightstation Restoration, P.O. Box 491, Port Washington, WI 53074. Commemorative bricks are still available for \$75/brick or 3/\$200. The form can be found on the Society website or obtained by request. The Lighthouse phone is: 1-262-284-7240

Volunteers Make a Difference!

The Port Washington Historical Society would like to acknowledge the following people who volunteered in 2010 to help the Society share, educate and preserve the history of Port Washington. With these volunteers we have been able to guide thousands of visitors through the 1860 Light Station, participate in the Maritime Heritage Festival and local parades, staff the PWHS Office Resource Center on Grand Avenue and share the city's history through local programs.

Alice Horton	Sharon Brown	Jim Fowler	Mike Sauer
Mary Kay Schuknecht	Helen Nenn	Geri Zehren	Tim Lewein
Bill Ross	Elaine Nulph	Cindy Sieklik	Judd Thomas
John Enright	Sarah Smith	Jim Asplin	Ardy Ahsmann
Angie Cope	Rick Smith	Linda Nenn	Kathie Gordon
Mark Dybdahl	Grace Eernisse	Sue Bruner	Mike Keller
Pat Moren	Bill Moren	Michele Weiland	Kay Goodwin
Bob Bretl	Mary Flierl	Ann Flierl	Marc Eernisse
Mark Schowalter	Steve Schowalter	Mark Mitchell	Grant Smith
Mike Didier	Karen Johnson	Allyson Olivier	Pat Wilborn
Roger Kison	Kellie Barber	Marlene Richart	Colleen Jurkiewicz
Mary Downing	Kathy O'Connor	Gina Taucher	Sally Ziegler
Mary Lou Poull	Karen Morris	Judy Jones	Jan Nealy
Karen Koch-Hodgert	Joan Hensen	Marge Hoffman	Wayne Hoffman
Carol Heinen	Mary Thill	Gailya Geib	Todd Gordon
Pat Baganz	Jerry Baganz	LeRoy Bley	Marion Huiras
Diane Wendorf	Eleanor Prom	Bernie Bretl	Nina Ryer
Andrea Fyhrland	Lonie Ross	Sue Westerbeck	Carolyn Heatwole
Diane Fowler	Lefty Fowler	Bruce Bamberg	Carol Bamberg
Lu Steinert	Bea Funke	Doug Ahsman	Marilyn Nelson
Rita Decker	Jackie Oleson	Eric Oleson	Marianne Kartheiser

Thank you all!

The Light has Dimmed Forever: The Passing of Jeannette Lewis Dallmann continued from the Autumn 2010 Newsletter

by Linda M. Nenn

Other pieces of furniture of the Lewis's Lighthouse home are a loveseat and upholstered chair now located in the parlor of the Eghart House. Donated to the Victorian Restoration in honor of the Teed family, Jeannette mused at times that had she known the Lighthouse would one day be restored she would have donated the furniture to the Station. I assured her that the Teeds' prominence in our City's history is given its due when visitors tour the Eghart House. The docents at the Eghart House are very informative. Jeannette and George participated in and donated to the restoration of that museum on Grand Avenue.

During the past ten years, Jeannette visited only five times, never when any type of celebration was held. I found out later that she and George had driven past the Station often. They visited Port's artesian spring on Sunset Road and to have a fish fry or perch sandwich at Newport Shores or picnicking on the bluff, a routine they followed for decades.

Jeannette Lewis Dallmann and Helen Nenn

George passed away in 2003 never seeing the redecorated interior of the Lighthouse. Every room is arranged as Jeannette described it, with changes to accommodate building codes, modern conveniences such as running water, electricity and a toilet, our Luxembourg connection, local history and the variety of items donated to the Society.

I pretty much lost touch with Jeannette after George's death. Occasional phone calls on her birth-day, May 3rd, or just to let her know we at the Station had not forgotten her, and to try to garner a tid-bit or two of memories without violating her wish for privacy. One weekend a man in his 40's pulled up in front of the Station. I walked out to see if I could offer assistance and there was Jeannette in the back seat. No, she didn't want to come in. Perhaps another day when we weren't busy. The driver, a one-time neighbor's child now grown, wanted to see the lighthouse he had heard so much about.

