

Lebanon Historical Society

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The *Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter* is a semi-annual publication issued in Spring and Fall. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please contact [the editor](#), Edward Raether at eraether@wi.rr.com



Lebanon's Memory & Storyteller

The Lebanon Historical Society

Mission: The Lebanon Historical Society helps people connect to the past by collecting, preserving, and sharing stories and artifacts about Lebanon, WI.

Goal: The Society is Lebanon's memory and foremost storyteller.

Vision: We desire that all individuals, families, and institutions, in any way related to Lebanon, actively use our resources to understand the unique story of Lebanon and their own stories, and to pass on that heritage to succeeding generations.

Process:

1. We reach out and collaborate with people who have Lebanon connections.
2. We present and promote a sound and authentic history of our community.
3. We collect and safeguard evidence of Lebanon's unique heritage according to the highest standards of stewardship.
4. We share the riches of our growing collections in ways that captivate and respect audiences.



www.facebook.com/LebanonHistoricalSociety/

www.Lebanonwihistory.org

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Edition 3 Volume V

LHS FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

March 2022 Spring Edition

LHS-PERMANENT HOME

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Starting Time for all LHS regular meetings is 4:00 PM-

Over the past 3-4 years our members and friends have seen reference to the Lebanon Historical Society planning to be able to have it's own permanent place to call HOME someday.

Recently one of our members stepped forward and offered a Challenge Gift of at least \$100,000 if the Society could raise sufficient funds to construct a building on a 1.41-acre site adjoining the Town of Lebanon Office/Fire Department Complex.

Based on a second member matching that initial gift, and early gifts for \$42,350, the LHS is moving ahead with putting together a plan to raise \$650,000 for a new building.

The reasons for a new building are numerous as our Museum is full of artifacts, floor displays and the walls and ceiling are covered with photos and unique artifacts hanging from the ceiling. We need more space!!

We currently have larger artifacts being stored in four places in the area along with not being able to accept more artifacts to display. Our small office in the Town Complex is overloaded with vintage photos, small artifacts and genealogy records, etc.

To enable our Society to grow and expand, its time to move ahead with a

structure to house artifacts in storage, a place to put new displays together, carry out genealogy research, set up a library of old, historic books, an office to serve our membership, and a large area to hold monthly meetings.

Our plan is to build a 42 ft. wide x 120 ft. long structure with a small portion used to store large artifacts and a place to place artifacts being rotated in and out of the Museum.

The initial cost of the building is estimated to be about \$330,000, and a special "Fachwerk" Front is estimated to cost about \$125,000. In addition, we need to purchase the land, drill a water well, put in a asphalt driveway and parking for 17 vehicles, site landscaping, plus sewerage and electrical hookups, and state, county and local building permits.

The total estimated cost is between \$600,000 to \$650,000. Any funds not used for the construction will be added to an existing Endowment Fund for future maintenance of our buildings.

Plans are to raise the funds by the end of May and begin construction late summer once all the permits are approved and the materials are delivered and construction can begin. Watch for updates on Facebook and our Website.

Annual & Lifetime Dues Structure

- Single – \$15
- Family (spouse and minors) – \$20
- Senior Single (65 & over) – \$10
- Senior Couple (65 & over) – \$15
- Junior (18 years and under) – \$5
- Lifetime-Single – \$150
- Lifetime-Couple – \$250
- Business – \$100

Annual dues are payable by March 30th in a given year
Annual membership dues and annual contributions are our lifeblood. **We rely on your annual support.**

If you are a Life Member, please consider making additional annual contributions as memorials, honoraria, or just because.

The Lebanon Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are 100% tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

The Ashippun-Lebanon Cemetery By John Uhlman

The Ashippun-Lebanon Cemetery has been known by several names since it's original inception in 1842. Lime Ledge Cemetery, Pucker Street Cemetery, Ashippun Cemetery, Lebanon Cemetery. It's inhabitants come from different religious backgrounds including Lutheran and Methodist-Episcopal. It was one of the earliest cemeteries in the Ashippun area, and it's use diminished after St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was established in 1881 and started it's own cemetery. It seems like it was established around the same time as Mount Hope Cemetery (1848), and a couple of years after the Presbyterian cemetery. The last burial took place in 1910. In those 62 years, there were are least 123 burials. A walk through the cemetery provides you with a view of the stones marking the final resting places of those 123 souls, but here you will also find the stories behind the stones.

At the front of the cemetery and to the right lies Carl Uhlman, not quite an old man at 74, but before he died, he said good bye to his wife Henrite (who rests beside him), his two daughters, Johanna and Emilie, two sons-in-law Wilhelm and William, a daughter-in-law Mary, and nine grandchildren Edwin, Luie, Edilge, Charles, Johann, Gustav, William, Lydia, and Ernst.

