

# L H S F R I E N D S N E W S L E T T E R

April 2023 Spring Edition

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

For the past year, we have been focusing on raising \$600,000-\$650,000 for a permanent home for the Lebanon Historical Society. We have sent out more than 400 packets of information and have received donations from about 130 members and friends to date.

Our original estimate for the new building went back to early 2021 and then our economy was impacted by the pandemic, inflation soared to 9% and prices for construction materials increased dramatically. Accordingly, we had to raise our goal to \$780,000, which also includes added cost to remove bad ground and replace it with pit sand to eliminate any settling of the building in the future-recall that this site was filled with debris from Highway 109 when it was rebuilt about 20+ years ago.

We are pleased to report that as of March 18, 2023, we have received a total of \$695,143 and we expect to reach our goal by the time the building is ready for occupancy.

Work is expected to begin in early April with the initial site preparation and excavation work and once that work is complete, the concrete will be poured for the floor, followed by the actual construction of the building and land improvements.

AG Contractors LLC is our contractor for the building with Andy's Excavations LLC responsible for the site work including the removal of bad ground and replacing it with pit sand which will be provided by John Strieter.

We will be using local sub-contractors where possible and the plan is to complete the project by the end of August.

The address for our new site is N1712 County Road R, Lebanon, WI. 53047

Watch for updates along with an announcement of our "ribbon-cutting" ceremony!!

### Harnischfeger Park & LHS

Beginning on the first Sunday in the month from **April to October, 2023**, Harnischfeger Park and our Society will feature concurrent "open-houses". We are encouraging visitors to see the vintage farm tools and machinery located in the Pole Building and next to special marked pathways near the North Barn area. Then proceed to Lebanon and tour our Museum to see small old-time farm implements along with many other local artifacts and displays, including the Karl Greve Log Cabin.

These open dates are the first Sunday in the month-April to October. Other dates by special request.

## Your Present Of The Past For Their Future

The mission of the Lebanon Historical Society is to preserve our collective past for our future generations. We all stand on the shoulders of our ancestors who came before. Please help the society to preserve and tell their stories to our children. Every time I enter an antique store, I see photographs, certificates, bibles, separated from their families, their stories and significance lost to the ages. How many of our family treasures have been lost to mold, rot, and floods in our basements, or the pests and extreme heat and cold in our attics? In our archives we store and preserve amazing items that help share the amazing spirit of fortitude that those who went before possessed. Help us add to our collection and save our rich family and Lebanon historical treasures. Please contact John Uhlman about donating your treasured family photos for preservation and future reference.



Charlotte (Harmanna) Pagel with her twin grandchildren Helen and Arthur Grulke



Immanuel Lutheran Church  
This view of the early church dates from the mid 1890's



Confirmation Certificate of Alwine (Kuehl) Tietz  
Alvina was confirmed November 11th, 1877

## A Nice Day For A White Wedding



August Neitzel and Augusta Uttech are pictured on or near their wedding day of November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1880. They were married in Lebanon, by Pastor Allwardt. Translated their invitation reads “August Neitzel & Augusta Uttech present ourselves as betrothed and kindly desire that you favor us with your presence at our wedding on Thursday, 18 Nov 1880. The celebration will take place at the home of Mr. Friedrich Uttech in the town of Lebanon, Dodge County, Wisconsin, and begins at 9 AM.

White wedding dresses were first popularized after 1840 when Queen Victoria of England married the love of her life Prince Albert. This tradition didn’t seem to take hold in the United States until later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was most common for a bride to wear her best dress for the occasion. Due to the nature of the photographs at the time, most dark colored dresses showed up as black, especially as the photos tone overtime.

Usually the wedding dress was then put away for special occasions over the years, often worn for later anniversary photographs. Some women would choose to be buried in their wedding dress, if possible.

August was the son of Frederich and Fredericke (Uttech) Neitzel. He was one of four children, only he and a sister Ernestine (Neitzel) Neitzel survived to adulthood. Augusta was the daughter of Christian Frederich and Wilhelmina (Hoepner) Uttech, one of 14 children, 6 of them surviving to adulthood. They had six children, Louisa who married August Maas, Anna (who died at 9 months), Elenore who married Stanly Resseguie, Edwin who married Aurelia Tietz, Reinhard who married Ida Beard, and Max. August and Augusta were first cousins, something that was not unheard of in that day.

