



2018 Annual Impact Report

DEAR FRIENDS,

Because of you, the success we enjoyed in 2018 paved the way for our Manitowoc County Historical Society to conceptualize, strategize, and create new learning opportunities for youth and adults, reinforcing our main message to our guests – we’re inspiring curiosity.

Over 11,000 guests visited our museum this past year. A main highlight was relocating the Meeme property structures including the Meeme House, Poll House, livery stable, and chicken coop. We also rebuilt the Kummer Smokehouse, which had been patiently waiting for its museum debut since 1994.

Our talented staff and volunteers sustained our education programs, where our community’s innovative spirit is being celebrated through hands-on, interactive experiences incorporating science, technology, engineering and math.

Our new tour offering in 2018, the Seek and Find family tour, provides guests the opportunity to get up close to special items in our historic structures.

Not unlike previous years, 2018 found us planning our next big thing – new and meaningful experiences for adults, and ways we could engage the young adults, career professionals, and adult residents of our Northeast Wisconsin community.

Throughout the past year we were able to inspire curiosity, engage visitors, and foster learning. Thank you for supporting our Manitowoc County Historical Society!

See you soon.

Regards,

-Amy Meyer, Executive Director

A YEAR TO REMEMBER THANKS TO YOU!



- 6 NEW ROOFS INSTALLED ON OUR HISTORIC STRUCTURES**
- 43 NEW MCHS MEMBERSHIPS**
- 159 RESEARCH REQUESTS COMPLETED**
- 362 PATRONS SERVED THROUGH OUR LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**
- 4,680 HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS DIGITIZED**
- 11,108 TOTAL GUESTS AT SOCIETY FUNCTIONS**
- 18,242 VOLUNTEER HOURS OF TALENTS SHARED THROUGH ALL AREAS OF OUR MUSEUM**

Preservation for the 21st Century Museum

Leading to a bright future with preservation of buildings and archives

Throughout 2018, we were able to focus attention on preserving the stories of our past, both through our museum's historic structures and with maintaining our local history archives.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) provided a grant allowing library school students to gain practical experience in digital stewardship and to increase the capacity of small libraries and cultural heritage organizations to curate their digital collections. As a part of this grant, MCHS received training and mentoring in digital stewardship and worked together to manage, preserve, and provide access to digital content.

The first online, digital photo collection of the museum launched in 2018 as a result of the work completed through the IMLS grant. The online collection opened with over 3,000 images from the Society's archives. We were able to work with a UW-Milwaukee MLIS student to bring an extensive collection of film negatives from Manitowoc photographer, Daryl Cornick, to be the first online collection available through the museum.

Cornick had a variety of interests and the subjects of these photographs range from

nautical photos to pictures of the Green Bay Packers from the 50s and 60s. The collection consists of 3,038 film negatives, which had been digitized by the historical society's volunteer archives staff.

After 3 years of building up our Vetting Fund (created in honor of the original land donors, Hugo and Eleanor Vetting) we were able to utilize our restricted village fund to cover the expenses of important structural tasks.

These tasks included rot repair on the Rank Dress Shop, painting of the Two Creeks Town Hall, a roof on the Newton State Bank, a roof on the Sieracki Barn, a roof on the Sladky Medical Office, and a roof on the Meeme Livery Stable.

A special task of the Vetting Fund was to recreate the Kummer Smokehouse, which was brought to the museum in 1994. Over \$17,000 was raised for this effort and a grand "smoke" is expected for early summer, 2019.

Funds were also raised to install a new road from Shadyside School to the Meeme Livery Stable. Much of this project was completed through in-kind labor from members of the Mid-Lakes Rustic Iron Club and Jim's Excavating.



Pictured above: The Two Creeks Town Hall received a new coat of paint and sign.

Pictured below: Volunteers complete research requests from across the globe to assist those in learning more about our local history.

PROVIDING ACCESS TO OUR STORY



Pictured above: Tram Tour

In 2018, we added a new membership option for families that want to experience our museum, but have a financial barrier. The Family Access Membership offers the same benefits of a family membership at a free or reduced rate to anyone that participates in statewide assistance programs.

With a 60 acre museum, moving throughout our grounds can be a challenge. In 2018, 3 tram tours were offered. The tram tour took visitors to each building in our Village using our motorized tram. The tram stopped at each building, where they could depart from

the tram if they wished to enter the structure.

For those with hearing impairment, a portable induction loop is available in conjunction with our new audio tours.

Thanks to a partnership between the Manitowoc Public Library and the Manitowoc County Historical Society, we are happy to offer free family admission with the checkout of a museum pass from the Manitowoc Public Library.