Nearby lies Arthur Thorne, twenty years old, and he went to San Francisco to help rebuild the shattered city after the 1906 earthquake. He fell from a building and died, and was brought back to his family. He rests next to his aunt Capitola, who left this life in 1866, aged one year.

In six separate years, William and Emilie Marsh made the sad trip to

the cemetery, to lay a dear child to rest on the rise of the hill. Cysly, Dora, Elisha, William, Josephine, and John who all rest together, no doubt under the watchful eye of their Grandfather Hiram who lies close by.

Julius Kraut lies in an unmarked grave, though his wife Mary has a monument marking hers. Three of their children struck down by Diphtheria are thought to rest here as well.

Diphtheria took the lives of more than a few souls in this cemetery. Ernst and Louisa Born, no doubt, had tearful times in 1891, when they lost their son Michael to this dread disease on October 31st, and then in late November they lost four more of their own children, Ernst, Henriette, Johann, and Loise.

Gustav Ullmann also lost his life to this disease in 1887, and his death certificate states the cause of death was Diphtheria and it goes on to say "For days he had been for caring for and burying friends with the disease, thereby contracting the disease himself"

The Civil War took the lives of 3 of "Our Boys", Sgt. Samuel Hawkins was killed when he was only 30, leaving behind a wife and small child. Brothers Lt. Abner Wood and Lt. Henry Wood share a stone put up by their grieving parents. Abner was killed in 1863, and Henry in 1864. Though Henry rests in the Marietta National Cemetery, Georgia, it is believed Abner rests below the stone. A brother-in-law John C. Davis rests near by, also a soldier in the Civil War, which he survived, only to

die two years later at age 30.

Six members of the Dings family rest below a shady pine, Adie, Charles, George, Ida, May and Alice, all who are the children of John and Emaline Dings. Only Alice lived long enough to marry to an F. M. Hazelton, before passing away at age 20.

Ten members of the Timerson family rest here, Daniel and Jacob, are here along with their wives. Jacob and wife Eliza share the hal- lowed ground with their children Daniel, Eliza, Jacob and wife Fannie Helen, and granddaughter Rosa Bell Armitage. Daniel and Elmina rest with their daughter Helen, and granddaughter Florence in an iron fenced-in enclosure. Elmina died in Wood County but was brought back to Ashippun to be with her husband.

An old man rests here, Jacob Kern born in 1787, died in 1878, having attained the age of 90 years, 11 months, 13 days. He shares a grave with his wife, Asenath, and their daughter, Jane, rests near by with her husband John Douglass and daughter, Arvilla.

Names no longer heard grace the tombstones; Horatio Nelson Humiston is here with wife Julia Ann, and daughters Libby and Julie. Both a Zenas Gault and a Zemas Merrill are here as are Mancies Gault and Lemuel Castle.

John and Charlotte Wegener have a nice solid stone, thanks to their son August who left money in his will for them to have a tombstone.

Many little children rest here alone on this cemetery including little Ella Wilson, age 1 month, Cora York age 4 years, John Emerson

LHS Museum & Karl Greve Log Cabin Hours in 2022

1st Sunday of the Month
April–November
4:00 PM



Future 2022 Programs and Events

Sunday September 18, 2022

Member William E. Petig's program featuring Albert F. W. Grimm, a Lutheran Pastor from Antigo, WI, who, under the pen name of Alfred Ira, published a total of thirteen novels and seven collections of short stories between 1897 and 1922.

Sunday October 2, 2022

Annual Chili Fund-Raiser

Sunday November 20, 2022

Program by Kathleen Ernst featuring "A Settler's Year: Pioneer Life Through The Seasons". Hear Kathleen talk about what life was like in the 1840's when Lebanon's first settlers arrived.

Additional News and Information

Remote Banking Comes to Lebanon!

Recently Ergo Bank, Markesan, WI installed an Interactive Teller Machine (ITM) in Lebanon. This enables customers to perform most banking transactions with a live teller without stepping into a branch office. ITM extended hours are from 7:00 AM-7:00 PM, Monday-Friday, and Saturdays from 7:00 AM-12:00 PM. ATM withdrawals are available 24 hours/day, 7-days/week.



We have an opening on our Board for the **Secretary**.

Primary duties include taking notes at special board meeting and regular Society meetings.

We are also looking for someone to work on outside programs and be the **Programs Chair**.

We also encourage members and friends to submit articles of historical interest for publishing in the newsletter.

