

YOU
MAKE
LOCAL
HISTORY
HAPPEN!



2019
ANNUAL REPORT



est 1906

Our Manitowoc County Historical Society was created in 1906 by people just like you who wanted to preserve and share the stories of our past.

Nestled in the scenic rolling Ice Age Kettle Moraine countryside of Eastern Wisconsin, today the Manitowoc County Historical Society is a museum of living history. Feel the heat from the blacksmith's forge, take part in one-room school lessons, and find your ancestor's name in our archives.

Our Mission:

The Manitowoc County Historical Society collects, interprets, preserves, and promotes the history and heritage of Manitowoc County, Wisconsin, in order to educate the public and heighten its understanding and appreciation of the past as it proceeds into the future.

Our Vision:

Inspire curiosity and foster lifelong learning about Manitowoc County's past by providing engaging, individualized and unique experiences.



DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Throughout the years, our Manitowoc County Historical Society has become a statewide leader for outdoor museums and interactive programming. This past year our accomplishments were recognized by the Wisconsin Historical Society and the State of Wisconsin and we could not have done it without your support.

We are proud to have created a space that people love visiting, where engaged families regularly come to create memories, spend valuable time together, and connect in powerful ways.

Highlights this past year included making eye-opening progress on our Meeme House, opening the Kummer Smokehouse, and launching new experiences for guests.

Our talented volunteers continue to work hard to ensure our historic structures are cared for and maintained. In the past year we have made great steps towards the restoration of the Meeme House and its Livery Stable, Poll House, and Chicken Coop. This large-scale project will serve as a catalyst for the future of our site and our increased attention to interactive family and adult programming.

Not unlike previous years, 2019 found us planning our next big thing – new and meaningful experiences for adults, and ways we could engage young adults, career professionals, and adult residents. In November, 2019 we kicked off a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of our Pinecrest Historical Village. We are excited for this milestone and what it means for our museum.

Thank you for supporting our Manitowoc County Historical Society!

Amy Meyer
Executive Director

By the Numbers: 2019



\$196,200 TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED IN DONATIONS (RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED)