About three years ago, I received a call from a retired Milwaukee police officer. He had bought a Teed family Bible and came across my name searching online. Did I know of any Teeds? I tried to get him to meet and show me the Bible, but he declined. I told him of a descendant, but would not divulge her name or address. I tried many times to contact her. The phone would ring and ring and ring. I checked obituaries, eventually driving to her home in Mequon. I tried many times in the next months. Finally I went door to door until a neighbor confided that she had fallen between her bed and the wall and was found days later, near death.

Jeannette recovered, but never returned home. I visited her at the Newcastle facility on Port Road, less than I should have; telling myself there was plenty of time. I could tell that she spoke of the Lighthouse, as when I signed in, I just had to mention lighthouses and the employees knew exactly who I intended to visit.

In October 2009, Amy Paulin Boehm, Port native and social worker at Newcastle, arranged a special visit to the Station for Jeannette and a few other residents. They arrived via coach and spent over an hour visiting with Rick Smith and a few of our docents. She pointed out a few things that were not present in the Lewis home, but overall was pleased with our work and urged us to continue.

Rick asked Jeannette about the passage from the dining room to the parlor, that in most homes was separated by some sort of barrier, such as drapes or doors. Jeannette recalled that heavy drapes hung across the opening. This may seem insignificant to many, but it was one more detail for us as we try to paint the lighthouse in the colors that made it a home to the Lewises.

I visited Jeannette twice after that, the last time in June. It was a month after her 97th birthday. As was usually the case, she didn't immediately recognize me, a reflection on how seldom we met, rather than the soundness of her mind. At one point she said, mostly to herself, that she should have written

down her memories, but ended her musing, "Oh, but that should be kept private." When she'd hear voices or sounds of passage in the hallway, she'd call out, wondering who was there. This was a nursing home though, and her inquiries were met by silence. She then called out, "Is that you, Jenny," referring to her twin, Geneveve. The next moment she'd be back in the present as I intruded into her past ... She and Jenny would rush over to the Catholic Church when the bell ringer announced a death. He would allow them to pull the ropes and ride them up off the floor ... The "Brewery Boys," whose home was on Johnson, had built a snow fort and the twins demolished it, to the displeasure of Grandpa. When he sternly reprimanded them, Grandma admonished her husband with a calming, "Now Charley..." the situation was defused... They roller-skated on Mrs. Kraus's walk, Grandma was the stern one and Grandpa was the intervener with a, "Now Lindy...". Were they ever spanked, I asked. Absolutely not. "The look," (most of us grew up with,) that told them they had disappointed a parent or parental surrogate, was punishment enough.

Another sound in the hall. "Jenny, come in here. There's someone I'd like you to meet. You'll like her." "Jenny why are you hiding?" I reassured her, though she wasn't distraught. The next moment she spoke of the Walshes that lived across the street from the Lighthouse and the lively card games played for hours on Sunday after church, ending as the sun was low in the western sky, with an admonition from Grandma, "Charley Lewis, you get yourself home right now," shouted from the front steps of the Lighthouse. Then, almost as an aside, "I wonder where Georgie is?"

I was recovering from surgery when I heard the news from a Renatta, companion of Jeannette's, that she was finally coming to see the Lightstation.

Jeannette and I chatted and Renatta climbed the tower. Jeannette spoke of Edna Guenther's Grandma Sharl (sp?) and the garden she tended where Mike Schmit's home now sits. The Lighthouse garden had been located north of the Station, but was lost when the plank sided reservoir was erected to protect the Chair Company from another conflagration.

On July 31st, Renatta stopped at the Light Station to tell me of Jeannette's death. Not there, our docents gave her my phone number and she called me. We spoke at length. They had met after George's death when a traffic accident convinced Jeannette she should not drive. Renatta served as her "wheels" and companion. When Jeannette moved to Newcastle, Renatta visited once or twice a week.

As we spoke I realized how little of Jeannette's life I had known. So focused on the past I had missed the opportunity to share time with her in the present. Renatta and I tried to attend Jeanette's funeral, but in her desire for privacy she had told her lawyer that she didn't want any fuss over her death. I received a call from Poole Funeral Home, after they had been kind enough to tell me when and where the service would be held, apologizing. No one was to be at the cemetery other than the minister, lawyer and possibly a niece of George's. No one else.

