



THE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

June 2016

Vol. XXXV, No. 2

A newsletter by the Brown County Historical Society dedicated to the preservation of history in Brown County, Wisconsin.

2015 PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER —

THE AUTOMOBILE GALLERY 400 SOUTH ADAMS STREET, GREEN BAY

by Jerry Abitz

Americans have a love affair with their automobiles. They are part of our everyday lives, transporting us to and from various destinations. Teenagers cannot wait to get their driver's license or first car. Adults, too, look forward to their next auto as the current one begins to experience expensive repairs.

Americans who have the motivation (and requisite skills) love to restore that vintage auto that perhaps was the very first car they ever owned. Some like the challenge of



Cars of all makes, models, colors and sizes fill the ever-changing display gallery, providing a "million dollar" view from the Executive Board Room on the second floor. For more details for booking your own event or to view these restored cars in person, visit <http://www.theautomobilegallery.org>, or follow them on their Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/theautomobilegallery/photos>! *Photos by Don Kraft.*

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bringing an abandoned vehicle back to life and experience a sense of pride in their accomplishments. Being able to show it to friends, take it out for a drive or enter it in a show such as the annual Iola Old Car Show or a much smaller, localized car show sponsored by various civic or religious groups can make the adrenalin flow. Hordes of people show up to see these vintage cars brought back to their original glory.

The owner of countless PDQ car washes in located in Northeastern Wisconsin, William "Red" Lewis, along with Forrest Burton, developed the robotic arch making the touch-free auto wash possible. Red is the consummate auto aficionado. Over the years, he has acquired and restored over 60 automobiles. After suffering a stroke in 2014, he had to ask himself, "What will happen to these pieces of art when I am gone? Is there any way I can assure the collection will survive and be appreciated by others?"

While the idea of a museum may have had some resonance, it was not what he wanted. Instead of a static display that did not change, he wanted something more dynamic that would keep visitors coming back to see what had changed since their last visit. He also saw his automobiles as art and, hence, the idea of a gallery emerged where he could display his masterpieces.

He and his family set up a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission statement is: "Appreciate the automobile as art . . . and to educate, inspire, and share

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THE AUTOMOBILE GALLERY

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the passion with others so they, too, can truly appreciate the form and function of the automobile — past, present and into the future.”

To ensure that people would view his collection, he envisioned — and planned for — a facility as an event center that could be used by the public for either private or public affairs. Various parts of the building are available to rent, including the Executive Board Room, the **Event Space & Gallery** as well as the Front Showroom. Membership levels that have defined benefits are available, based upon the size of the donation to the non-profit.

The former Denil Cadillac Building at 400 South Adams Street was purchased as the site that would fulfill Red’s vision. In this central location, Joseph Denil built, in 1959, a state-of-the-art car dealership with a large, open space where automobiles could be serviced. So advanced was its design that General Motors adopted it as a model for Cadillac dealerships throughout the U.S. However, in 1997, Denil closed its downtown Green Bay location which became a storage facility for the Brown County Sheriff’s Department as well as Camera Corner until Red Lewis purchased it in spring of 2014.

To retrofit this building, the architectural firm Somerville, Inc. was hired for the design work. In 2015, Schuh Construction began the process of modifying the building. Environmental remediation included the removal of petroleum contamination, asbestos floor

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BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OUR MISSION — To preserve, present and share the heritage of Brown County history through preservation activities, exhibitions, educational programs and events.

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Photos at right — Top: Front entrance to the Automobile Gallery. *Photo by Don Kraft. Second:* Dearborn Deuce on Gallery floor. *Photo by Don Kraft. Third:* Gallery interior. *Photo obtained from Automobile Gallery website. Bottom:* Restored Gallery. *Photo obtained from Automobile Gallery Facebook page.*