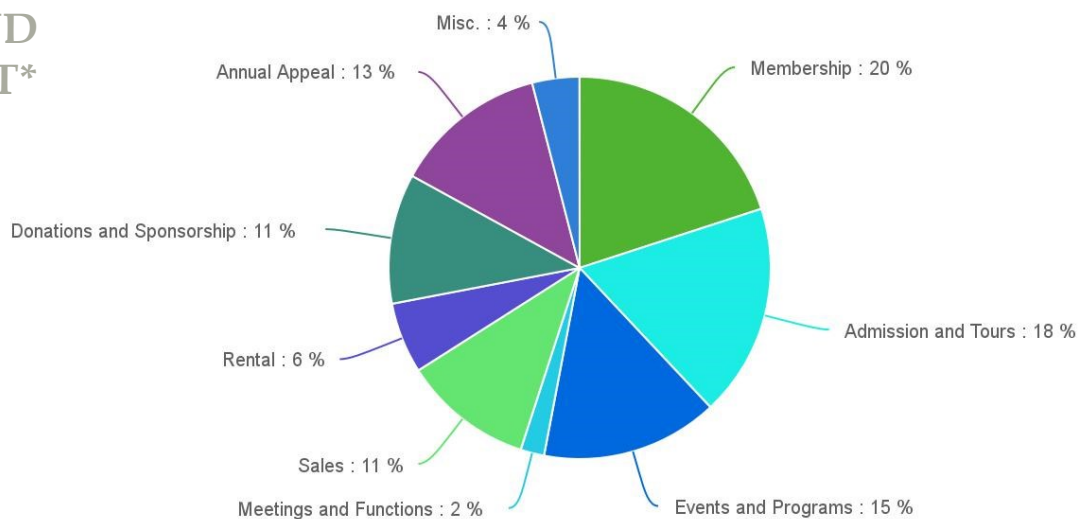
11,259 GUESTS SERVED

6,012 VOLUNTEER HOURS SHARED

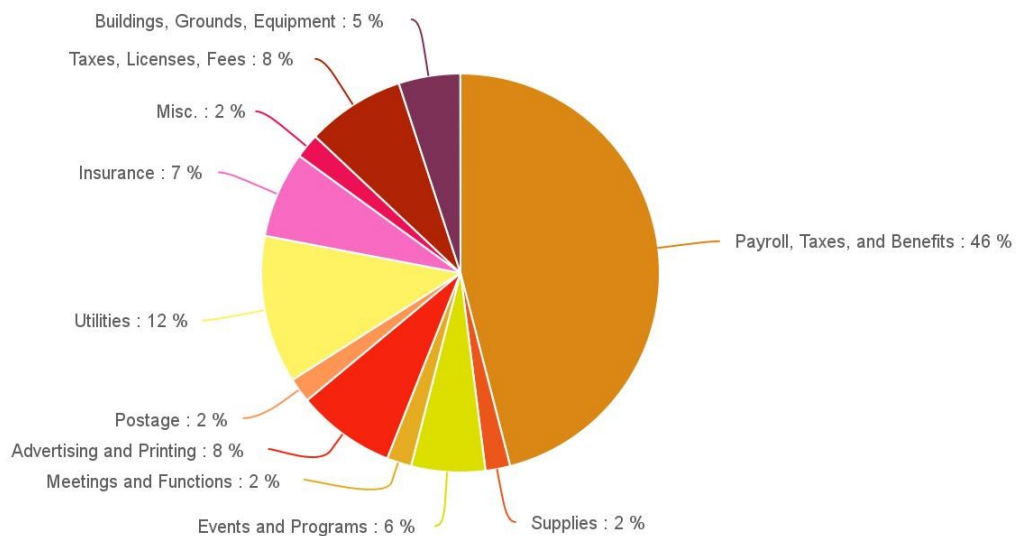
533 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

185 RESEARCH REQUESTS COMPLETED

REVENUE AND SUPPORT*



EXPENDITURES*



**Does not include restricted funds.*

Based on the museum's \$120,000 operating budget

AN AWARD WINNING YEAR



REUBEN GOLD THWAITES TROPHY

Our Manitowoc County Historical Society received the 2019 Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy for the organization's commitment to preserving and sharing local history on July 19 at the museum.

The Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy is presented annually to a Wisconsin Historical Society affiliated historical organization for "continued excellence and overall service to its community over a period of at least five years." Over the past five years, MCHS has made strides in improving their financial sustainability, public programs, collections management, and museum growth. The trophy is held by the winning organization for a year.

ARCHIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Our Manitowoc County Historical Society was the recipient of the Governor's Award for Archival Innovation. Matt Blessing, State Archivist / Director of Library, Archives and Museum Collections with the Wisconsin Historical Society, presented the museum with the award on October 2. In regards to online collection accessibility, he said, "Reuben Gold Thwaites (the second director of the WHS and creator of local history affiliates) would have been clicking his heels!"

The Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board (WHRAB) and the Wisconsin Historical Society award the Governor's Archives Award to individuals, programs or organizations that have made significant contributions to preserving or increasing the availability of original historical documents in any format.

In 2015, the Manitowoc County Historical Society received a 3,800 image photo negative collection from former local photographer Daryl Cornick. In 2018, the Manitowoc County Historical Society applied for and was accepted into a program partnered by the WiLS (Wisconsin Library Services) and Recollection Wisconsin, called "Curating Community Digital Collections," also known as CCDC.

CCDC worked with the iSchool at UW-Madison and UW Milwaukee's School of Information Studies to provide library school students with practical experience in digital stewardship and increase the capacity of small libraries and cultural heritage organizations to curate their digital collections.



Pictured above: Members and staff of the Manitowoc County Historical Society were joined by Wisconsin Historical Society Director Christian Overland to celebrate the Thwaites trophy returning to the Manitowoc County Historical Society on July 19. In 1990, the Manitowoc County Historical Society also received the Wisconsin Historical Society's highest honor – the Reuben Gold Thwaites Trophy.

Pictured below: Members and staff of the Manitowoc County Historical Society joined Matt Blessing, State Archivist, to accept the Governor's Award for Archival Innovation on October 2.

Community supporters and MCHS Members generously give additional gifts to support special projects and initiatives to bring our local history to life.
You make success stories like these possible! Thank you!

KUMMER SMOKEHOUSE BECOMES A REALITY

The Kummer Smokehouse was originally located on the farmstead of Gustav and Maggie Kummer in what is now the River Heights Subdivision in the City of Manitowoc. Like the Petzold Log Smokehouse near the Kunze Cabin, it was used to smoke ham and bacon. It was also used to smoke fish.

The Kummer Stone Smokehouse was dismantled and brought to our museum in 1994. It would take almost 15 years before a renewed effort was given to restore the Kummer Smokehouse. The project was made possible by the generosity of the Kummer Family and donors to the MCHS Vetting Fund. The smokehouse was officially welcomed into our museum with a grand opening celebration on June 25. Generations of the Kummer family were in attendance and staff from Johnsonville Sausage fired up the smokehouse.



