



# Historical Perspectives

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 20, Issue 3

Autumn 2009

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## Light Station Museum

Rick Smith, Co-Director  
Linda Nenn, Co-Director  
262-284-7240

## Newsletter

Angie Cope

## Quarterly Programs

Mary Flierl

## Contact information

portwashhistsoc@att.net  
262-268-9150  
P. O. Box 491  
429 West Grand Avenue  
Port Washington, WI 53074

## Website

portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

*Historical Perspectives* is published four times a year by the PW Historical Society.

## Membership

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

## Taverns, Saloons, Sample Rooms & Pubs

The businesses that served the public alcoholic beverages have been known by various names over the years. In many cases, names changed but locations remained the same since the late 1800's while others were replaced



Union House in the 19th Century—now the Wilson House

by completely different businesses. On the west side of the City, the Harris Bank on Grand Avenue is the location where **Watry's Tavern (1940), later Friend's Tavern (1951), and then Andy's Tap (1955) once brought in many thirsty visitors.** On the opposite side of the street The Railroad House (1898), later **Harrer's Tavern (1940), Hank's Tap (1951), The Avenue Bar** and later the Red Barn were at the current site of a popular City stop - Sweetheart Cakes.

The Quarterly Meeting will explore how taverns changed in the past century. From being the gathering place to garner the news of the day to a place to meet friends to watch sports events on wide screen TV while enjoying food and beverages from the establishment. **It is said that Bink's was the last tavern that offered a 'free lunch.'**

There will be displays of artifacts that have been donated to the historical society from the various taverns

and the Port Brewery. Including ashtrays, pens, matchbooks, calendars, bottles and glasses, etc. The Port Washington Historical Society welcomes donations of like items to add to the collection of artifacts.

... Continued on page 7 ...

### Quarterly Meeting

October 21, 2009

7:00pm

American Legion Clubhouse

435 Lake Street in Port Washington

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## President's Message

A busy summer is now a pleasant memory. Weather wise we certainly were challenged; those of us who live in Port Washington accept conditions that Mother Nature sends knowing it will be different in another hour. The volunteers who manned the tent at the Maritime Heritage Festival will vouch for that. Please read your newsletter carefully as it is filled with reports of the Society's summer activities and planned future events.

The unique idea of the Gold Rush, turning unused jewelry into cash donations, as part of the annual appeal's drive proved to be very successful. Thank you again Grace Eernisse for the splendid idea. The real plus is that it will continue to generate funds for us as Sharbuno's has agreed to work with the friends and members who want to donate in the future. So don't forget that if a piece breaks beyond repair or isn't being used it can be turned into a donation to support our mission, preserving your heritage.

It is never too early to start Christmas shopping and the Society offers new items for gift giving. A second DVD, a narrated stroll through downtown Port Washington admiring buildings, comparing the old and the new, has been created, only \$20.00. We have two porcelain pieces beautifully appointed with gold trim depicting the Light Station. The ornament with picture and history is \$10.50 and the very collectible magnet is only \$4.50. Pictured on page 6. Check out the web site for gift shop items.

I look forward to seeing you at the October quarterly meeting... mark it on your calendar... we guarantee you will enjoy the evening.

*Geri Zehren,*



## Storage Space

We are still in need of some off-site storage of materials we don't need immediate access to. If you have, or know someone who has, about 50 square feet of dry, safe storage to keep some collections, please contact the Office at 262-268-9150.

### Show you care with "WE CARE"

The Port Washington Historical Society is a participant in 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 Savers Club Card application or on a change form available at the service counter of any Pick 'N Save store. A percent of all purchase dollars will be donated to the Historical Society.

**PWHS  
"We Care"  
Number  
620430**

## Fall Gala “A Cornucopia of History” Planned

Save the date: Saturday, November 6th, 2010. Yes, 2010! The Port Washington Historical Society, along with the Court House Restoration Committee and the Judge Eghart House will host an evening of Lincoln-era history.