The wedding invitation pictured above is part of the collection of the Lebanon Historical Society archives. The Society would like to hold a special Wedding exhibition in the near future, and welcome the donation or loan of wedding dresses, photographs, invitations, and other wedding related items.

## Meet Wes Kehl, Local Maple Syrup Producer and LHS Member

This past February Ed Raether sat down with Wes Kehl, a member of the Lebanon Historical Society and well-known in Ixonia & Lebanon area for his wonderful maple syrup. Wes lives in the Township of Ixonia with some of his property in the Town of Lebanon and there are 100's of hard maple trees spread over 11.5 acres surrounding his home. Each year Wes looks forward to beginning the labor-intensive process of tapping around 150 maple trees, normally in late February, early March, which is controlled by the weather. The ideal temperatures for the sap to begin running is between 20°F to 28°F during the night, rising to around 40°F during the day. In a good year, Wes hopes for three major sap runs, which are typically separated by cold spells. The sap typically begins running around 2:00 PM and gradually stops by later in the day when the temperature falls close to freezing.

Typically, sap will flow for 4-6 weeks or longer as long as there are freezing nights and warm days. Once the trees begin to bud, the sap stops running. Depending on the current weather, Wes hopes to begin tapping the trees by February 20<sup>th</sup> or by the first of March, but the weather is what determines when collecting begins.

Wes's hard maple trees have the highest sugar concentration compared to silver or red maple trees and even box elder trees can be tapped as well, but their sugar content is much less. A typically hard maple tree will yield about 20 gallons of sap. It will typically take 40 gallons of sap to make 1-quart of maple syrup with hard maple trees needing like 36/38 gallons of sap/quart of syrup. About 1,000 gallons of sap will make 25 gallons of pure maple syrup.

Wes taps his 10" diameter maple trees with one tap, and with larger maple trees from 27" to 30" diameter having up to 3-taps. On smaller trees, a 1-gallon plastic bucket is hung on each tree to catch the sap. For larger trees, he uses 3-5-gallon buckets, and these can be set on the ground, and he connects each tap with a small plastic hose, 3-6 feet long and the sap runs down into the buckets. He takes the sap in 10-gallon buckets back to the "cooking area" using one of his "Ranger" utility vehicles. Sap weighs 11 lbs./gallon, so it requires a "strong back" to lift the sap into the Ranger. Sap from the hard maple trees near the cooking area is carried by hand directly to the cooking area. Some of his grandsons usually help him gather the sap!!

A 300-gallon stainless-steel milk tank to store/hold the sap is used until Wes is ready to boil it. For the sap boiling process, Wes uses two large pans-one is a large 7 ft long x 3 ft wide with 6" high sides, made from stainless steel. The second pan is of the same size but made of galvanized steel. After the sap is boiled, it is filtered/strained using a vinyl cloth material to remove any debris/foreign/material.

Wes gathers the small fallen trees and branches from his woods which he uses to use to burn and heat the pans in large pits used to boil and evaporate the sap in the pans which typically takes all day, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and every day for as long as the sap runs. It is important to not burn the sap as it process.

After Wes evaporates about 75 gallons of sap and has 4-5 gallons filtered and ready for processing, it is carried in small 5-gallon buckets to the small kitchen in the basement of his house, where it is processed into pure maple syrup. Using kettles set on an electric stove, the evaporated sap is boiled to above the boiling point of water and to the temperature where sap turns into maple syrup. Wes uses a hydrometer to determine exactly when the process is done. Now it is ready for a final filtering/staining using a vinyl cloth material to remove any impurities before it is poured into glass pint or quart jars or other special containers. The finished containers are cooled and in about one hour, the containers will be sealed, confirmed by a clicking sound. The process of collecting the sap, transporting it to the boiling area, boiling and filtering the evaporated sap, and taking it to the basement in 5-gallon buckets is a labor-intensive process.