In life she (and George) and her family, the Lewises and the Teeds gave so much to our community. In true altruistic fashion, even in death, they asked nothing in return.

Last year an antiquities dealer from Maine contacted me. She had purchased a Lewis family Bible. An Internet search led her to me. She was seeking proof that Charles Lewis Sr. had been a whaling Captain, a claim cited by me years ago when I chronicled the first years of the Restoration. After months of dickering, she sent me a copy of Charles Sr. as a young man dressed in nineteenth century mariners' "oilers." I had sent her copies of the Lewis photos Jeannette had given me and the 1840's letter describing a whaling expedition around the horn of Africa. It was obvious the East Coast Lewises and the Lighthouse Lewises were the same family. The dealer would give me no more information, as it might diminish the museum value of her purchase.

Charles Lewis Sr. and Mariah Lewis were survived by one son. Charles Lewis Jr. and Linda Teed who had two children, Charles and Grace, both preceding their parents in death. Grace never married. Charles and Mary Lewis had twin daughters, Jeannette and Geneveve. Both married but had no children. We are now the keepers of their stories and the lighthouse they all called home.





Allan B. Haacke Memorials

Sally Bendrock George & Mary Jo Bichler John & Elizabeth Bostwick Mark & Beth Breuer Phillip Bruno & Mary Kay Geittmann Lawrence & June Caro Audrey Cayo Allen & Patricia Cottrell James Coutts Renee Craig-Ethen Darren & Janell Degennaro Gene & Judith Didier Shelby & Janet Dixon Jerry & Mary Downing Marc & Grace Eernisse Jack & Louise Fellenz Bill & Ann Flierl Cal & Muriel Ford Bruce & Ann Geister Robert & Sharon Grinnell Lorna Harmsen Craig & Carolyn Heatwole Beverly Hess Sharon Jochman Patricia Kindschy Margaret Lampert Paul & Adrienne Laubenstein Jonathan & Cindy Leinfelder Felix & Kay Mantilla

Dick & Carolyn Mathies

David & Sally Albert



Allan B. Haacke 1944-2010

Brain & Marty McGarry Susan Merrill Linda Nenn Eric & Jacquelyn Oleson Philip & Judith Olson Art & Marjorie Palleon Ron Paradeis Walter & Ruth Pelican Sylvester & Lynn Plier Karen Poklasny Rabah & Susan Rennane Linda Rice Rose Rowe Michael Schade Fred & Kathy Schaefer Richard & Pam Schommer Robin Sievila Cathy Simpson Lloyd Smith Don & Sue Snider Jo Ann Stade David & Michele Stricker Robert & Donna Thompson Ron & Barbara Theisen Paul & Jennifer Thill Ingrid Thompson Richard & Edith Webb Richard & Joan Walkowiak K. M. Vollmar Geri Zehren and special thanks to Nancy Haacke

Port Washington History from Arcadia Press



Preorder your copy of Arcadia Press's Images of America series Port Washington coming March 21, 2011. Describing the city's history, from the Native Americans to the first voyageurs, through the birth of a community of immigrants who settled here after leaving Germany and Luxembourg. The pages touch on the early years of industry, focusing on the maritime heritage, and give the reader a wonderful photographic tour of what Port Washington was like over 100 years ago. Some photographs have never been published before.

More information can be found at Arcadia's website: www.arcadiapublishing.com



In Memoriam and Donations



MEMORIAL

Kristine Hurst as a memorial donation in the name of her mother, Gertrude C. Hurst, who was a charter/lifetime member of the Society.