Plans for the evening festivities include a presentation by Abraham Lincoln por-trayer, Mr. Robert Rotgers, appetizers and music reminiscent of the Lincoln White House Era, as well as silent and live auctions. One of the goals for this event is to recog-nize descendants of Civil War soldiers of Ozaukee County. With that in mind, we invite families whose ancestors were veterans of the Civil War to come forward with informa-tion for the Society to use in its Wall of Remembrance. Those families who attend will be given recognition at the event. If you have information about a family member, please contact Kathie Gordon at 262-268-9734 (e-mail: momcat@acninc.net). If you would like to participate in the preparation of the gala or make a donation for the auc-tion, please contact the Historical Society at 262-268-9150.

The Fall Gala will be a fund-raiser for the continued restoration of the Ozaukee County Courthouse and will also benefit the Judge Eghart House and the Historical So-ciety.

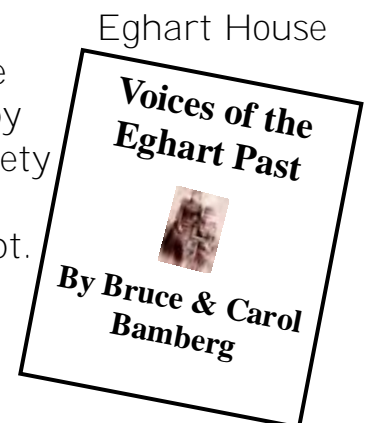
*Kathie Gordon*

## Eghart Family History at Resource Center

Bruce and Carol Bamberg have written a booklet for guides at the Judge Eghart House that comprises a number of historic sketches and life stories of Eghart family members. Bruce lived in the Eghart house as a child and used a collection of letters written by family members and his own recollections to write the life stories. Further knowledge was supplemented by stories from Mrs. Mary Cady, Howard Bostwick (an unofficial family historian), and John and Dorothy Bostwick.

The stories are written in the first person in such a manner that the family member seems to be telling his or her own history. The stories or sketches will be used in a number of ways by the guides and incorporated into future Judge Eghart House exhibits and programs. Bruce and Carol both guide for the Judge Eghart House and are directors on the Judge Eghart Board. A copy of the booklet was donated to the Port Washington Historical Society and can be viewed during Resource Center hours Monday and Thursday 1-4 pm or by appointment. Call 262-268-9150 for an appt.

*Judy Jones, W.J. Niederkorn Museum and Art Center*



# Most Successful Maritime Heritage Festival

It took a loyal band of Port Washington Historical Society members and friends to make the Heritage part of the Maritime Heritage Festival the best it has been. Well over forty volunteers contributed to the weekend. Volunteers helped set up and staff the museum in the lower level of the Hotel, set up and staff a booth in Rotary Park, and guide nearly 400 visitors through the Light Station.

Rick Smith undertook the monumental task of presenting a maritime museum displaying of a shipwreck and artifacts from a number of Lake Michigan shipwrecks. Rick, being a former teacher, made it truly a learning experience. Huge thanks go to Rick for his time and dedication to help the festival have a very local maritime connection. It took nine volunteers a total of 54 hours to just set up the museum. Over 1,200 visitors toured the museum that was included with admission and the passport to the tall ship *Madeline*.

The Rotary Park booth offered the Society the opportunity to promote the Light Station, the Historical Society, and the nu-

merous retail items for sale. A special thanks is extended to Shirley Gruen for her donation of past Maritime Heritage Festival posters. Booth sales and donations totaled over \$1,000. Special thanks is extended to Geri Zehren for stepping in to help things run smoothly during the Festival.

The Light station saw a record number of visitors over the three days of the Festival, none of which would be possible without the dedication of a small group of guides that worked tirelessly to make it possible.

Our Society mission is about **promoting and preserving our history**. The city's maritime history is an integral part of that community history and this yearly event gives us an opportunity to educate the public **and to acknowledge the Historical Society's** role in that preservation. If you were a part of our involvement in the Festival, the Board of Director's extends a hearty thank you. If you were not, please consider being a part this event next year. Every little bit helps!