Wes is one of a number of local residents in the Ixonia & Lebanon area whose hobbies are collecting sap and making maple syrup. While the State of Wisconsin ranks fifth for commercial maple syrup production followed by the Canadian Province of Quebec, and the states of Vermont, New York and Maine, our Dairy State is one of the fastest growing states in terms of its maple syrup output.



# UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

Planned Programs  
for 2023

Please note that all Society meetings will be 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 16, 4:00PM**

**Featuring Edward G. Langer, a Lifetime Member of the Lebanon Historical Society**

Edward G. Langer is a retired tax lawyer/CPA and a native of Clyman, Wisconsin. His Pitterle, Scheberle and Langer ancestors settled in Emmet Township in 1854, 1864 and 1867, respectively. He started researching German and Czech Emigration from Northeast Bohemia in 1974 and first traveled to the area in 1979. In the last ten years, he has served as tour guide for three groups of Americans who wanted to visit their ancestral villages. In 2019, the town of Lanškroun voted to bestow the town medal on Ed for his research efforts and his work to increase understanding between the people of Lanškroun and the descendants of the emigres. His article on the emigration from Northeast Bohemia has been published in both a Czech and a German periodical. (Go to [www.edlanger.com](http://www.edlanger.com) to see the English, Czech and German versions of the article.) He is a frequent speaker and has served on the board of numerous nonprofits including the German American Heritage Society of Wisconsin, Inc., the Island Church Foundation, and the Max Kade Institute at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Ed's PowerPoint presentation will cover the emigration of Germans and Czechs from the District of Landskron/Landskroun in Northeast Bohemia to Wisconsin. He will discuss how social class, ethnicity and religion affected the process of immigration. He will contrast village and farm organization in Bohemia and Wisconsin. He will discuss the political situation in both Bohemia and Wisconsin in 1848 and how it affected the ability to emigrate and the willingness to accept immigrants. The slides will include church and farm buildings in both Bohemia and Wisconsin. Life in Bohemia and Wisconsin will be compared and contrasted. Groups of immigrants settled in Watertown, Waterloo, Lebanon, the Lost Creek and Cherma area in Pierce County, and in Eastern North Dakota.

Early Landskroner settlers in Lebanon included John Motl from the town of Landskron and Anthony Pfeifer from Rudelsdorf. Others settled in Emmet including Francis Fischer, John Frodel, Francis Groh, John Huss, Joseph Huss, Frank Klecker, Vincent Klecker, Vincent Kreuziger, John Langer, John Meitner, John Miller, Francis Motl, John Pitterle, Johann Popp (Bopp), Frank Richter, Frank Roffels, John Roffels, Vincent Schoeberle, John Stangler, and John Zeiner.-familiar family names to many of us!!

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**SUNDAY MAY 21, 4:00PM**

**Featuring Scott Norrick**

**A Close Look and Analysis of the 1950 Census in Dodge County  
"ANCESTRAL PAST"**

Scott Norrick's passion is connecting people to their past. With an undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and a masters degree from Northwestern University, he combines over 30 years of family history research with the necessary skills and passion to provide meaningful and proven results. Having traced and documented thousands of ancestors and relatives in both the US and Northern Europe, he is experienced with all the latest and time-tested genealogical tools and resources.

Scott's presentation, **Ancestral Past**, will focus on Dodge County in the 1950 Census including Insights & Discoveries. His presentation will cover the following: Income Levels, Birth Locations, Parent's Birth Locations, Education Levels, Military Service, Employment-How many looking for work?, Home vs. Farm Residence, Most Common Jobs, Comparison of Dodge County on all above to other Midwest communities. There will be time to ask questions about Scott's presentation.

