

THE EAGLE SPEAKS

CHIPPEWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2015

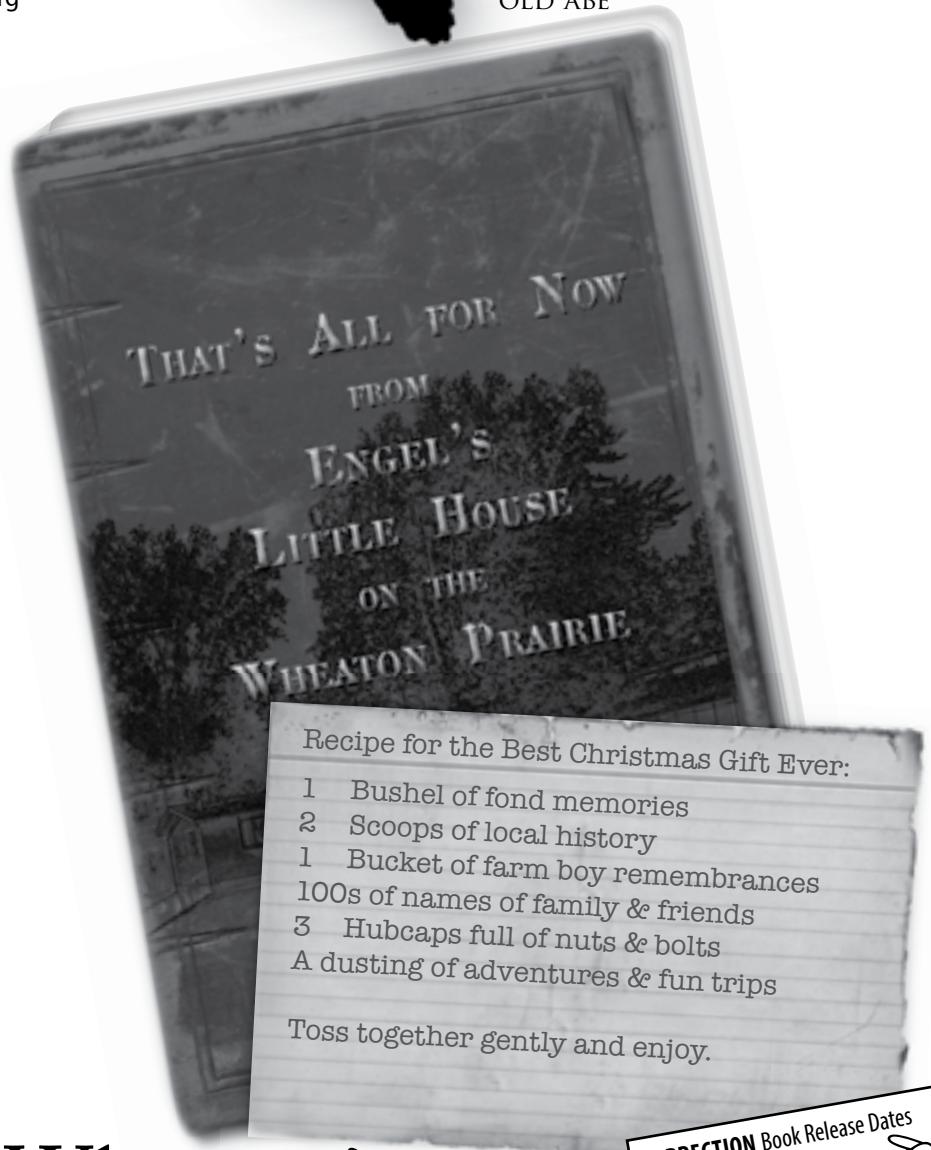


"OLD ABE"

www.chippewacountywihistoricalsociety.org

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What is it?

A new book by the late Arley R. Engel . . .