*Rick Smith, Eric Oleson and Jim Fowler assembling the shipwreck replica for the 2009 Maritime Heritage Festival Museum.*

*Jackie Oleson*

## Maritime Heritage Festival cont'd



*Over 1,200 visitors toured the museum included with the admission to the tall ship Madeline.*

*Rick Smith's personal collection of artifacts from a number of Lake Michigan shipwrecks were on display and Rick played ambassador to our city's heritage.*

*Chrissy, the lighthouse dog, provided friendly inspiration.*





## Judge Larson

A charter member of the Port Washington Historical Society, and a life-long resident of Port Washington, Judge Charles L. Larson died on August 14<sup>th</sup> 2009. He loved this city and maintained a detailed memory of Port Washington's history which he enjoyed sharing with others.

After attending St Mary's grade school, Judge Larson graduated from Port Washington High School in 1925. He disappointed his father by choosing to attend Marquette University rather than participating in the family's smoked fish business. Charles Larson attended classes at Marquette during the day, and worked nights to finance his education. After graduating from Marquette's Law School in 1930, he returned to Port Washington to set up a practice. He was elected Ozaukee County District Attorney in 1934 and served two terms.

In 1942 he accepted an officer's commission in the U.S. Navy and served aboard the U.S.S. Charles M. Hall. Later Larson was assigned to the Judge Advocate General's Office and was stationed in San Francisco and New York.

After returning home, Charles Larson was elected mayor of Port Washington for one 2-year term in the 1940's. He did not seek a second term.

For the remainder of his life he practiced law, spending the majority of his years on the bench.



In 1957 Judge Larson presided over the newly created Ozaukee County Municipal Court and then became a County Judge after which he served as a Circuit Court Judge. He retired in 1978 but continued as a reserve judge.

In 1968 Judge Larson was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court to preside at the trial of five priests and a minister, later known as the Milwaukee 14, who had broken into the Selective Service office and burned draft records in protest of the Vietnam War. This became his most significant and widely publicized case.

Judge Larson was a life-long member of St Mary's Congregation and belonged to the Knights of Columbus. He was a member of the PW Rotary Club, serving a term as Rotary District Governor in 1977.

Judge Larson was active in the American Legion, a member of the Van Ells-Shanen American Legion Post 82, and became the State Commander in 1949. In addition, he maintained membership at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5373.

The judge was preceded in death by his wife Patricia, and is survived by three children, ten grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

*Sue Bruner*



Magnet \$4.50

New Porcelain  
Light House  
Magnet and  
Ornament



Ornament (with text on back) \$10.50

## Alyce Appleman

Alyce Appleman was a shy child who grew up to be a quiet, very intelligent woman, with a smile generally reserved for family and friends. She garnered few accolades during her 58 years, yet I believe the voice she heard when she left our midst in July, 2009 welcomed her with these simple words, "Job well done."

Alyce was born in Whitewater, Wisconsin and spent the rest of her life in Port Washington, except for time out for a University degree. Alyce was a familiar face at Lincoln School, the Senior Center and numerous other community organizations. She never joined the Historical Society, yet she and her mother, Jean, were regular attendees at Society meetings. With little attention, Alyce became an ambassador for our city and the Historical Society.

Alyce and Jean volunteered in the 1990s as hosts at the Light Station Museum. Shortly after the dedication of the tower and lantern, Alyce joined the little group of guides at the Light Station working **weekends and showing up at a moment's notice** for unplanned tours. Her private smile became more public as she brought history to **life, spinning stories of Port Washington's** history and the old Lighthouse.

Even after being diagnosed with cancer, between surgeries and treatment, Alyce continued to give tours, contributing over 1,000 hours to our Society. She requested of those who would come together to celebrate her life that they remember the Lighthouse, her second home. The Historical Society has never received as many memoriams as were given in honor of Alyce. I hope you're smiling, my friend.

