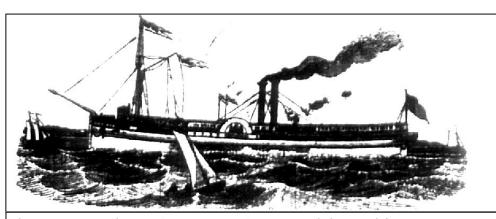
THE HISTORIC VOYAGE OF THE AQUILA

by Clete Delvaux

Green Bay enjoys celebrating no matter what the occasion. One hundred sixty one years ago, plans were underway by Green Bay Mayor H.E. Eastman and his committee to celebrate a momentous occasion. The celebration centered on a 59-ton sternwheeler steamship, marking the completion of the Fox and Wisconsin River Improvement that united the Great Lakes with the Mississippi River. On June 16, 1856, there were rumors that the steamship had already passed through the Kaukauna locks and neared



The *Green Bay Advocate* (June 19, 1856) announced the Aquila's arrives in Green Bay. (See the advertisement on the next page.) The engraving above shows a side wheel steamer whereas the Aquila was a stern or rear-wheel steamer. *Photo courte-sy of BCHS archives*.

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Astor Neighborhood Association De Pere. There was no time to lose. Last-minute plans for this celebration quickly got underway.¹

The steamship was the *Aquila*. Charles H. and William J. Green of Green Bay purchased the two-year-old ship in Pittsburg in 1856 to transport goods and passengers on Northeastern Wisconsin's waterways.

The *Aquila*'s voyage to Green Bay took it down the Ohio and up the Mississippi to the Wisconsin River, through the Portage Canal into the upper Fox River to Lake Winnebago where it finally descended the 170-foot-drop of the Lower Fox River. It was the first ship to navigate the entire Fox-Wisconsin waterway. What a boon for the future of Green Bay! It already had a waterway to ship its goods to the East Coast via the Great Lakes and the Erie Canal. Now it would have a waterway to ship its goods to the West—to St. Louis, New Orleans and other western river ports. Certainly, this called for a great celebration!

Mayor Eastman and his committee raced to De Pere, just in time to board the *Aquila* as it passed through the last set of locks before reaching Green Bay. A large delegation of dignitaries from Neenah, Menasha, Appleton, Grand Chute and Kaukauna, as well as the Menasha Brass Band, were already aboard. Citizens lined the shore and welcomed her in a most enthusiastic manner with loud cheering, music and blowing of steam whistles.

On its way to Green Bay, the *Aquila* passed the home of the Hon. M.L. Martin, the father and architect of this great system of locks and dams. Banners and flags dec(continued on page 2)

...VOYAGE OF THE AQUILA

(continued from page 1)

orated the grounds of Hazelwood and the ship whistle blew a salute as it passed.²

The steamship began its triumphant passage into Green Bay where, on both sides of the Fox River, "every dock, warehouse, and lumber pile . . . was crowded with a living mass of crazy humanity." At the old abandoned Fort Howard, caretaker Major Ephraim Shaylor fired a salute to the *Aquila* from one of the old fort cannons. Accompanied by thundering and prolonged cheering, it pulled into the East River docks of Haywood and Goodell and Whitney at the foot of Jefferson Street where it was received by a delegation of Green Bay's leading citizens, the Germania Brass Band, the Germania Fire Co. and members of the German Turner Society.

Nathan Goodell, "the perennial parade marshal of his day," led the procession south on Jefferson Street to the Astor Hotel for refreshments. It then returned north on Washington Street to the United States Hotel. "Here the parade broke up, the dignitaries took their places on stage, and the speechmaking began." M.L. Martin was acknowledged for his efforts on the Fox-Wisconsin Project.³

After its day of glory, the Aquila began the

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.