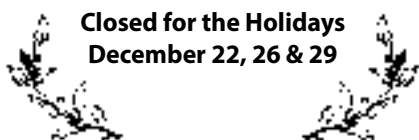
That's All For Now From Engel's Little House on the Wheaton Prairie

You are invited to attend two book release parties scheduled for Monday, Dec. 14, 2-4 pm at Foreign 5, 123 N. Bridge St. and Thursday, Dec. 27, 5-7 pm at the Public Library. The book will continue to be available for sale at Foreign 5 and the History Center.

The new book is a compilation of articles written by Arley for this newsletter from 2002-2015 and includes stories about his adventures and life experiences. The 240 page, perfect bound, soft cover book, printed by Rooney Printing, will sell for \$10 price.

CORRECTION Book Release Dates
 Monday, Dec. 14 | Foreign 5
 Thursday, **Dec. 17** | Public Library

Area History Center
 will be
 Closed for the Holidays
 December 22, 26 & 29





CHIPPEWA COUNTY

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2015-2016

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Mandelert Family History

JIM MANDELERT

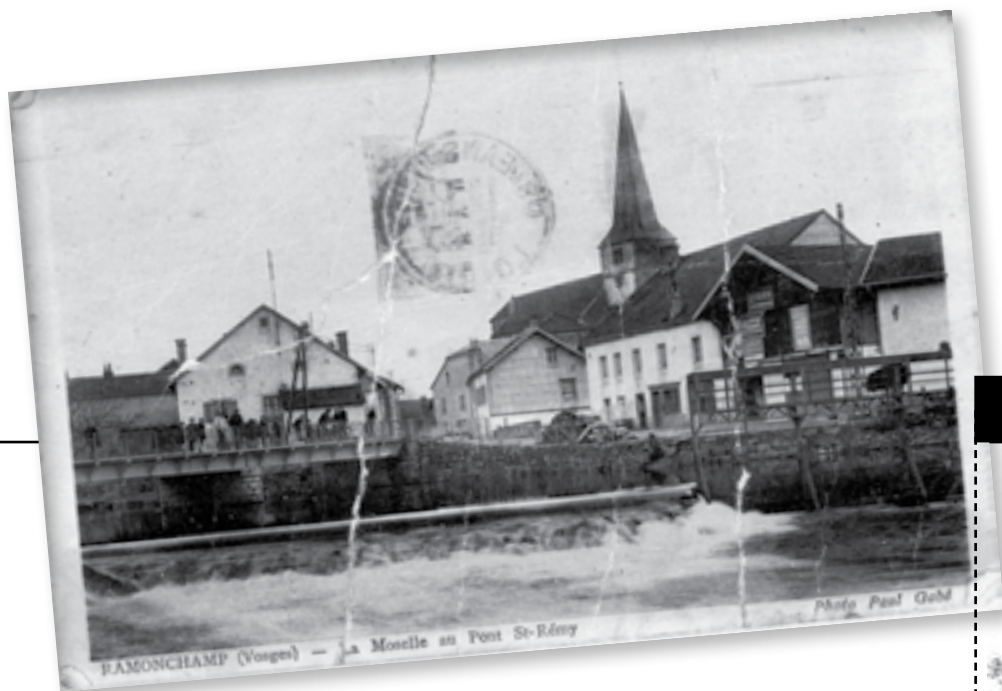
Hello all. My name is Jim Mandelert and I am a new member of the Chippewa County Historical Society. Although I am new to CCHS, I am not new to Chippewa Falls. My family history here goes back to before the Civil War. Many people don't know much about their family history and I encourage them to visit the genealogy center for help from the knowledgeable staff there. I have been fortunate to have had relatives who did considerable research on my family. Nancy Schuh has suggested that I share some of the stories of the Mandelert past, so here goes.