*Linda Nenn*

## Taverns cont'd

*... continued from page 1*

Gopher One has a history that goes back to **Marty's Tavern, operated by Marty Ryer**. Some of you may remember The Grand Avenue Saloon as **Allie's Tavern** run by Allie Feirereisen.

**Charlie's Tavern** was run by Charlie Gliieber before it became know by a few other names including the Sketch Bar operated by Tony Pochert. **Lutzen's Tavern didn't undergo changes in names until 1992.**

**Does anyone remember Roob's Rainbow Room—or the Shanty Bar?**

**Janeshek's remained in the family until** it became the Schooner Pub whose proprietor is Chico Poull.

**The Bodega, presently Foxy's, was another anchor in downtown Port Washington.** It was a place to go on Friday for Lucina **Weyker's special potato salad fish fries.**

**The Sportsman's Bar, presently Beanie's** underwent many name changes starting in **the 1950's.**

The present day Sundance saw many name changes from the Dominic Watry Saloon (1898), Peter Rinn Tavern (1935), **Fish's Tavern(1940), Marine Bar (1951-69),** and others.

The hotels all had taverns that provided patrons with their favorite beverage.

It is hoped that those in attendance might be able to add to the information that will be presented at the program about taverns in Port. At one time there were 32 taverns in the City of Port Washington. Not all have survived.

*Mary Flierl*

# Volunteer of the Quarter

The Port Washington Historical Society is pleased to honor Helen Nenn as our Volunteer of the Quarter. Helen is the oldest of the volunteers at the Light Station but by no means one with the fewest hours served. As a young eighty-six year old Helen is not new to volunteering. In fact, Helen has a long history of volunteering, beginning back when her children were in scouts and continuing through the years to serve both her church, the Senior Center and now the Lighthouse. Helen and her husband Barney raised five children - three girls and two boys. She is blessed with thirteen grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Helen worked for the Ozaukee Press for twenty years as Office Manager. After retiring twenty-two years ago, she put her energies into volunteering. Twenty-three years ago when the District Aquatic Center opened, Helen started a water exercise program for seniors at the pool. She continues to teach the class of fifteen to

twenty seniors three times a week.

At the Lighthouse, Helen greets each visitor as they enter. At the end of the day she also balances out the receipts. What began in 2008 as an occasional occurrence in busy times has developed into Helen being present most Saturdays and Sundays. Helen is by far our most regular volunteer, missing only for those rare family obligations. When asked what she likes about volunteering at the lighthouse, **Helen states "I like meeting all the people. I look forward to the weekend."**

For those of us who also volunteer at the Lighthouse we appreciate the

time Helen spends with us. Helen typifies how anyone can make a difference no matter how large the task. Besides which, we love having her there to visit with between visitors.

*Jackie Oleson*



*Helen Nenn welcoming visitors to the Light Station, Summer 2009*



*Dear Light House Docents and Volunteers,*

*Dear Cindy Sieklik, Jim Fowler, Jackie Oleson, Helen Nenn, Bill Ross, Marianne Kartheiser, Geri Zehren, Elaine Nulph, Kellie Barber, John Enright, Alice Horton, Mary Kay Schuknecht, Leroy Bley, Sarah Smith, Sharon Brown, Dani Leppla, DeDe Leppla, Ardy Ahsmann, Doug Ahsmann, Ron Mans, Ann Ollman, and Chrissy the Lighthouse Dog,*

*Each of you embodies the best qualities of a volunteer. Your willingness to give so many hours of your time and energy to provide an unforgettable experience to all who visited our city's 1860 Lighthouse and site is to be commended. Even when construction barricades intimidated those trying to gain access to our Hidden Gem, you forged on and welcomed over 2,000 visitors. You shared the history of our community and the Light Station in a way that both entertained and enlightened current city residents, returning residents, lighthouse enthusiasts and many who climbed the city steps curious but unaware that a restored lighthouse would emerge as they crested the steps.*

*See you next year and bring a friend!*

*Thank you,*

*Rick Smith  
Linda Nenn  
Co-Directors: Port Washington WI 1860 Light Station*

## **Help yourself while you help the PWHS**

The U.S. Congress recently extended a law that allows individuals to make tax-free gifts from their IRA to qualified charitable organizations, such as the Port Washington Historical Society. You can transfer any amount up to \$100,000 in 2009 without having to pay income taxes on the gift.