Fort Howard

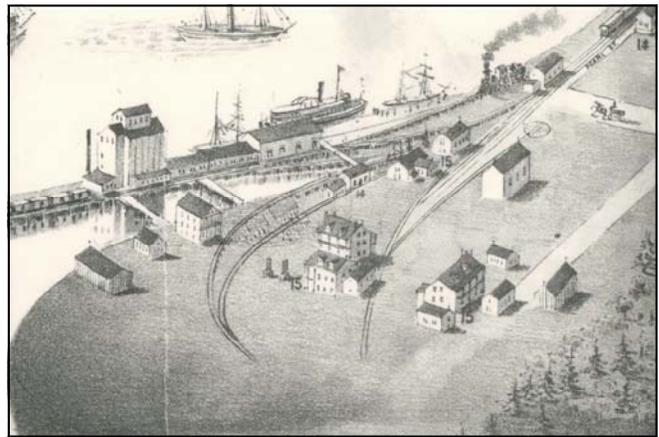
by Dennis R. Jacobs

August 9, 2016, marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Green Bay military post known as Fort Howard. Once located on the west side of the Fox River, the old fort stood proudly from 1816 until it was torn down in the late 1860s. Built originally of logs, Fort Howard was reconstructed between 1832 to 1836 with frame construction in a Federal style of architecture. It was occupied by the army until June 8, 1852, when the last company of troops left its front gate. Major Ephraim Shayler was appointed as caretaker of the property, and lived in the Surgeons' Quarters. When the American Civil War broke out, the fort was briefly used for new recruits before they were transported to their proper regiments.

The first building to be removed from the fort property was the sutler store. In 1850, the building was slid downriver on the ice and relocated to the corner of Main (now West Walnut) and Pearl streets. John Gray used the building as a general store; it also housed the first post office for the new village of Fort Howard. It later passed to Mr. D.W. Bromley who operated his tinsmith business from the building. It was during Bromley's occupation of the premises when the building burned.

Official sale of the fort property and the Military Reserve happened at 10 a.m. on November 10, 1864. The fort buildings and its three acres were valued at \$3,000. P.H. Smith purchased the fort enclosure and land on behalf of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad for the total sum of \$6,400. In August 1865, the *Green Bay Advocate* mentions the possibility that the Fort Howard Hospital and Surgeons' Quarters might become a hotel for the railroad, but this didn't come to happen. By October of 1866, the railroad allowed citizens to tear down or remove buildings from the fort location, which allowed the railroad to continue their construction of railroad buildings on the property. A fire broke out on October 19, 1866, destroying two or three of the fort buildings.

In 1871, the Fort Howard Hospital was moved to the northeast corner of Kellogg and Chestnut streets. The T-shaped building was separated, then both sections were placed side by side and used as tenant housing. The Chicago and Northwestern Headquarters demanded that the last of the



Remains of Fort Howard military post as seen on the Green Bay Fort Howard map of 1867. Copy of map courtesy of the Brown County Library Local History and Genealogy Dept.

fort being removed from the site in May of 1873. Two weeks later, in early June, the Surgeons' Quarters was moved from the site, leaving the fort warehouse by the river the last of the fort buildings on its original site. The warehouse building was being used by the Dousman and Elmore firm as warehouse space for its grain elevator business.

May 15, 1880, at 2 a.m., a building located at the corner of Cherry (now Maple) and Chestnut streets and owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Peak, known as the Officers' Quarters, caught fire and burned to the ground. A portion of the Commanding Officers' Quarter that was moved to Duck Creek Road (now

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GO GREEN!! HELP BCHS SAVE \$\$\$!! GO GREEN!!

INBOX...? OR MAILBOX...?



We want to continue to use all of our resources wisely, including the dollars you give so generously. Every member can help reduce costs of publishing the newsletters — paper, printing and postage — by opting to receive the BCHS *Historical Bulletin* in your Inbox.

So we encourage each of you to
SWITCH TO THE E-VERSION!

It's easy to sign up! Just email your request to Susan (skslk@centurytel.net); the next issue will arrive in your Inbox!

GO GREEN!! HELP BCHS SAVE \$\$\$!! GO GREEN!!

PRIVACY STATEMENT: Brown County Historical Society (BCHS) will NOT sell or distribute to any third party neither its donor list nor its membership list. Contact info will be used only to conduct the operation and support of the ongoing business of BCHS.

FORT HOWARD

(continued from page 3)

Velp Avenue), owned by Mr. ??? Elmore, also burned down, although no date is available on the fire. In 1884, Mr. H. Cornell purchased the fort warehouse and hired Mr. P. Brubaker to dismantle the structure so it could be transported to Nebraska. The lumber from the warehouse was used for a courthouse in Valentine, Nebraska. This building later burned in the 1920s.

In the 1930s, preservation efforts were started to save the Fort Howard Hospital. Opened as a museum on June 11, 1934, the building housed many of the items that were once associated with the old fort. The Detached Kitchen of the Commanding Officers' Quarters, which had been moved to the southeast corner of Mather and Chestnut streets, was given to the Fort Howard Hospital Museum and moved next to the hospital building on July 28, 1952. In 1976, the Fort Howard Hospital buildings, along with the Detached Kitchen, were floated down the Fox River to Allouez to become part of Heritage Hill State Park.

In 2009, when the old Jailor's Quarters was condemned and feared to be razed, the history community rallied to save it. On December 23, 2009, the building was moved to Heritage Hill for preservation. It since has been restored and, in 2015, opened as part of the new front gate in the military heritage area.