## From the President's Corner

### Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Marilyn Koepsell (Life), Watertown, WI  
 Gail Damrow (Life), Lebanon, WI  
 Robert & Erline Adler (Life), Watertown, WI  
 Ron & Eileen Kuehl (Life), Oshkosh, WI  
 Renee Raether (Life), Edina, MN  
 Jay & Sheryl Raether (Life), Oconomowoc, WI  
 Scott & Linda Raether (Life), Wausau, WI  
 Warren & Vicki Creydt (Life), O'Fallon, MO  
 William & Joyce Nass (Life), Watertown, WI  
 Pauline Sukow (Life), Watertown, WI  
 Pam Bartee (Life), Watertown, WI  
 Bob & Judy Kluetzman (Life), Watertown, WI  
 Edward G. Langer (Life), Nashotah, WI  
 Stan Kuehl, Jefferson, WI  
 Duane Schuett, Lomira, WI  
 Katie Boehlen, Iron Ridge, WI  
 Pine Cone Restaurant (Business), Johnson Creek, WI  
 CJ'S ON R, LLC (Business), Lebanon, WI  
 Daniel & Mary Christian (Life), Watertown, WI  
 Jim & Janet Pieper, (Life), Lebanon, WI

### MEMORIALS & OTHER DONATIONS

Susan Welles-In memory of Arvon Kuehl  
 Ed & Arlene Raether-In memory of Eileen Maas  
 Ed & Arlene Raether-In memory of Robert Ireland  
 Renee Raether-In memory of Timothy Bratz  
 Allen & Debbie Behl-In memory of Karen Smith  
 Allen & Debbie Behl-In memory of Harold Hachtel  
 Carol Ramage-In memory of Franklin Braunschweig  
 Wendy A. Craft-In memory of Emma Seeger  
 Pauline Sukow-In memory of Marlene Raether  
 Todd & Joan Wilson-In memory of Marlene Raether  
 Katie Boehlen-In memory of Ada Christian  
 Becky Schuett-In honor of Duane Schuett  
 Erla Newbecker-In memory of Franklin Braunschweig  
 Patty Schwefel-In memory of Don Schwefel  
 Allen & Debbie Behl- In honor of Edward & Arlene Raether's 65th Wedding Anniversary

### Can You Help With Clyman History?

The last comprehensive history of Dodge County, *Dodge County, Wisconsin: Past and Present*, was published in 1913. An earlier history, *The History of Dodge County, Wisconsin*, was published in 1880. None have been written since, which creates a large void in the preservation of our local history. -

Ed Langer, a Clyman native, is attempting to fill part of this void by writing a history of Clyman. Langer has spent many hours in the Wisconsin Historical Society Library, the Oshkosh Area Research Center, the Clyman Village Hall, the Dodge County Court House, the Dodge/Jefferson Genealogical Society and online, researching this history. He has also interviewed local residents and found intriguing pieces of history that should be preserved.

Did you know that Clyman's wooden water tower burned down in 1922? Did you know that Clyman had a Ford dealership in the 1920's? Did you know that residents of the future village of Clyman were worried that a rival village would arise at Clyman Junction, such as what happened at Ashippun and Lebanon? Did Irish Catholics really burn down their former church building to prevent a German farmer from buying it to use as a barn?

If you have stories, photos and treasures dealing with Clyman history, would you kindly share them with Ed by emailing him at <edlanger@att.net> or call him at 262-966-2117.

### A Wonderful Gift from the Estate of LHS Member Iris Nass Goetsch Stewart Steffen.

In 2018 we received more than \$32,000 which we used to completely revitalize the building's interior and exterior along with creating virtually new and exciting exhibits. We are waiting for another substantial gift to be used for new building furnishings along with naming the Genealogy Center in the new building in honor of Iris.

The Genealogy Center will feature historic records from more than 15-20 Lebanon Families which Iris had meticulously saved and which were organized by Sally Schoenike and Doreen Kuehl so that interested people will be able to come to the Center and research the information, make copies, etc. More information will follow in the next newsletter.

**We Need Volunteers For-**Greeting visitors to our Museum & Log Cabin; help with our chili event; write a family story for our Newsletter; be the Secretary of our Society; help Marilyn Koepsell in outfitting our new building and make a donation. Your help and support can make a difference!!