Pictured are members of the Kummer family in front of the Kummer Smokehouse.

SPARK! offers dementia programming for care partners



A free monthly program for individuals living with early-to-mid stage memory loss, their care partners, and family members launched at the museum in May. During the monthly programs, participants would be engaged in lively conversations, exhibit exploration, historic artifacts, and multi-sensory activities.

Over the year, programs have included topics on the Civil War, the pioneer prairie, historic games, dairy heritage, and the Christmas Tree Ship.

SPARK! at the Manitowoc County Historical Society has been made possible by Felician Village and Bader Philanthropies, Inc.

Pictured are Carol and Judy, participants in the SPARK! Program.



Meeme Project meets milestone

Fundraising efforts to restore the historic Meeme House at the Manitowoc County Historical Society's Pinecrest Historical Village reached a milestone in summer. The Meeme House fundraising campaign reached over \$500,000 raised for the \$1.2 million restoration project since it was purchased in October, 2013.

Built around 1855, the Meeme House was located along the Green Bay Road in southern Manitowoc County. It was built by farmer and new immigrant, Michael Herr. The building had several small overnight rooms, a tavern on the first floor and a large beautiful ballroom on the second. Voting also took place inside until a new poll house was built in 1900. The Meeme House, and its livery stable, chicken coop, and poll house, will be restored to its appearance in 1915. The buildings will serve as in interactive living history museum, where visitors of all ages can be transported back in time and discover stories of the past.

Once restoration is complete, the Meeme House will offer interactive programming such as evening entertainment and educational overnights. The building will also include archive storage, modern restrooms, and a storm shelter.

With the welcoming of summer sunshine this year, the Meeme House got some color! Professionals were able to do a color match from existing paint found on exterior siding and trim and with help from Lee's Color Studio, the Meeme House has a new look.

Structures surrounding the Meeme House continue to receive restoration care as well. The livery stable is nearing completion and objects are being placed inside the structure to help tell its story. The Meeme Poll House was able to receive structural and siding repair.

Pictured at top: The Meeme Livery Stable, chicken coop, Meeme House, and Meeme Poll House at the Manitowoc County Historical Society.

Pictured to the right: Exterior painting on the historic Meeme House; the livery stable exterior.



Historic windmill rises

A new symbol of Wisconsin's agricultural heritage was installed on the west side of the McAllister House Welcome Center in January, 2019. Community members and volunteers came together to install the historic icon. The windmill was donated to the Society by Joseph and Susan Resch. Manitowoc County Historical Society volunteers, Rick Herman and Mark Leonhard, prepared the windmill to be in working condition. The Society partnered with Vinton Construction Company and McMullen & Pitz Construction Company to install the windmill.

Originally located in section 19 in the Town of Kossuth, Manitowoc County, the windmill was likely erected by landowner John Havlovitz around 1924.

The windmill, which is also the symbol in the museum's logo, is used as a visual representation of local agricultural history, both with school groups and general visitors.

Pictured is the windmill outside the McAllister House Welcome Center.



Kid-Tested, Teacher Approved Education Programs



Youth education programs are a strong pillar of our museum's mission and vision. Each year we welcome thousands of school age youth to participate in organized programs and activities. In addition to our Create-Connect series family programs, stroller tours, and immersive activities in our Children's Discovery Village, there are many other ways for you and our young guests to become part of our story.

Museum Mice

The Society's preschool program was re-branded as "Museum Mice" and is modeled after the Smithsonian Institute's Early Enrichment Center. The Museum Mice program had a wonderful summer series of engaging with our youngest guests.

Homeschool

Homeschool programs continue to be a wonderful addition to our youth education offerings. We welcomed 157 families for our 2019 programs, which focused on Pioneer Winter, Heritage Skills, the Civil War, and Fall Harvest. These families came from throughout our region including Brown, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago counties.

Public Programs

Over 2,000 guests took part in the museum's public programs, including Civil War Days, Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, Mid-Lakes Thresheree (presented with the Mid-Lakes Rustic Iron Club), All Hallows's Eve, and Pinecrest Christmas. New for 2019 was a Christmas Lantern Tour, which brought the village to life for an evening experience filled with Christmas cheer, food,

SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERS!

You give your time generously every year to help us achieve our mission. Thank you!

PHIL GROLL Archives



No one knows our local history and archives like Phil! We continually tell those who come in for research appointments that Phil is the guy to help them uncover their family's history mysteries.

In addition to completing research requests, Phil's main project in 2019 was organizing the newly acquired Herald Times Reporter photo negative collection. The collection, acquired in April, contains an estimated 500,000 images that were featured in the local newspaper.