There is still one building remaining in the westside neighborhood that once held the other Fort Howard buildings – the building located at 412-414 Maple Street was known as the Surgeons' Quarters and is currently the topic of preservation concerns. We shall have to wait and see to discover what the outcome will be for that building.

As you can see, the once lively fort has lived on in the buildings that were saved in the late 1860s. They give us a glimpse of life on the military post in the early part of our statehood. Preserving these buildings allows the stories and history of Fort Howard to live on which, in turn, enables successive new generations to learn about our rich military past.



Note – For resource information utilized for this article, please contact the author by sending an email to dennergib@hotmail.com.



Top: Postcard of the Detached Kitchen once located at 421 Mather Street, home of Rudolph and Antoinette Scholten (c. 1900). **Second:** Postcard of the Surgeons' Quarters located at 412-414 Maple Street (c. 1900). **Third:** Postcard of the Fort Howard Hospital at 414-418 Kellogg Street (c. 1900). **Bottom:** Postcard of the Jailor's Quarters once located at 410 Bond Street, home of William VandenBrook (c. 1900). All images courtesy of the image collection at the Brown County Library.

EVENTS

Join us for one or all!

*Handmade:
Victorian and
Contemporary Art*



First announced in the March 2016 issue, see Page 6 of this issue for the June workshop schedule, complete with descriptions and prices.

“Art is the proper task of life.”
—Friedrich Nietzsche

**CONTEMPORARY MEETS
VICTORIAN ART!**
THURSDAYS THROUGH SUNDAYS
JUNE 2-5, 9-12 AND 16-19
EXHIBIT OPEN DAILY — 12:00N-4:00P

Explore the connections between Victorian and contemporary art in this new exhibit. Victorian decorative art was interwoven and installed into everyday life. This exhibit juxtaposes vibrant modern sculpture, metal work, photography, jewelry, pottery, basketry, fabric, collage and various paint mediums with everyday Victorian art. Admission: \$7/adult; \$4/members.



**BROADWAY
SATURDAY, JULY 9
RIVERSIDE BALL-
ROOM IN GREEN BAY**

Join Daddy D Productions for an evening of traditional Broadway anthems, comedy and songs that crossed over from the stage to the big screen and radio! The July 9th show at Riverside Ballroom marks Daddy D's 10th annual show! A portion of the proceeds supports the BCHS.

TIMETABLE:	PRICING:
4:00p — Open	Dinner & Show: \$44
5:00p — Dinner	Show Only: \$30
6:00p — Showtime	plus sales tax

Call **Daddy D** at **920-544-4244** — mention BCHS when ordering; OR purchase your ticket through BCHS by calling **920-7437-1840**

THE WOMEN OF EARLY GREEN BAY



We are indebted to Christine Abbott, Loretta Delvaux, Myrna Dickinson, Sally Enloe, Barb Beaver and Carol Jones for their historic portrayals in our new program, “The Women of Early Green Bay.” It earned rave reviews when presented for a University of Wisconsin Learning In Retirement program. Comments included, “One of the best Learning in Retirement programs!” and “What a wonderful way to preserve and share the area history!”



Loretta Delvaux portraying Elizabeth Arndt. Photo courtesy BCHS photo collection.

Watch for this program to be offered as a luncheon in the future.

**TALL SHIP
RIVER CRUISE
FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY, AUGUST 7**



On July 26, 1816, the schooners *Mink*, *Washington*, *Wayne* and *Amelia*, carrying 500 U.S. troops under the leadership of Col. John Miller, headed down Lake Michigan to erect a fort at the Bay of Green Bay. They arrived on August 7, 1816. Today, celebrate their journey with one of your own!

Join Fox River Tours aboard *River Tyme* as we journey from De Pere to Leight Park in Green Bay. See the Tall Ships from the water and learn about them along the way. This Public + Cruise is extra special because a portion of the proceeds will benefit Brown County Historical Society. Book a tour at 9:00a, 12:00n, or 3:00p. Cost is \$31/person. For reservations, call **920-422-6300** or go to: foxrivertours.com.

Save the date!

BCHS Annual Picnic
Thursday, August 25,
5:30p, on the grounds of
Hazelwood House.

Bring a lawn chair
and your appetite!

RSVP requested — 920-437-1840

*We'll be there!
You?*

See calendar listing on next page for more details.

*Events can be added, changed or cancelled without notice. To make sure you stay informed, make our website one of your Favorites — www.browncohistoricalsoc.org

CALENDAR

JUNE

Thursdays through Sundays, June 2 through June 26 – **Handmade: Victorian and Contemporary Art.** See next column or visit our website for workshop and demonstration details. Regular admission.