- You must be 70 1/2 years old or older
- The distribution must be made directly from the Trustee of an IRA to the Port Washington Historical Society
- Transfers for 2009 must be made by December 31, 2009

Please check with your financial or tax advisor to determine if this option is a good opportunity to help yourself while helping the Society. Consider making an unrestricted gift to the Society's Annual Fund or a contribution to the Light House Restoration Fund to restore the Light House windows.

To make an IRA rollover contribution, please contact our Treasurer, Linda Nenn at 262-284-7240 or [1860lightstation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1860lightstation@sbcglobal.net)

## **Considering a charitable gift to a non-profit in your estate plan?**

Don't forget the Port Washington Historical Society! Such gifts help groups like ours expand programs, enhance collections, and maintain historic properties like the Light House. For more information, please contact 262-268-9150.

# Memorials & Donations

## ALYCE A. APPLEMAN LIGHT STATION MEMORIALS

Michael and Shrie Dimmer  
 Diane and L. Paul Singer  
 Ellen Schlichting  
 Jacquelyn Oleson  
 Trea Kimball  
 Mary E. Flierl  
 Alice Robenhorst  
 Robin Honish  
 Ellen and Rick Smith  
 Robert and Suzanne Koch  
 Christy and Steven Baughman  
 Joana Eckert  
 Bill and La Lonie Ross  
 Ann and Floyd Peters  
 Arlene and Frederick McCraw  
 Bethel Foelker  
 Eric and Laura Eberhardt  
 Mark Kimball  
 Scott and Alex Brost  
 Friends of Alyce  
 Geri and Roy Zehren  
 Ruth Gruber  
 Elaine Nulph  
 Linda Nenn  
 Mary Kay Schuknecht

## RUTH MEYER MEMORIAL LIGHT STATION-COMMEMORATIVE BRICK

Linda Nenn and Helen M. Nenn

## ANTOINETTE (TONI) SMITH LIGHT STATION-COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

Mary E. Flierl	Rick D. Smith
Linda M. Nenn & Helen M. Nenn	
Geri and Roy Zehren	Sue Bruner
James Fowler	Jacquelyn Oleson

## LS RESTORATION

Rick Smith	Jerry Smith
Linda Nenn	Alice Horton
Linda Anderson	Ellen Smith
Alyce Appleman	Sarah Smith
Elaine Nulph	

## OTHER RESTORATION DONATIONS

Luxembourg visitors  
**Donation Boxes incl. Drew's**  
 Rounded up admissions

## LIGHT STATION RESTORATION WINDOW APPEAL

Daniel H. Smith  
 Marianne Kartheiser  
 Betty Savage: In memory of Joseph and Matilda Biever  
 Dorothy Nowicki  
 Lu Steinert  
 Geri and Roy Zehren

## CASH DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

Carol Heinen, Suzanne Bruner, James Koenen, Bryon Johnson, Marc Eernisse, Linda Nenn, Sue Ahner, and Dan Smith

## MEMORIALS AT THE OFFICE

Ruth Runkel for her cousin Paul Runkle, Joan and LeRoy Bley, Mary Flierl, Katie Rutz, Jackie Oleson, Grace Eernisee, Katie Callen, Karen Morris, Kathie Gordon, Marianne Kartheiser, & Sue Ahner

## GOLD RUSH DONATIONS

Geri Zehren, Bernice Beer, Wayne & Marge Hoffman, Joan and LeRoy Bley, Mary Flierl, Katie Rutz, Jackie Oleson, Grace Eernisee, Katie Callen, Karen Morris, Kathie Gordon, Marianne Kartheiser, & Sue Ahner