My family name, Mandelert, can be traced back to the 1500s to the Vosges Mountains of France. These mountains are similar to our Appalachian Mountains and are located in eastern France near the borders of Germany and Switzerland. In the small village of Ramonchamp, my family lived in a house along France's National Route 66, a well-traveled road. The tiny Mosel River flows through Ramonchamp just a block from the house. Rebuilt in 1776, the house became a rent-a-horse inn on a network of such inns. Back then, a traveler went to his local rent-a-horse inn and bought a ticket to ride to his desired destination. The ticket had places to punch, one for each day's travel. With the ticket, the traveler also got room and board. With the rebuilding, our house now had food and beverage service, sleeping rooms and a stable for horses.

One day in 1852, the local Baron's son came by in the afternoon to have a drink. He had been drinking already that day and was quite drunk. During the evening, he became much more drunk and very abusive. When the Mandelert boys had enough of that bad behavior, they opened the front door and threw the Baron's son out right onto Route 66. At home, the son whined about how he had been abused at the hands of the terrible Mandelert's.

The Baron decided to bring a defamation lawsuit under Napoleonic Law. Under that law, one could bring suits against males, not females, but the Baron had named only Charles, the oldest. So, what to do? The family decided that Charles should turn the business over to the family, and leave. But where should he go? Since the United States had no extradition treaty with France, Charles avoided prosecution by booking passage from Le Havre to New York City. Arriving in Chippewa Falls in 1856, he decided to reside in Frenchtown.

While the prosecution continued in 1855, Joseph, who was the next youngest brother, and his even younger brother, left for the United States. At Utica in upper New York State, the youngest brother died after losing a game of poker. Joseph then headed south to Mississippi. With the Civil War starting in 1862 and with word of his older brother doing well at lumbering, he went up-river to Chippewa Falls. He found the village of



MEMBERSHIP FORM



Chippewa Falls to be bustling with business and the two brothers decided to start the French Lumbering Company. In 1867, another brother, Victor, came from France, but several years after joining them, he was found not suitable for business and, with a pension, was sent back home to France.

Over several years letters were exchanged between the family's brothers and sisters, many of which we have today. And there have been reunions between the cousins from time to time as well.

As a college student, I met one of my French cousins when he was a foreign exchange student in Iowa. We still communicate with him. And, in the 1980s I had the privilege of working for Cray Research installing a Cray 2 supercomputer in southern Germany. I trained customer service technicians from England, Germany, and France. Not being fluent in French, I asked one of the French techs if he would be willing to call my cousin and arrange for me to visit this cousin and his family. Arrangements were made, and I traveled to Nancy to meet him. It turned out that he was a veterinary student with good English language skills.

Together we traveled into the Vosge Mountains to the town of Le Thillot, the French county seat for Ramonchamp. When we met with my cousin's grandmother, her first question was, "Does Al Capone still terrorize Wisconsin?" "Well no," I said, "He is long gone." Later we went to Ramonchamp to see the old family home that I mentioned earlier. It had not been lived in since WWII, but the war damage was now being repaired. The old inn was still there as well as the stables. Nearby gardens we saw were now overgrown with grape vines.

Grandmother had a leather bag of many keys and each one fit another of the unique locks on the several doors. Leaving Grandmother at the inn, we visited the Catholic cemetery in Le Thillot. There we were in the presence of many of my ancestors going way back to the 1500s. A fit ending to a venture into my past. ✪



Just Like Santa! Jane Nicolai grew up on the west Hill in Chippewa Falls. During this last year it feels like Jane has been CCHS's personal Santa Claus. She has delivered van loads of Chippewa Fall's memorabilia that had been saved by her grandparents, her mother and father and herself. Many of her recent donations are on display in our dining area.

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MAIL TO:

Chippewa County
 Historical Society
 123 Allen Street
 Chippewa Falls, WI 54729





Cousins Jackie Lockbaum and Jean Hebert (our speaker), display two of their grandmother's dolls that had been hidden in the walls of a home on the West Hill for over 100 years.