Friday, June 3, 6:00-8:00p – **Handmade Opening Night: Meet the Artists.** Advanced tickets. \$10/adult – wine and refreshments.

Wednesday and Thursday, June 8 and 9, 6:30p – **Fort Howard Cemetery Walk.** Advanced reservations requested. \$7/person; \$14/family.

JULY

Monday, July 4, 1:00p – “Wisconsin Remembers WWI” by the Heritage Players. **Location? Price?**

Saturday, July 16, 1:30-3:00p – **Finding Fort Howard's: A Walking Tour.** Leicht Park. Reservations requested. \$3/person.

Saturday, July 30, 1:00-4:00p – **Fairy Faire.** An afternoon of fairy-inspired activities and refreshments. Reservations. \$8/person. *Check our website for more details!*

AUGUST

Sunday, August 7 – **River Cruise at 9:00a, 12:00n, or 3:00p.** See more details on previous page.

Wednesday and Thursday, August 10 and 11, 6:30p – **Allouez Catholic Cemetery Walk.** Advanced reservations requested. \$7/person; \$14/family.

Saturday, August 20, 1:30-3:00p – **Finding Fort Howard's: A Walking Tour.** Leicht Park. Reservations requested. \$3/person.

Thursday, August 25, 5:30p – **Annual Member and Volunteer Picnic** on the grounds of Hazelwood.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, September 7, 8 and 10, 6:30p – **Woodlawn Cemetery Walk.** Advanced reservations requested. \$7/person; \$14/family.

Saturday, September 17 – **Downtown Walking Tour.** Advanced reservations requested. \$5/person.

OCTOBER

Saturday, Friday and Saturday, October 15, 21 and 22, 5:00-8:00p – **Poe Evermore at Haunted Hazelwood.** \$10/person. *Check website for more details!*

DECEMBER

Friday and Saturday, December 2 and 3, 1:00-3:00p – **Holiday Tea.** Advanced reservations required. \$20/person.

Saturdays and Sundays, December 10, 11, 17 and 18 – **A Dickens of a Christmas.** \$6/person; \$5/seniors 65+; \$4/children ages 5-17.

~ Workshop Schedule ~ Handmade: Victorian and Contemporary Art



A COLORING PARTY

HOSTED BY ARTIST HEATHER PETERMAN

Saturday, June 4, 1:00-3:00p

\$20/person; supplies provided

Let out your inner child with this creative workshop. If you loved to color as a child, you will enjoy it even more as an adult. The vibrant Heather Peterman will provide you with numerous coloring sheets she has created so you can enjoy a summer afternoon relaxing and coloring while overlooking the Fox River. Wine, refreshments and supplies will be provided; you just need to bring along your imagination.

PAINT AND PALETTE WITH AMY ELIASON

Sunday, June 5, 12:00n-3:00p

\$35/person; supplies provided

Join Amy as you relax next to the Fox River, enjoy complimentary wine and refreshments, and paint beautiful chickadees and cherry blossoms. No painting experience is necessary as Amy will guide you through each step so you'll be able to take home a unique and beautiful painting of your own creation.

SCULPT WITH NAOMI MOES

Saturday, June 11, 10:30a-1:30p

\$25/person; supplies provided

Let your imagination run wild with the assistance of Naomi Moes as she guides a workshop in sculpting, similar to papier mache. Be prepared for a messy workshop that will provide you with many laughs and much enjoyment.

KNIT AN HEIRLOOM BLANKET

WITH EXPERT ELLEN ROSEWALL

Sunday, June 12, 1:30-4:00p

\$15/person with supplies provided OR

\$10/person to bring your own supplies

Join Ellen in learning basic stitch patterns in order to make a hand-knitted blanket. These skills can be used to make a special gift for a loved one or decorate your home.

MINI-EMBROIDERY WITH BETH HUDAK

Saturday, June 18, 1:00-3:00p

\$15/person; supplies provided

Embroidery is easier than you think. Beth will teach you the basics and you will leave with a framed piece of mini-embroidery that makes a fashion statement as a necklace.

All workshops take place at Hazelwood Historic House.

Pre-registration and payment required.

Visit www.browncohistoricalsoc.org or call 920-437-1840.

THE AUTOMOBILE GALLERY

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View from the Executive Board Room. Photo obtained from the Automobile Gallery website..