1008 South Monroe Avenue Green Bay WI 54301 Phn: (920) 437-1840 Fax: (920) 455-4518 Executive Director: Christine Dunbar Website: <u>browncohistoricalsoc.org</u> Email: bchs@netnet.net

The Historical Bulletin
Production editor: Susan K. Slikkers

Voyageur Manager: <u>Kent Crain</u> Phone: <u>(920)</u> 465-2446

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Bartels, President Charles Golueke, Vice President Tony La Luzerne, Secretary Sherri Vadala, Treasurer

Barbara Beaver Mary Eisenreich Susan Frost Kimberlee Gast Mat Hoffman Jason Krings Judy L'Empereur Mary Katherine Matharani Max Pirman Steve Srubas Jennifer Woldt Casey Zakowski mundane job shipping goods and passengers along the Fox River and on Lake Winneba-"The People Line of river steamers, the Aquila and Appleton Belle, are rapidly gaining friends and supporters on the upper end of the route. Never have we seen so many travelers in this direction as are brought in by these fine boats. The perfect regularity of their trips, their superior accommodations, the gentlemanly conduct of their officers and the beautiful and



This image is a copy of the advertisement for the *Aquila*, originally published in the *Green Bay Advocate* (April 30, 1857). *Image courtesy of BCHS archives*.

inviting scenery along the entire route between this city and Oshkosh and Fond Du Lac, and the towns on the upper Fox River surprises and delights all who now visit us."⁴

For all appearances, the stalwart *Aquila* had a bright future. Unfortunately, this was not to be the case. An article in the *Green Bay Advocate* describes her sinking.

"Mishap to the Aquila - We regret to state that one of the favorite Green Bay boats, the Aquila, was sunk during the heavy blow last Monday at Long Point, Lake Winnebago. She had a large number of passengers on board, all of whom came off safely. She will be raised at once and put upon the route again in better shape than ever. Being originally built for river navigation solely, no especial attention was paid to making her proof against heavy weather, and the fastenings of her guards gave way. With these made secure, there is no more seaworthy boat on the river or lake. One or the other boats belonging to the same line will take her place meanwhile."5

By July 16, the *Aquila* was in Green Bay receiving important and substantial repairs and expected to be in good running order within a few days. ⁶

In the spring of 1859, R. Schettler advertised the *Aquila* for sale along with the *Ajax* and *Buffalo*. By February of 1860, Wm. B. Ogden, of Peshtigo, purchased the *Aquila* and planned to take the machinery out of her and remodel the hull into a barge. That same month, Mr. Sorensen, an experienced boatbuilder working for Mr. D.M. Loy, was

(continued on page 6)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Brown County Historical Society plays a unique and vital role in Brown County and, every year since its founding in 1899, it has faithfully sought to fulfill this crucial role while meeting the changing needs of our community.

The Historical Society provides a broad spectrum of educational programs that inform and connect people in meaningful ways to the social, architectural and cultural heritage of our community. In September, we hired a full-time program manager for the first time in our history. We made the decision based on the need to increase marketing and update school and Scout programs. Several new programs are now in place, and we will continue to create meaningful ways to share history.

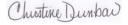
In 2016, we welcomed over 800 individuals to our annual "If Tombstones Could Talk" cemetery programs, created two special cemetery programs for bus tours and, in partnership with the Green Bay Area Public School District system, we piloted and offered curriculum-based cemetery programs for school children. We are grateful to Myrna Dickinson and her team of researchers who dig deep to follow obscure leads to investigate past community members and create stories about their lives. Actors effectively bring these stories to life. We are exceedingly grateful to everyone who participates in bringing these outstanding programs to the public. We could not do it without you. We have excellent walks planned for this year!

Preservation issues remain a major commitment. Since 1988, we have given 120 Preservation Awards to homes, businesses and individuals in Brown County. We initiated a preservation strategy to save the historic Red Chapel located in Allouez Cemetery, and continue working to save this irreplaceable building from demolition.

Your dedication and support allows the Historical Society to expand its efforts to preserve and share our stories, and inspire a love of history in current and future generations. I look forward to a year of new ideas and initiatives.

Please get involved and share your talent, ideas and suggestions to help us grow.

Sincerely,





A Proud Past — An Inspired Future

BCHS' CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Brown County Historical Society preserves the past, but its future is in your hands.

We continue to make progress on our capital campaign goal of \$1.6 million. Meeting this goal will provide the crucial support needed to ensure the long-term viability of Hazelwood Historic House and *Voyageur* Magazine. We are indebted to the campaign committees who have raised approximately \$500,000 in cash and pledges and to our generous donors.

We have an exciting opportunity to raise funds through a gift challenge from the 1923 Fund. In 2016, the 1923 Fund generously donated \$15,000 to the Capital Campaign. In addition, the 1923 Fund pledged two additional gifts of \$15,000 in 2017 and 2018, but with a matching challenge. To receive the \$15,000 matching gift each year, the Society must raise \$15,000 in individual gifts of \$250 or less to show community support for the Capital Campaign.