Our new Chippewa County Historical Society MOBILE MUSEUM made its debut appearance on November 3 at the Area History Center. Then it was put in winter storage until spring. It will be used at *The Past Passed Here*, in Allen Park, May 11-15, 2016 when 600 Fourth Grade students will learn about the French Fur trade and the lumber industry.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to Jake Jacobson and his wife Betty for planning and building our new mobile museum. They were assisted by Skip August, Jim Erickson and Jim Schuh. Also a thank you to the late Arley Engel and his wife June who donated the trailer that Arley originally built and used for many years as an award winning parade float. The rebuilding project began Sept. 24th when Boy Scouts helped unload the trailer and put artifacts into storage at the Area History Center.



A Message From Your President



We have just finished experiencing nature's colorful display on the trees in Wisconsin. Unfortunately as I'm looking out the window, all the colorful display is now on the ground waiting for me to scoop it up and dispose of it.

If you missed our semi-annual membership meeting in September you missed a great story I call the "Dolls in the Wall." It seems that Jean Hebert's grandmother had special dolls that Jean heard about but never saw. Jean told the story of visiting the remodeled home of her grandmother. There she learned the dolls were found intact in one of the walls in the house. Not only was the story fascinating, but Jean had the dolls at the meeting for all to see.

Well . . . the final report on our MAP grant has arrived. All forty pages are filled with compliments and suggestions for our continued progress toward excellence in our museum. I will give you the "Cliff Notes" version but there will be a test at the end of this message (just kidding).

Delecia Huitt our peer reviewer was very helpful and a lot of fun. In fact we may have talked her into coming to *The Past Passed Here* next year. The following are some excerpts from the report.

The CCHS needs to dedicate itself to a planning effort that will provide the institution with guidance in all areas of operation. Everything from revising the board's by-laws to creating planning documents for the physical development of the site, artifact care, interpretation and natural resource assessment, care and future use.

There are many wonderful exhibits in the museum that are used to interpret a variety of topics."

The board members with whom I met are dedicated to the museum, its operation, and future development. They are facing a great challenge in attempting to develop a wonderful museum within the constraint of a building that was built as a convent. It was not constructed to welcome the public, it was built as a haven from the public.

The Historical Society should have a mission statement that encompasses its three-pronged organization Museum, Research and Education/Outreach ... Develop a complete set of plans for the operation and development of the CCHS. These plans should include: Collections Management Policy, Operations Plan, Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Response Plan, Facilities and Maintenance Plan, Education or Interpretation Plan, and Development Plan.

Don't be overwhelmed by the report. The board has taken the report to heart and will implement it one step at a time to make the Society even better.

I saw our new Mobile Logging Museum on November 3. Jake, Skip, Jim Schuh and Jim Erickson have taken Arley's Trailer and rebuilt it into an exhibit that will be used at *The Past Passed Here* and many other school and community locations. You won't want to miss seeing it when it is complete.

Dave :•

Donations



Committees in sync!



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*Donna Bourget
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Elly Rochester, layout & design
Nancy Schuh, author & proofreader
Jim Erickson, proofreader
Jim Mandelert, author
Column Authors: Kathy Forsgren, Dave Gordon

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Contributing Memberships:

Kathryn Lunney
Mary Lynne Shimek

HISTORIC MARKER UPDATE

JIM SCHUH

During 2015, \$1,000 was budgeted for repairing the deteriorated Cobban Bridge, Wisconsin Historical Marker. The actual cost was \$1,186.62. Thank you to Gaber Signs for doing a beautiful job refinishing the marker. As usual Kurt provided a substantial labor price discount.



This year Kurt Gaber and his staff at Gaber Signs have donated their labor and refurbished and/or replaced several historic markers. Renovated markers include: H. S. Allen Home, H. S. Allen Park, Central Lutheran Church, Cook Rutledge Mansion, Father Goldsmith Chapel and Norway House. They replaced the marker at Notre Dame Church. The Trinity United Methodist Church marker was also replaced and moved to a new location near the new main entrance. The Leinenkugel Brewing Co. marker was replaced and moved near Leinie Lodge. Chippewa City got an entire new house, sign and post. Busy busy! Proposed New Markers: Logger's Baseball Team Diamond, Jean Brunet Home (Cornell), Soldier & Sailor Pavilion, Star Mill Dam Grist Mill and Lake Wissota Dam.