Along with volunteers Dan Juchniewich, Anne Dirkman, Romelle Rusch, and Jacob Tienor, the negatives are being joined with their captions from the Herald Times Reporter newspaper archives to help tell the story of the people, places, and events that are captured in the collection.

Listeners to WOMT on weekday mornings will also be familiar with a project we call "On This Day/Week in Local History." For this project, Phil wrote down important dates and happenings in our local history that are shared on the radio station. This project will expand further in 2020 to include social media posts and a home calendar.

DON AND LAURIE SHAWHAN Experience Leaders



For many years Don and Laurie have been fixtures in the youth and public programs at the museum. Guests can find Don in the blacksmith shop and Laurie sharing her talents in the Rank Dress Shop, but their service to the museum goes far beyond their work in our historic structures.

Don and Laurie are true ambassadors for MCHS and our mission. When the museum set out to create a promotional video last year, Don and Laurie enthusiastically agreed to be interviewed and featured. In the video, which premiered in March, 2019 Don says, "I'm given the task of teaching kids. I teach them why they are learning about history because we can't go forward unless we look at what we've done previous to the time."

Laurie is filmed saying, "I love teaching the kids the skills and some of the things they do like the games that they used to play – I love doing that with the children. It fills my heart and I know I can see the parents and the teachers how they appreciate too what we do with the children. It's making it a reality, not just something they read or see on a video. I love Pinecrest, you know I do."

**MARK
LEONHARD**
Buildings and
Grounds



There is always a to-do list for repairs for your home and if you multiply that by 33 historic structures, you can get an idea of the projects our buildings and grounds volunteers tackle each year.

Mark Leonhard is one of our volunteers who assists in many areas at the museum. From helping to put a roof on the Kummer Smokehouse, to stand-in lawnmower duty, and tree trimming, Mark helps to keep our museum in first-rate condition.

Through a partnership with the Manitowoc County Homebuilders Association, Mark and our buildings and grounds volunteers – John Bohlin, Ron Dvorachek, Jack Krause, Rick Herman and Jim Steuer – we were able to make necessary repairs to our historic structures in 2019, including the Rank Dress Shop. Ellerman Glass was able to remove the large windows on the structure so our team could make repairs. It truly takes a community to preserve our Village!

EMMY REBITZ
Guest Services



Hundreds of guests each year are greeted by Emmy's smile and welcomed to our museum as she shares her time staffing our front desk on our summer

weekdays and weekend public programs. Emmy has been a vital volunteer with our guest services as we continue to expand our weekday public programs, school experiences, and homeschool programs.

After Emmy provides a brief orientation to our guests, she makes sure they feel welcomed and excited about experiencing our local history. Out of town guests can always count on Emmy for her knowledge of the area's attractions and we couldn't be more grateful for all she does to make our year a success.

In 2019, over 400 volunteers shared a combined 6,012 hours making sure our buildings, programs, archives, and services are the best they can be. Thank you!



Join Phil, Don, Laurie, Mark, and Emmy as they share their time and talents to further the mission and vision of MCHS! Contact the museum at (920) 684-4445 or visit our website at ManitowocCountyHistory.org to learn more about sharing your time with MCHS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The following pages recognize individuals and organizations who contributed \$100 or more financially to our Manitowoc County Historical Society in 2019. It is because of your generous gifts that our museum is able to live our mission of preserving and sharing our local history. Our accomplishments happen because of you!

It takes a
COMMUNITY
to preserve and share our
STORIES
of the past for those of
tomorrow.

Thank you to our Corporate Members.

Carron Net Company
Cedar Crest Specialties Inc.
Crescent Woolen Mills
Fricke Printing Services
Hamann Construction
Henning Cheese, Inc.
Investors Community Bank
Lakeside Foods
Manitowoc Pharmacies
Pine River Pre-Pack, Inc.
Prigge Real Estate
Vinton Construction

Thank you to our Volunteers with over 100 hours of service in 2019.