The 2017 amount must be raised by June 1, 2017. Thanks to the generous response from our membership, we have raised \$6,500 to date. With your help, we can make this goal. Please send your donation to the Brown County History Society.

HELP US PRESERVE OUR PAST — SAVE THE RED CHAPEL!

Please contact Christine Dunbar (920-437-1840 or bchs@netnet.net)

Time is short! <u>Donate NOW</u>

See full article in BCHS Historical Bulletin, September 2016, Vol. XXXV, No. 3

Photo by Kathy Kauth



BCHS BOARD UPDATES —

CLASS OF 2017-2018-2019



MARY EISENREICH GREEN BAY

Now retired from the Ashwaubenon School District where she taught music for 29 years, primarily in the Middle School, Mary also directed the musicals at AHS for 21 years. Today she is a performer with the Heritage Players as well as

in the Allouez Village Band.

With degrees in Vocal, Instrumental and General Music K-12 from the UW–Oshkosh and the University of Northern Colorado, Mary continues to teach and has several adult students in voice and guitar. She sings at weddings, funerals and parties.

Mary loves to can pickles, salsa, dilly beans and sauerkraut; she loves to read and to write music. Mary belongs to the BCHS (previous board member 2010-2014) and the Ashwaubenon Historical Society, and is a member of the Mac Dowell Club. Mary has performed both on- and offstage for St. Norbert Summer Music Theater, Community Theatre and the Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Mary's ambition is to write a musical now that she is retired.



KIMBERLEE GAST DE PERE

Kimberlee was born in small town Hilbert, Wisconsin, raised in Kaukauna, and now resides in downtown De Pere. She started her career as a hair stylist in 2008, but began her path towards entrepreneurship in 2012 when she opened her own salon, KSerá Salon.

Kimberlee has a passion that sees the beauty in things and joy in bringing it out. She recently became certified as a DreamBuilder coach, so she can help others follow their dreams as well. She believes everything has a story. She loves antiques and historic real estate, specifically older buildings with a lot of charm left in them. In 2016, Kim purchased the Steckart and Falck Double Block Building in which her salon resides. She is excited to be a part of this building's story and is currently restoring its four upper apartments, originally built in 1888.

Kimberlee feels very blessed in where she is in life. She looks forward to sharing her experiences, as

well as inspiring and helping others achieve their goals. If asked, Kim will tell you, "Whatever will be, be you."



SHERRI VADALA De Pere

Hi, my name is Sherri Vadala. I currently live in a Queen Anne Victorian home in the historic district of De Pere. We moved to this area from Little Rock, Arkansas, a little over a year ago. We have enjoyed becoming Packer fans and attended many games. I also love gardening and am enjoying the different plants

now available in the Northeast! I always have had a passion for history and was struck by the beauty of this area and the historical nature of the homes in the area.

Professionally, I owned my own gourmet food business for the last 13 years and recently sold the company. Prior to that endeavor, I was the bookkeeper and accountant for a major statewide magazine as well as major account representative for a large corporate marketing company.

I look forward to working with everyone on the board as well as interacting with others who are passionate about the preservation and historic importance in the area.



CASEY ZAKOWSKI GREEN BAY

After teaching Social Studies at Green Bay Southwest High School for 29 years, I retired in June 2016. I also coached Varsity basketball for 31 years in the Green Bay area. I am an avid reader of U.S. history, especially the Civil War, and have visit-

ed seven battle sites. My wife of 33 years, Mary, and I hope to move to the Williamsburg/Yorktown area where I can continue my pursuit of studying Colonial and Civil War history. We have four children — our oldest, Joseph, lives in Nashville; our twins, Thomas lives in Green Bay and Abigail in Florida; and our youngest, Clare, is a freshman at UW–Madison.

Interested in serving as a BCHS board member?
or on one of its committees?
~ ~ Discover the opportunities! ~ ~
Contact Chris Dunbar — call 920-437-1834

Contact Chris Dunbar — call <u>920-437-1834</u> or send an email to bchs@netnet.net

2017 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER AND MEETING

Brown County Historical Society members and guest gathered at the Hyatt Regency/KI Convention Center on Wednesday, Feb. 22, to celebrate the previous year's progress and accomplishments.