As we begin to open the Museum and Log Cabin in May to the public, we can also use a few "docents" to greet visitors and answer any questions they may have. This is a wonderful opportunity to say hello to friends and visitors from the area, from other Societies and frequently from other states.

Please contact John, Pam or me if you are interested in any of the above opportunities.

Watch for the special mailing including detailed information about the campaign and information about the new building and ways to make the donation. Regards, From Ed Raether, President

From the President's Corner

Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Alfred & Jean Schoenike, (Life), Sugar Island, WI
 Kevin & Cindy Raether, (Life), Watertown, WI
 Roger & Faye Hildebrandt, (Life), Hustisford, WI
 Bob & Barb Eske, Watertown, WI
 Shirley Oestreich, (Life), Watertown, WI
 Lissa Richter, (Life), Hartland, WI
 James & Mary Lee Matthes, Bailey's Harbor, WI
 Connie Krueger, (Life), Green Bay, WI
 Austin & Molly Fredrick, (Life), Oshkosh, WI
 Watertown Piggly Wiggly, (Business), Watertown, WI
 Stoll's Olde 109, (Business), Lebanon, WI
 Barbara Bentzin & Bob M. (Life), Casper, WY
 Russell Tietz, (Life), Lebanon, WI
 John & Carol Christian, (Life), Lebanon, WI
 Paul Oestreich, Watertown, WI
 Tom & Jacque Liker, Wauwatosa, WI
 Ruth Wolters, Tomahawk, WI
 Grace (Radke) & Duane Kamrath, (Life), Cosmos, MN
 Dale & Judy Hinze, (Life), Cody, WY
 Riley Kappell, (Life), Lebanon, WI
 Klecker's Heating & AC, Inc. (Business), Watertown, WI

MEMORIALS & OTHER DONATIONS

Bob & Barb Eske-In memory of Carl & Louise Eske
 Edwin & Rita Prahl-Donation
 Erla Newbecker-In memory of Franklin Braunschweig
 Dale Bartel-Donation
 Carol Ramge-In memory of Franklin Braunschweig
 Bonnie Jaeger-In memory of Harley Jaeger & the Jazz Pups Band
 James & Mary Lee Matthes-In memory of Ruben & Meta Franke
 Barbara Bentzin-Donation to New Building
 Bob & Branda Buske-In memory of Robby Buske
 Steve & Jenny Meyers-Donation
 Mark & Kim Babe-Donation

Andy & Katie Boehlen-In memory of Ada Christian
 Wendy Craft-In memory of the Seeger Family
 Jack & Kathleen Ewert-In memory of Harvey & Lorraine Kulke
 Dorothy Grosenick-Donation
 Millie Hildebrandt-In memory of Gene Hildebrandt
 Tom & Jacque Liker-Donation
 Don & Arlene Beaudoin-Donation
 Pauline Sukow-In memory of Anna Krubsack
 Warren & Vicki Creydt-Donation for New Building
 Kevin & Cindy Raether-In honor of Ed Raether
 John & Cindy Schuhmacher-In honor of Ed Raether
 Jay & Sheryl Raether-In honor of Ed Raether
 Renee Raether -In honor of Ed Raether
 Arlene Raether-In honor of Ed Raether

First New LHS Annual Business Member

Congratulations to Brian & Rachel Wohlfeil, recent new owners of the Watertown Piggly Wiggly Store for being LHS's first annual Business Member.

Brian has been working at the store since it opened in 2007. Both of them enjoy seeing their employees grow and be happy in their respective jobs and they want to provide jobs and food, and keep people happy with things they need.

We also welcome Stoll's Olde 109 and Klecker's Heating & AC, Inc. as new annual Business Members. We thank all of our members and special friends for supporting these respective business members.

Volunteering is the "life-blood" of our Society and it is especially important as we continue to grow and be able to offer more programs and special events. We have some Board and Society opportunities and are looking for members to step forward and say yes!!

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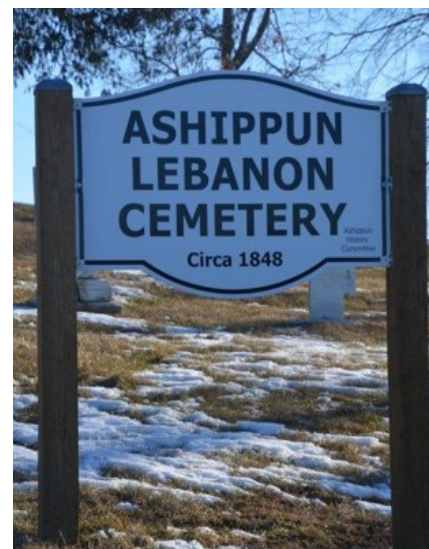
Brown age 1 year. No doubt their families moved onward and westward.