DONATIONS TO FIRE ENGINE HOUSE

Pamela and Lee Schlenvogt

Angela Cope Roger Kison Richard Laske Mary Flierl Michael Didier

Paul and Joan Hansen

Betty Ewig

Louise and Weldon Reed Jackie and Eric Oleson

Lina Nenn

HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATIONS

Dan Smith Carol Heinen Sue Ahner Karen Morris

LIGHT STATION RESTORATION

Linda Nenn

GIFT PROMOTION

Judith Edwards James & Sarah Gerloff

Robert Paulus

Harborview Holiday Inn Hotel

Shirley Lee

Jeri and Jim Schmit Gina and John Taucher Kathryn and Gerald Wiskow

Angie and Jim Fowler Peggy Bostwick Scarpace Willian and Patricia Moren

Rita Decker

Roy and Geri Zehren Marianne Kartheiser

Jim Asplin Jan Nealy

Chocolate Chisel

PWHS Summer Rummage Sale

Start sorting through your closets, digging in the attic and hauling stuff out of the basement! We are going to have a rummage sale in August 2011. All items delivered to the Society (dates, place and times to be announced later) must be in ready-to-sell condition (i.e., not soiled or dusty). Your donations to the rummage sale will be gratefully accepted and acknowledged with the proper paperwork for contributions to our Society (a 501(c)3).

More news on this event to follow in future Quarterly Newsletters. Should you have questions, please contact the Historical Society Office: 268-9150.

WANT TO LEAVE A LAST-ING LEGACY?

Leaving a legacy often means handing down what we value most. For many of us, that includes making certain that our children and grandchildren will inherit our precious history and heritage. When preparing your estate plan, please consider the Port Washington Historical Society. Your efforts will help ensure that the Society can continue its mission to preserve local history and provide enriching educational opportunities for all generations.. For more information, call 262-268-9150.

Show you care with "WE CARE"

Sign up for the Pick 'N Save "We Care" Community Dollar Program. Our

Organization will benefit when our members list the number 620430 of the Historical Society on their Advantage Plus Sav-

PWHS
"We Care "
Number
620430

ers Club. Thank you to those who have already signed up.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP PAYS!

The Port Washington Historical Society invites businesses to join the Society now for \$75, reduced, for a limited time, from \$150.

This year, business members will receive advertising space in *Historical Perspectives*, the newsletter of the Society.

Thank you for supporting the 2011 Membership Renewal Drive

BUY ONE, GET ONE FREE

A membership renewal form was sent out last month and we appreciate the renewal response for 2011. We look forward to receiving renewals from those who may have overlooked returning their forms.

All members, including Charter and Lifetime, may give a free gift membership to an individual—a friend, relative, teacher, neighbor, anyone who you think would enjoy membership in our Historical Society. It is our hope that your gift will help recruit new members that can make a difference in our society.

Please use this form to renew your own membership, give an additional donation to the Society or to give a gift membership.

Thanks for your generous support.

NEW MEMBERS

Linda Verhey Jim & Jeri Schmit Mike & Lora Sauer

Jo Ellen Schlereth Brendan & Mary Boyle



Port Washington Historical Society 2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Members receive:

- Subscription to Historical Perspectives, the quarterly newsletter
- Occasional announcements via mail and email
- Admission to the 1860 Light Station Museum atop St. Mary's Hill
- Admission and access to our Resource Center and archives
- Admission to the Research Center and Archives at the Luxembourg American Cultural Society (LACS) in Belgium, Wisconsin
- 10% discount on gifts at the Historical Society Office and the Light Station (publications excluded)

MEMBERSHIP DUES	S:				
☐Annual Individual	\$20	☐ Individual Lifetime	\$150		
☐ Annual Family	\$30	Business	\$75		
☐ Annual Student	\$10	Membership year runs fro	Membership year runs from January 1 - December 31		
Name(s) (Please print)					
Name(s) (Please print) Address					
Name(s) (Please print) Address City			Zip		

Please make checks payable to the Port Washington Historical Society

Send your renewal and/or memberships to:

Port Washington Historical Society P.O. Box 491 Port Washington, WI 53074-0491



PWHS memberships make a terrific gift!

In addition to the Buy One, Get One Free promotion going on now, memberships make great gifts that give all year long. Photocopy the above form or just include an additional sheet of paper.

It's never too late to send in a gift along with your membership renewal. Your gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law, and will help support the Society's programs and facilities.



PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Society Calendar

QUARTERLY MEETING

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Harborview Inn (downtown Port)

Public and guests welcome!

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 Quarterly meeting & program 7 pm Harborview Inn

March 21, 2011 Arcadia Press "Port Washington" book released. Watch for book signing dates! Wednesday, April 21, 2011 Quarterly meeting & program 7 pm

August 19 – 21, 2011 Maritime Heritage Festival

The Port Washington Historical Society is a volunteer run, non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.