The CCHS Historic Marker Program remaining balance is \$276.83, which will not allow for much activity in 2016. A grant request was submitted to the Community Foundation of Chippewa County for our Historic Marker program. If you would like to help fund this program please send us tax-deductible donation "designated for Historic Marker Program." ❖



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Julie Moriarty and her brother Tim Hildebrand, descendants of the Goldsmith family explore the area where their Great uncle, Father Goldsmith, had lived and worked. They shared early photos of Father Goldsmith and his mother dating back to 1857



GENEALOGY CORNER

ANNE KELLER

The Chippewa County Genealogical Society exists because there are people who enjoy searching for information about their family's roots. Family-tree research is a form of historical research – it is one's own family's history sandwiched among between the history of the area in which it lived. CCHS exists to be helpful in the pursuit!

If your roots are here in Chippewa County and you would like to be the recipient of one of the following certificates, let us at CCGS help you find that proof. That's what we're here for.

The Wisconsin State Genealogical Society offers the possibility of receiving a certificate for a specific area of its interest. Those certificates are: military, pioneer/century, homestead, and reunion. You can receive a Military Certificate if you can prove that you are a descendant of an ancestor with Wisconsin ties who served in a war prior to the Vietnam era. It is possible to receive a Pioneer or Century Family Certificate if you can prove that you are directly descended from an ancestor who settled in Wisconsin prior to 1851 or 100 years preceding the date of application. A Homestead Certificate means that you can prove that your ancestor obtained a homestead in Wisconsin. If your family holds a reunion, it is possible to receive a Reunion Certificate.

Visit the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society website at <http://wsgs.org>, then select "about the society" and choose the appropriate certificate program. Print the required form and instructions. OR email the WSGS office at wsgs@wsgs.org to request the specific application. OR write to the WSGS office at its address, included below, to request the specific paperwork (include a SASE).

After we've helped you locate required proof, applications should be sent to the WSGS office at PO Box 5106, Madison, WI 53705-0106. Allow four to six weeks for processing. ❄️

Journey to Chippewa Falls

JULIE MORIARTY, PITTSBURGH, PA

I started thinking seriously about your city a decade ago. I certainly took my time getting up to visit it. In truth, I had been hoping to visit for some time and after my research, I could resist no longer!!

My maiden name is Julie Hildebrand. I was always interested in family history but it was not until my grandparents died in 1968 that I saw the first really old pictures and discovered within myself an interest that would be rekindled years later. I married and my husband and I had two children. The joys and challenges of raising a family and moving from Ohio to Colorado, North Carolina, California and eventually, Pennsylvania, occupied much of my time. In addition, the computer was just coming into its own and was not easily available. What a wonderful research tool it turned out to be!

My search began 10 or 15 years ago, when my mother and I dragged out the boxes of old photos and tried to discern who those people were. I know many, if not all of you, have experienced that. My mother, Betty, was a huge help, having been in the family since 1940. There were family recollections, stories related to some of the pictures, and detailed descriptions of clothing and events. I am so glad we had that time together—we both enjoyed organizing the pieces of history we found. She passed in 2013. I not only miss her in my life but also miss her smile and interest in learning all of the new information I have discovered over the past 2 years. My father died in 1971 so I was never able to ask him questions about his family.

From that early research I had names—Rebholz, Bergeron, Goldsmith and Stoffel but little else. Then I found Ancestry.com. Oh, my, all those green leaves! Those green leaves resulted in my trip to your beautiful home of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin with my brother, Tim. Now I will share with you WHY I had to visit.