Little John Haicken was one of the first children to be interred here, passing away August 23rd, 1846. A Hannah White shows up on an early walk-through of the cemetery, though her grave stone is longer able to be found.

Christ Born was the last person to be interred here, in 1910. He was laid to rest next to his five brothers and sisters, and his father.

These people may be gone from our sight, and their children and grandchildren gone as well, but when we discover their stories, and bring them back into the light, they live on yet again.

The Cemetery is located on Kohler Road, about a 1/4 mile south of County Road MM and about 1/8 mile west of the junction of MM and EE.



The Cemetery marker was erected by the Ashippun History Committee.

John Uhlman is the Vice President of the Lebanon Historical Society and some of his early family members are buried on this cemetery.

EPIDEMICS ARE TOPICS

The article was written by Thomas Schultz and published in the Watertown Daily Times in Times Square column on January 14, 2022. It has been reprinted with the permission of Thomas Schultz.

In recent weeks the new strains of COVID-19 became the hottest topic in the news and that of course trickles down to the normal conversations between gatherings of any type.

There are pros and cons with all of the vaccine issues and I don't plan to get in the middle of that debate with this column, but in some discussions there have been mentions of past epidemics in and around the Watertown area.

One of them popped up in a couple discussions with the Cholera epidemic that haunted this area in the 1850's.

Over the years that epidemic has been documented and written about a number of times, but because it came up in a few local discussions recently I'll do a little bit on it here today.

One topic that came up was the mass burial that took place in Lebanon in 1854. That mass burial was the result of 21 people dying from Cholera that summer.

Those in authority back in the midst of that epidemic decided the best and safest way to bury these people was

to place them in a mass grave.

That was unusual at the time but with Cholera spreading fast, a mass grave burial was probably for the best.

The Lebanon Historical Society has placed a plaque where the mass grave is located. It is in a Lebanon cemetery just a bit north of Immanuel Lutheran Church, and on the east side of county highway R.

I took a trip out to the cemetery a couple days ago but with the cemetery road not being plowed and lots of snow drifting out there, I wasn't able to find the plaque, but rest assured it is indeed there.

Long time Daily Times reported Steve Sharp carried a detailed story on the plaque dedication in October of 2014 when the Lebanon Historical Society and Immanuel Lutheran Church jointly held a program remembering those who are buried there.

The late William Jannke III, who for many years was the "go-to" guy on Watertown history, both in print and in photos and his vast memory, wrote a lengthy article about Cholera and how it struck Watertown in that same timeframe.

Bill's research showed that Cholera first appeared in Watertown in 1849 and it returned in varying degrees for the next five years before it mysteriously disappearing until a mild outbreak in the 1870's and then it was gone for good.

The Cholera death rate was high back then and much could be traced back to unsanitary conditions that existed not only in Watertown, but also in communities throughout the area, including Lebanon.

Watertown residents back then were told to avoid drinking all alcohol, and only a little cold water, be moderate in diet and eat primarily vegetables.

It would be years after that infamous Cholera outbreak that a hospital was formed here and in that same timeframe the city established a department of health and a sanitation department, all of which were of tremendous benefit to the health of the entire community. And, it took until nearly 1900 before the muddy dirt roads in the city were for the most part replaced with pavement and that also had a dramatic positive effect on the health of residents of Watertown.

The Watertown Chronicle back in the 1850's said the best way for people to prevent getting infected with Cholera was to have a "quiet, cheerful state of mind".

Now, that might be just what we need in America today, "a quiet, cheerful state of mind" if we are to get this crazy polarization behind us and make things better for everyone.

And, if it's to happen, let's see if politicians of all political persuasions can be first in line to accept that kind of attitude.

Editors Note: The plaque is in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery on the back side of the cemetery.

DODGE/JEFFERSON COUNTIES GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Frequently we hear of people wanting local genealogy information but don't know where to go. There is a wonderful resource available to anybody.

The Dodge/Jefferson Counties Genealogical Society was organized in 1981 under the name of "Watertown Genealogical Society". To better define it's area of research, the society changed its name and incorporated under the category of an educational organization in January 1995.

The Purpose of this Society is to assist others in learning how to research their family history and to purchase books, microfilm, and other research material of genealogical value for the public's use.

Any person who is interested in genealogy may

become a member upon payment of dues, or they are welcome to come to work at the library anytime without being a member.