## LHS Museum & Karl Greve Log Cabin Hours in 2023

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



### Future 2023-2024 Programs and Event Sunday, 17 September, 2023

Program to be Announced

Sunday October 1, 2023

Annual Chili Lunch

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Sunday November 19, 2023

Program to be announced

Sunday January 21, 2024

Christmas Party & Pot-Luck

2:00 PM

Look for our Updated Web-Site in the  
coming months

<https://lebanonwi.com>

### Please patronize and support the Business Members of the Lebanon Historical Society

**Watertown Piggly Wiggly Store**-High quality food products from the Deli, Bakery, Meat, Produce & Floral Departments along with excellent and friendly customer service.

**Stoll's Olde 109, Lebanon**-Enjoy the ice-cold beverages and vibrant, flavorful dishes, famous Friday Fish Frys, along with special events & bands.

**Klecker's Heating & A/C, Inc. Watertown**-Quality products and services for all heating and cooling requirements on all brands of equipment.

**ERGO Bank, Lebanon**-Interactive Teller Machine & ATM right next to the Lebanon Historical Society's new permanent home.

**Lebanon Clyman Mutual Insurance Co., Lebanon**-Provides insurance coverage to the Wisconsin owners of farms, homes, and personal property.

**Universal Cooperative Association, Inc. Lebanon**-Specializes in providing feed and farm supplies along with agricultural chemicals and facilities for corn and related products processing/storage.

**Ixonia Bank, Ixonia**-Founded in 1918, it is a locally owned, independent commercial bank that provides a broad range of banking services to business and private customers.

**Ava's A Posh Boutique, Watertown**-Specializes in trendy women's clothing, accessories, and shoes-a one-stop shop for all things fashion related.

**Far Horizons Imports, Watertown**-A wonderful selection of jewelry, Russian nesting dolls, a large variety of cards, music, candles, incense and much, much more from Europe, Russia, Mexico and Indonesia.

**Hafemeister Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Watertown**-Provides funeral, memorial, aftercare, pre-planning and cremation services to the local and area community.

**Strieter Farm Truck Service, Lebanon**-Provides a wide range of trucking services for farm and commercial products, along with sand, gravel and excavation services.

**Zimmerman Electric, Neosho**-Specializes in general electrical work for commercial, industrial and residential projects.

**Sugar Island Barn, Sugar Island**-A rustic venue setting with a bar that offers a genuine and authentic wedding experience, along with facilities for other special events including food service and related amenities.

**Pine Cone Restaurant, Johnson Creek**-The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch & dinner with a large selection of sweets including pies, tasty eclairs, gigantic cream puffs along with their famous cinnamon and caramel rolls. Open 24-hours, 7-days/week.

**CJ's on R, Lebanon**-an intimate retail store selling a line of beverages including beer and soda, snacks, miscellaneous items, coffee and lottery tickets, along with friendly customer service.

**Glenn's Market & Catering Inc., Watertown**-Largest fresh retail meat market in Wisconsin including sausages, bratwurst, frozen poultry and fruits, bakery, deli, take-outs and offsite catering along with friendly customer service. Also has a wide variety of pet foods and treats.

**Chandlers House Bakery, Watertown**-Makes and sells a wide variety of cup cakes, cakes, brownies & bars, pies, muffins & cheesecake. They also cater special events and fill custom orders. Open Friday's & Saturday's from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Friendly service with a smile!!

**Lindberg's By The River, Watertown**-This famous family owned Supper Club, celebrating 50-years in business, and includes fish fry's, seafood, pasta dishes, salads, and desserts including their famous shaum torte-serving every Friday from 5:00 PM. Enjoy the charming atmosphere, great service and friendly staff, along with a full bar. Also available for carryout's & parties for birthday's, weddings, anniversaries etc. x cxcx

## Lebanon Historical Society

Lebanon Historical Society  
PO Box 23  
Lebanon, WI 53047-0023

The **Lebanon Historical Society Newsletter** is a semi-annual publication issued in Spring and Fall. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, or wish to receive the newsletter via email, please reply to [lebanonwihistory@gmail.com](mailto:lebanonwihistory@gmail.com)



### L e b a n o n ' s M e m o r y & S t o r y t e l l e r

## 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/](http://www.facebook.com/LebanonHistoricalSociety/)

[www.Lebanonwihistory.org](http://www.Lebanonwihistory.org)

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## 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.

Consider leaving a legacy gift to the LHS in your will and/or estate plan.