My paternal grandmother was Katherine Rebholz who married Linus Hildebrand. They were my Dad's parents and lived in Troy, Ohio. It was in that attic, in their 100 year old home, that all of the photos and letters were discovered. Why were they there, you ask? Well, Katherine Rebholz's mother was Katherine Goldsmith and she was a sister of Charles Francis Xavier Goldsmith! He was always revered in the family and referred to as Reverend Uncle. And yes, my family shares that history with you. Tim and I were honored to be in the presence of the churches he built, the community he impacted and the ancestors of those he worshipped with. We knew him through his book, a collection of pictures and a few items he gifted to his family. But it was most special to be in his presence, to visit the crypt and the Memorial chapel, and to feel the respect that continues to be a part of your city.

In addition to C.F.X. Goldsmith, two of his sisters came to live in your community: Maude Goldsmith who married Charles Bergeron and raised 7 boys until her early death in 1888 at age 40 and Louise (Lulu) Goldsmith, Charles and Maude's sister, who married J.A. Anderson and resided in Chippewa Falls. All of the Goldsmith children were born in Rochester, NY to Mary Magdalena Stoffel and Jean Baptiste Goldsmith.



WHAT WAS HAPPENING 100 YEARS AGO AT THIS TIME . . .

CALENDAR

December 14:

- 9:30 am** CCHS Board Meeting
- Noon** Area History Center Birthday Lunch
- 1:30 pm** The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting
- 2-4 pm** New Book Release Party at Foreign 5

December 17:

- 5-7 pm** New Book Release Party at Chippewa Falls Public Library

Dec. 22, 26 & 29:

- History Center Closed for the Holidays

January 12:

- 10:30 am** Historic Marker Committee

January 19:

- 9:30 a.m.** CCHS Board Meeting
- Noon** Area History Center Birthday Lunch
- 1:30 pm** The Past Passed Here Planning Meeting

January 23

- 9 am - 1 pm** Museum Open Fourth Saturday

February 8

- 6:30 pm** CCHS Bi-Annual Membership Meeting
- Program: Early Chippewa Falls photographer A. A. Bish
- Speaker: Greg Kocken, Head of Special Collections & Archives at UWEC

CONTINUED FROM SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER.

Eau Claire Sunday Leader 11-21-1915
Story of Giant Dam in Construction at Wissota

Graphic Details of Great Work on Chippewa River

“No Liquor Sold: The health of the men employed is looked after with attention. There will be no intoxicating liquors sold in the camp. Every man will be required to take a bath once a week. Every man must send his washable clothing to the laundry once each week. The bedding goes through a weekly laundering and every man gets clean bedding on assignment to his bunk. A hospital ward, with a paid nurse, is at the disposal of the sick. The doctor makes an inspection every morning and is held responsible for the sanitation of the camp. The questions of sustenance has always ben a problem in works carried on far away from cities. One has only to scratch an old woodman to hear more interesting than appetizing stories of the salt pork, beans and “salt horse” diet of the olden days. At Wissota dam camp the contract for feeding the employees is let to a firm in St. Paul who make a specialty of feeding circus men. The minimum of food supplied and its variety are all made matters of exact contract. The men eat their meals off china, and not metal plates. The china isn’t Havilland or Limoges, but good, honest, white American china, as good as provided in the average city restaurant. The specifications require that no forequarters of beef are to be purchased and that no shoulder beefsteak be served. Bread must be supplied fresh every day, and no bread more than 36 hours old is served. All quarters are kept free from flies, the kitchen and dining halls are screened and all kitchen refuse has to be destroyed daily. Those, whom this modern style of running camp may seem a surprise, will find another awaiting them in the menu. For instance, for breakfast the men must be supplied, in such quantities as each chooses to use, rolled oats, beefsteak, pork chops, or bacon, boiled or fried potatoes, bread and butter- real butter-doughnuts or cookies and tea or coffee. The dinner ration involves the supply of soup at least three times each week, roast beef, baked pork and beans, potatoes and vegetables, pudding and pie everyday, and tea or coffee. For noonday meals a rotation of meals is insisted upon. For supper, the menu calls for cold meats, meat pies with dumplings or stews, salt pork, liver and bacon, potatoes, hot biscuits, cake and sauce, fruit in season and tea or coffee as required. On Fridays the men must be supplied with fresh fish for dinner and salt fish and eggs must be available for breakfast for such desiring them. Incidentally, bearing on the fish diet, it may interest fishermen to know that the Chippewa River at this point is one of the best fishing streams in the west, fairly speaking with large and small mouthed bass, pike and perch and with an occasional muskellunge. To men who live in the quarters provided by the Wisconsin-Minnesota Company board and lodging costs \$5 per week.” *(To be continued next issue.)*