Historic Meeme House is Welcomed Home

The Meeme House, Poll House, and livery stable are again reunited at our museum. These structures traveled 14 miles from the town of Meeme to our museum after the initial purchase of the structures in 2013.

In summer, another milestone was reached for the Meeme House project fundraising effort. The second phase of

the project, exterior restoration, had reached its fundraising goal following a multi-year effort to purchase, relocate, and now restore the historic Meeme House.

While fundraising efforts to restore the Poll House, Livery Stable, and Meeme House continue, we are grateful for those who have worked so hard to make this

vision possible. Visitors to the museum can now see the structures (including the chicken coop) and bring to life the day when we can celebrate the public opening of these historic places.

Pictured above: Placing the roof on the Meeme House, with the livery stable to the left and the Poll House on the right.

Inspiring Curiosity for All Ages

Around 3,000 school students from throughout Wisconsin visited MCHS this past year to engage in hands-on learning experiences. Whether it's shaking cream into butter, tapping a message in Morse Code, or learning how to march and drill like a Civil War soldier, our tour experiences offer endless learning opportunities.

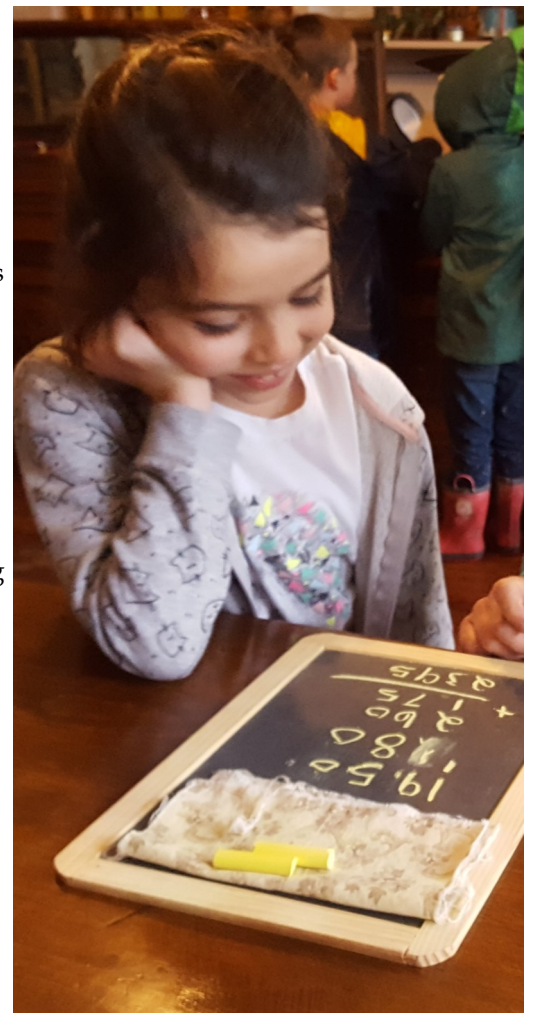
In an effort to continue improving our tour experiences, each has been re-aligned with the 2018 updates of the Wisconsin State Social Studies Standards.

An exciting area of growth is our homeschool programs, which we launched in spring of 2017. After a successful spring program, we began to offer quarterly homeschool programs, including Pinecrest Power in fall, Pioneer Winter, Homegrown Wisconsin in spring, and Pioneer Play in summer. We've had over 90 families attend 5 programs with over 350 children.

A restructuring of our summer camp was also created for 2018. After 11 years of providing hands-on and engaging summer camp experiences, we were able to restructure our summer camp offerings to allow for more participants and increased activities that bring our history to life.

A new scavenger hunt-style audio tour was also created by children for children. The new scavenger hunt audio tour points activities out to our young visitors so they can take part in hands-on learning and discovery at our museum during a daily experience. This tour has been well received and will be expanded for 2019.

Pictured to the right: Students help the storekeeper with taking merchandise orders in the General Store.





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Follow Your Support in Action!

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IT TAKES A COMMUNITY.

Hundreds of people give their time generously every year to help the Society achieve its mission. We're grateful for your dedicated support of our mission and vision.

You can find our volunteers in every area of our mission – from answering research requests to sharing stories of our past with visitors. In the past year, over 18,000 hours were donated by volunteers.

The following volunteers shared over 100 hours of service in 2018:

George Baldwin
John Bohlin
Eugene Durben
Phil Groll
Rick Herman

Dan Juchniewich
Greg Krcma
Mark Leonhard
Emmy Rebitz
Romelle Rusch

Board of Directors:

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

Staff:

Amy Meyer, Executive Director
Alexandra Brendemuehl, Program Coordinator

Pictured above: Students make butter in the Cheese Factory