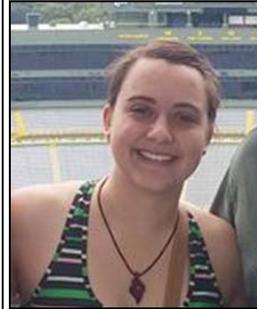
tiles and the window caulk containing asbestos. The central drainage system and part of the concrete surrounding this system were removed and new concrete was poured. The remaining original floor was ground smooth and polished to the extent it appears as quarried stone. New windows, using the original design, replaced the old. New updated systems were installed, some modifications made to the configuration of interior space and the walls painted white, allowing the beauty of the automobiles to be the main focus. Elevated lifts were installed which allowed the autos to be displayed at different levels, thus adding a sense of style and interest to the entire collection.

What had been the prep area of the original Denil garage was converted into the **Events Center**, with a bar and catering kitchen servicing two levels of table seating and a state-of-the-art audio/visual system for presentations. This area opens out onto an outdoor patio.

The second floor parts room is now the Executive Board Room, a technologically advanced, integrated conference space with soft seating and a wet bar. One entire wall was replaced with sliding glass doors to provide a breathtaking, "million dollar" view of the gallery. (See photo above.)

The autos displayed in the gallery are not roped off, thus allowing visitors to make close up inspections. In some instances, autos, such as a DeLorean, are available to sit in for photo opportunities. Some car hoods are open so the engine compartment may be viewed. As Red desired, the display is not static, but changes as autos are removed and replaced with others. Even the auto displayed outside near the front entrance changes on a regular basis.

WELCOME, KYLIE FENDTRICK! BCHS SUMMER PROGRAM AND VOLUNTEER MANAGER



Born and raised in Marinette, I have spent the last few years traveling around Wisconsin for my education. I received my BA in History from UW-Platteville and my MA in History from UW-Milwaukee; this fall, I will be starting my PhD in History at Northern Illinois University.

I have experience working in various roles in museum settings — a tour guide and then Weekend Supervisor at the Platteville Mining and Rollo Jamison Museum, a curatorial intern who worked towards digitizing the collection at the U.S. Galena and Grant Museum.

I am a lover of history who is looking forward to working for the Brown County Historical Society and Hazelwood Historic House. I cannot wait to get to know everyone and receive lots of help with our events in June!

A Guest Vehicle Program is available so other collectors have the opportunity to publically display their own vehicles and to keep the inventory always changing in the gallery. The gallery displays over 50 autos spanning almost a century of automotive history, from a 1917 electric Milburn to a 2015 Special Edition Cadillac CTS-V. A dragster mounted on the wall will be sure to catch your eye!

When the first event was announced to the public, 50 individuals expressed interest in attending; however, when the doors opened, over 300 car enthusiasts showed up. This gallery is a unique but certainly an important addition to what is happening in Green Bay's downtown revitalization.

The gallery is open to the public on Saturdays and Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and on Mondays from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. A reasonable admission is charged for non-event visitors.

Stop by the next time you are in the area. It's that place on South Adams Street with a showroom visible from the street. Parked near the entrance is a vintage auto. You will be amazed as you view the collection and rave about it to your friends!

For his efforts, William "Red" Lewis was awarded Brown County Historical Society's 2015 Historic Preservation Award for Historic Restoration.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEIGHBORS —



ENTRIES INTO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The Allouez Historic Preservation Committee nominations for two municipal-owned buildings in Allouez recently have been approved for listing on the State and National Register of Historic Places. The register is the official national list of historic properties in America deemed worthy of preservation. The Wisconsin Historical Society administers the program in Wisconsin. The Committee submitted the following:

- The Allouez Water Works pump house (1925), located at 535 Greene Avenue,



was approved having local significance as an example of the Mediterranean Revival style; and

- The Allouez Water Department (1947; now known as the Community Center), located at 2143



South Webster Avenue, was approved, having local significance as an example of the Colonial Revival style. The building was designed to harmonize with the surrounding suburban post-war styles of the neighborhood.

To find out more about the historic structures in Allouez, check out the Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report <http://www.villageofallouez.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Village-of-Allouez-Intensive-Survey-Report.pdf>.

For additional information on the State and National Registry, visit www.wisconsinhistory.org.

Photos provided by: ???

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE

ADMISSION • Adults \$5.00 • Seniors (60+) \$4.00 • Children (5-17) \$3.00
Children under 5 are FREE. A/V discounts.

Tours, programs and teas scheduled at your convenience by appointment throughout the year.
See details for events on pages 5 and 6 of this issue.

Open Thursdays through Sundays, June 2-Aug. 28
HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

1008 South Monroe Street, Green Bay WI 54301 MAP
Phone: 920-437-1840 / www.BrownCountyHistoricalSoc.org

BCHS offices — 8:30a-4:00p, weekdays
BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HOURS for JULY — SEPTEMBER 2016

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