Xcel Energy has provided the Chippewa County Historical Society and Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Assn. with written materials and approximately 1,000 images of dam construction in Chippewa Falls. We greatly appreciate their support of sharing this information with residents and members of our non-profit organizations.



Indian Photograph

Photographers of Chippewa Falls

DONNA BOURGET

The Chippewa County Historical Society is highlighting photographers of Chippewa Falls to accentuate its extensive camera exhibit. The first display features William E. Hook followed by Albert A. Bish in February 2016.

William E. Hook, one of the first photographers in Chippewa Falls, settled here from England in 1869. He spent the next eight years running a photography studio, creating portraits and prints of farms, logging, and Indians.

From an article about William Hook (1833-1908) in the book "Memory's Stream" by Dolores Beaudette: *A picture that he took in Chippewa Falls earned the following tribute which appeared in "The Democrat" March 21, 1870. "We owe our acknowledgments to that most excellent artist, W.E.Hook, for a copy of his 'Indian Photograph' which he presented to us one day last week. To those who admire handsome pictures, executed in the best and most perfect style of the art, we recommend Mr. Hook, who informs us that he will be prepared to furnish scenic views of this locality."*

Hook built a three-story theater at 9 North Bridge Street with a balcony, bowling alley, shop spaces and room upstairs for a photo studio. The theater contained the area's first stage equipped with curtains and lights and provided a dressing room. Hook's Hall attracted local, national, and international performance acts of the era.

In 1875 his sons, Theodore and William, joined him. Theo died in 1857 and is buried at Forest Hill Cemetery in Chippewa Falls.

In 1877 William Hook sold his property in Chippewa Falls and traveled west with his son William. His work during his travels captured significant photos of pristine landscapes and Native Americans in their historic settings.

Hook eventually settled on the slopes of Pikes Peak and homesteaded in an area called Artist's Glen. He developed a good business photographing the area around Manitou Springs and the tourists as they rode burros up Pikes Peak Trail. The 1890 construction of the Pikes Peak Cog Railway prompted the family to relocate to Colorado Springs. Hook operated a studio there until his death from heart failure in 1908.

The CCHC encourages readers to share information about both past and present photographers and their photographic images for future displays. 📷

Triple Anniversary Celebration

The Area History Center was buzzing with activity with more than 80 people attending our Triple Anniversary Celebration on September 26. Sue Beety, representing WI State Genealogical Society presented a certificate to CCHS and CCGS for their respective 45 and 35 year anniversaries. Mayor Greg Hoffman read a City Proclamation for the event. He was very complimentary about our Chippewa County Historical and Genealogical Societies activities and services. Presidents of each organization, Dave Gordon and Gary Swartz addressed the crowd in front of our building. Jerry Way performed his songs about our rich history. We featured a new exhibit replicating a French Fur trading post and a new exhibit on William Hook, who might have been Chippewa Falls' first photographer. A slideshow portrayed 25 years of building improvements and exhibits. WEAUTV News and The Chippewa Herald each covered the event. 📷



A Triple Anniversary Cake was enjoyed by all

Chippewa County Historical Society

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Stop by and see the wonderful trading post display created by Marge Hebring and the Exhibit Committee members.

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THE EAGLE SPEAKS



DECEMBER 2015

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The Eagle Speaks is published quarterly by the Chippewa County Historical Society, a non-profit organization established to promote and stimulate historical interest in Chippewa County, Wisconsin. Mail any comments or future articles to:
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