George Baldwin
John Bohlin
Eugene Durben
Phil Groll
Rick Herman
Dan Juchniewich
Greg Krcma
Mark Leonhard
Emmy Rebitz
Romelle Rusch
Jeff Seidl

Annual Appeal

Diane Albright
Christopher and Christine Allie
Jerry and Kathy Aulik
Tony and Darlene Binversie
Helen Bleser
Vernon Childs
Cleveland State Bank
Scottie Dayton
Joe and Janet Debilzen
James and Lucille DeWein
Karen Doty
Kurt and Marlene Damm
Ron and Kathy Dvorachek
Jerome and Gail Fox
Michael Fredrich
Robert and Judith Freiboth
Bill Fricke
Michael and Jenene Garey
Jim and Jane Hamann
Hamann Construction
Charles and Bonnie Heinzen
Everett Henning
Nancy Hooper Horvath
Grace Jaeger
Dennis Janda
Dolores Janda
Stan and Jennifer Johnson
Dan and Peg Juchniewich
Ione Kueter
Lakeside Foods
Mike and Mary Lambert
Diane Lupke
James Maples
Paul Marquardt
Richard & Teresa Pederson
Norbert Pritzl
Ebbe and Kay Rostgaard
Romelle Rusch

Chris Schnell
John A. Shimon
John Stangel
Steven Stockmeyer
Kerry A. Trask
Joanne Troupe
Lloyd Velicer and Sharon Mulak
Vinton Construction Company
Charles and Dianne Wilson
Wernecke
Bert and Dorothy Zarnoth

Endowment Fund

Mary C. Brandt, In Memory of
Lee and Eileen Kummer
Jeff and Kim Pahl
Tim and Ann Salutz
Greg Sutter
Ruth St. John and John Dunham
West Foundation, Inc

Vetting Fund

Tony and Darlene Binversie
Robert and Judith Freiboth
Vern Hansen, In Memory of
Dolores Janda
Jack and Louise Krause
Ruth Perry
Tim and Ann Salutz
Tracy and Beth Sladky
Roger Sorenson
Clara M. Strasser
Ruth St. John and John Dunham
West Foundation, Inc

Meeme House Project

Americollect
Tony and Darlene Binversie
WendyBrandt
Brew City Crafters LLC
Michael Canty
Joe and Janet Debilzen
George and Julie Grinde
Richard and Lyn Hanke
Vernon and Eunice Hansen
Robert Hertel
Investors Community Bank
Grace Jaeger
Dennis Janda
Dolores Janda
Kiwanis Club of Manitowoc
Ralph and June Kramer
Dale and Mary Krueger
Lawrence Kueter
Brian Marquardt
Connie Meiselwitz
Walter Meyer, In Memory of
Nash Family Foundation
Barry and Lisa Nelson
Jeff and Kim Pahl
Barbara Panosh
Prigge Real Estate LLC
Mary Beth Pritzl
Ebbe and Kay Rostgaard
Kent Salomon
Robert Schuh
Greg Sutter
Dennis Tienor
Two Rivers Kiwanis Club
Steve and Rachel Wiegert
Andy and Gail Zielke

CP Feeds, Inc.
Denmark State Bank
EVM, Inc.
Peg Harder
Holiday Inn - Manitowoc
Hawkins Ash CPAs
Investors Community Bank
Dan and Peg Juchniewich
Dr. Harold and Nancy Just
Harold C. Kallies Charitable Trust
Kiwanis Club of Manitowoc
Kohl's Associates in Action
Dale and Mary Krueger
Geoffrey and Carla Liban
Mike Molepske
NextEra Energy Point Beach
Tom and Brenda Rettinger
Bruce and Colleen Riesterer
Shirley Schwartz
Service League of Manitowoc
Shoreline Credit Union
Dave and Kathy Tienor
Dennis Tienor
Joseph Trader
Joanne Troupe
UnitedOne Credit Union
Verve, a credit union
Weichert, Realtors CornerStone,
LLC
Howard Wilsmann
Wisconsin Historical Society
John and Bernie Zimmer



General Donations and Mission Support

A.C.E Building Service Inc.
A&W Restaurant - Manitowoc
Christopher and Christine Allie
Bader Philanthropies, Inc.
Bank First
Bitter Neumann Appliance TV
Furniture
Helen Bleser
Cellcom-Manitowoc
Community First Credit Union
Country Visions

Our Manitowoc County Historical Society is a reflection of our community's past, present, and future due in part to the dedicated efforts and direction of our Board of Directors:

Jason Ring, President
Chris Schnell, Vice President
Jamie Lambrecht, Treasurer
Jennifer Johnson, Secretary
Wendy Brandt
Bill Fricke
Jack Krause
Mitchel Olson
Ryan Zunker

Staff:

Amy Meyer, Executive Director
Alexandra Brendemuehl, Program Coordinator
Emily Shedal, Program Coordinator



Manitowoc County Historical Society
924 Pinecrest Road
Manitowoc, WI 54220



Welcome home honey bees!

Did you know: Through a partnership with BeeLeaf Natural, 5 hives now make their home among the prairie just west of the Collins Depot. The hives are cared for by volunteers with BeeLeaf Natural and the honey is sold at local farmer's markets.