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Shirley Shanen Gruen: Maritime Fest. Prints  
 Andy Bretl for making copies of our CD to **DVD's**

# Eventful Year for the Light Station

The season is drawing to a close and it's been a good summer and fall. Once again there is a shortage of tour guides, but the great group of docents adjusted their schedules to volunteer at the Light Station. Having two tour guides on duty is simply not enough, even with the addition of an admission taker. The Light Station crew hopes more people will step forward and volunteer next year. Please **contact any Board member if you're interested in helping share our "Hidden Gem" with the public.**

Road construction and limited access to the Light Station was the major theme for the 2009 season. While always open, navigating the route often seemed like off road driving. Ever-present barricades confused and deterred potential visitors. **But it's over! The new street is very nice. The site now sports new sidewalks along the south and east sides.**

Donations for the window project planned for the summer and fall were short of expectations with admissions falling by about a third. Hopefully the project will go forth this winter. Thank you to each of you that continue to financially support the Light Station Project.

In an effort to educate the public and interpret our site, the great collection of historic lifesaving items will remain on display for one more year. The array of navigational lights continues to grow as well as many new antiques and pieces of memorabilia in the **keeper's dwelling. New shelves highlight Historical Society "gift shop" retail items. A very popular eclectic collection of "flotsam and jetsam"** — new and gently used antique, vintage and nautical themed gifts which were donated by our docents and a few members at large — give our visitors a unique and popular opportunity to buy everything from original artwork, pottery (large and small), lighthouses, candles, notecards, wind chimes, a lighthouse clock, Christmas ornaments, a lighthouse Christmas tree, crocheted doilies, broken beach china (much of which comes from the TOLEDO, destroyed in an 1856 storm), ceramic pieces, etc. **If you have items you'd like**

to donate, contact Rick Smith or Linda Nenn at the Light Station, 262-284-7240.

Without a doubt the biggest attraction continues to be **the climb up the ships' ladders to the lantern.** Viewing the Fresnel Lens firsthand and taking in the view of Lake Michigan, only available from the lantern deck, 126 feet above the lakeshore and above new construction, is a real treat.

This year marked the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **the building of Port Washington's first Light Tower and keeper's dwelling on this site.** Next year, 2010, will be the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the rebuilding of the Lighthouse. It will also mark 10 years since the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Port Washington Historical Society **joined forces to restore this symbol of our City's maritime past. The success of this "Hands Across the Sea" project is a credit to all who turned a dream into a reality.**

Perhaps our most esteemed guest this summer was Madam Erna Hennicott, formerly the Minister of Culture and Education for the Grand Duchy, now the Luxembourg Ambassador to the European Union. She took time away from the Luxembourg Festival to revisit the place where, in June 2002, she cut the red ribbon **from the vantage point of the City's snorkel fire truck, officially dedicating the Restoration.** Madam returned to see if we had continued the project she had approved back in 2000. Without fanfare, she, her husband, a secretary and Guy Dockendorf, Director General of the Ministry of Culture and frequent visitor to our site, took in a tour and hurried us along so they could **climb up the tower and check out their countrymen's handiwork. Their delight was obvious. Madam's compliments were unequivocal. Regarding the construction that has already occurred and is planned around the Lighthouse? Let's just say, in the Grand Duchy, historic preservation carries a greater value.**

Thank you to everyone that has contributed **and continue to contribute to our "Hidden Gem."**

See you next year.

*Linda Nenn*



PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 491  
Port Washington, WI 53074-0491  
[www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org)

## Society Calendar

### QUARTERLY MEETING

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Clubhouse  
435 Lake Street in Port Washington  
Port Washington, Wisconsin

*Public and guests welcome!*

November 18, 2009  
Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
Flack House

December 16, 2009  
Board Meeting, 7:00pm  
Flack House

Wednesday, January 20, 2009  
Quarterly meeting & program 7pm

Forever Gold Rush  
at Sharbuno Jewelers

Fall Gala, Cornucopia of History  
Saturday, November 6th, 2010