They have an extensive Library containing high school and college year books, newsletters from many state genealogy societies, a Germans to America Collection of books, books featuring Old Lutherans and their migration to America, books from many churches in the area, and much more!

They offer assistance for beginners and even experienced family history researchers. Online databases and educational resources help members find ancestors in Wisconsin and beyond. Publications target Wisconsin research and history.

The Society is located at 504 S. 4th Street, Watertown, WI 53094. The telephone number is 920-262-2362. Website is www.dodgejeffgen.org.

Call their office and make an appointment to see how they can help you in your genealogy research, or you can come without an appointment.

Wisconsin Farmers of the Year

Congratulations to Kyle and Rachel Zweig, sixth-generation dairy farmers, on being named as the winners of the Wisconsin Young Farmers Award during the 68th Annual WI Outstanding Young Farmers Awards weekend, held this past January 21-22 in Neenah, WI. Their Zweig family farm on Plover Road has been in the family for 166 years. With a 70-cow dairy operation and robotic milking equipment, along with using a no-till cropping system on all cultivable acres, Kyle and Rachel impressed the judges with their innovative farming and conservation practices. Congratulations Kyle and Rachel along with their three children, Theodore, Landon, and Logan.

We have a Agricultural Display in the Museum honoring Stanley Meyer along with displaying all of the Century (100-Years) and Sesquicentennial (150-years) Farms in the Lebanon area. To qualify for these awards, the farm must be in continuous family ownership for these respective years.

The Martin Zweig Family (Kyle's Father) have been the owners of this farm dating back to 1845 and in 1998, the family received both the Century and the Sesquicentennial Farm Awards.

Dodge County ranks second in the State with the most properties to receive these awards which are awarded annually during the Wisconsin State Fair.

UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

Planned Programs
for 2022

Please note that all Society meetings will held in the **Fire Department meeting room** on the north side of the Fire Station-Town Office Complex at **N1738 County Road R, Lebanon, WI**

**SUNDAY April 24, 2022
4:00 PM**

**Want to know more about
"Researching The Family Tree
-Where do I Start"**

Come and hear John Uhlman lead a talk on the basics of researching your family tree, from birth to death. While John does not have any formal training, he has been researching his family for more than 20 years. If you are in the early stages of research or if you are just looking to start, this is the talk for you.

**SUNDAY May 15, 2022 4:00 PM
Kristen Emily Behl
Local Publisher of Children's
Books**

Come and hear Kristn Emily Behl tell her story about how she began writing children's stories and adult non-fiction books, and then formed her own book publishing company. She will share stories about her books, the writing and publishing process, and will have copies to sell and autograph.

Kristen and her husband Philip Behl lived on the Allen & Debbie Behl farm in Lebanon from 2013-2019. Today they reside in Helenville with their two daughters.

Allen Behl Retires—A Lifetime of Service to our Community

After serving as the District 19 Supervisor for almost 19-years, Allen has decided to not run for another term on the Dodge County Board of Supervisors and will retire.

Allen was appointed to the Dodge County Board of Supervisors in September of 2003 in a special election. He has served on the following committees: Land Resources and Parks Department (previously Planning and Development) 2003-2017, 2019-2022; Land Information 2004-2005; Land Information Council, 2016-2022; Extension Education (previously Agriculture and Extension and UW-Extension Education) 2004-2011 and Chair of the Extension Education from 2012-2022; Land and Water Conservation (previously Land Conservation) 2006-2007 and 2016-2022; Taxation, 2015.

Over the years, and in addition to his work on the Dodge County Board of Supervisors, Allen has been the President of Midwest Poultry Federation; on the Board of Directors for District 5 of UW Madison Wisconsin Extension Association; Treasurer, St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Lebanon Lutheran School; volunteer on the Lebanon Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services, and of course, President of the Behl Turkey Farm, which began in 1950.

Allen joined the Lebanon Fire Department in 1975 and was the secretary from 1976-1979. He was a Captain of the Fire Department from 1980-1989. He assisted in putting out many fires, and in providing medical care and transport to area medical facilities, just to name a few of his many duties he participated in while a member of the Fire Department and EMS. Allen was part of the team that organized and developed the Lebanon EMS and served faithfully as an Emergency Technician for 25 years.

Farming continues to be one of his passions as he and his brother Dan Behl till more than 700 acres of corn and soybeans annually. Allen will continue as the Treasurer for St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Lebanon Lutheran School where his financial and business expertise is appreciated and welcomed.

Thank you, Allen, for almost two decades of serving as a County Supervisor as you represented your local constituents with integrity, honesty, and sound business leadership. Your volunteering and generosity is an inspiration to all of us!!