President Mark Bartels started the evening by introducing the Society's new and current board members. In addition, he thanked departing treasurer Dennis Wojahn for his nine years of dedicated service to the Society, who then reported on the Society's finances. Following Wojahn, Cliff Wall, chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, reported on its progress. Wall gave a special thank you to the Winston Group for their hard work and dedication as consultants for the Capital Campaign, and encouraged members to donate and "keep this organization alive and well for my grandchildren." President Bartels closed the business portion by thanking staff members Chris Dunbar, Kent Crain and Brooke Uhl along with Professor David Voelker, editor of the Voyageur Magazine, for their dedication.

Mary Jane Herber presented the **Local History Award of Merit to Don Kraft**, acknowledging his service to the Brown County Historical Society and the community of Green Bay. Kraft stated, "When I reflect on the distinguished list of previous winners over the years, I am truly humbled and honored. Thank you to everyone who makes serving on the Society's committees and projects such an enjoyable and enriching experience."

The **2016 Historic Preservation Awards** were presented to:

- Gather on Broadway, 139 North Broadway, Green Bay; Tommy and Jyll Everman accepting.
- Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners, 139 South Monroe Ave, Green Bay; Tammy Van Dyke and Kim Pahlow accepting.
- **Pete's Garage**, 142 North Broadway, Green Bay. (*Recipients unable to be present*)

Barb Beaver addressed the attendees about the fundraising event with Daddy D's on September 15. For every ticket sold, the Society receives \$5 in proceeds. The theme for the Daddy D's production is "Golden Oldies."







Top: Don Kraft receiving Local History Award of Merit from Mary Jane Herber. Middle: Don Kraft presenting Jyll (middle) and Tommy (right) Everman a Preservation Award for Gather on Broadway. Bottom: Don Kraft presenting Preservation Award to Kim Pahlow (middle) and Tammy Van Dyke (right) for Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners. Photos by Chuck Golueke.

Arlene Molzahn, the evening's guest speaker, presented an engaging program titled "Reliving the Early Days of the Circus," which highlighted the creation of rich and decorated circus wagons and entertaining stories regarding the Ringling Brothers and other circus masters of the 19th and 20th centuries.



EVENTS FOR 2017* MARCH

Saturday, March 25, 1:00-3:00p — The Women of Early Green Bay: Afternoon Tea. \$20/person. *Reservations required.*

MAY

Wednesday, May 18, 4:00-8:00p — History Treasure Tour. FREE EVENT. See page 7 for participating organizations.

Saturday, May 20, 10:00a and 2:00p — Astor Neighborhood Walking Tour. \$5/person. Reservations requested.

JUNE

Wednesday and Thursday, June 14 and 15, 6:30p — "If Tombstones Could Talk" Fort Howard Cemetery Walk. \$7/adults; \$16/family (2 adults, 4 children). Reservations requested.

JULY

Tuesday, July 4, 1:00p — Heritage Players' "Those Were the Days," Stories and Songs of the Great Depression. Regular admission. Members are free. Saturday, July 29, 1:00-4:00p — Fairies and Wizards: Family Faire. \$7/person. Reservations requested.

AUGUST

Wednesday and Thursday, August 2 and 3, 6:30p — "If Tombstones Could Talk" Allouez Catholic Cemetery Walk. \$7/adults; \$16/family (2 adults, 4 children). Reservations requested.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday and Thursday, September 6 and 7, 6:00p

— "If Tombstones Could Talk" Woodlawn
Cemetery Walk. \$7/adults; \$16/family (2 adults,
4 children). Reservations requested.

Saturday, September 9, 4:00p — "If Tombstones Could Talk" Woodlawn Cemetery Walk. \$7/adults; \$16/family (2 adults, 4 children). *Reservations requested*.

Saturday, September 23, 10:00a and 2:00p — "If These Homes Could Talk" Walking Tour in partnership with Astor Neighborhood Association. *Call for details*.

DECEMBER

Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2, 1:00-3:00p — Hazelwood Holiday Tea. \$20/person. Reservations required.

Saturdays, December 9 and 16, 12:00-8:00p — An Ethnic Christmas.

Events can be added, changed or cancelled without notice.

To make sure you stay informed, make our website
one of your Favorites — <u>www.browncohistoricalsoc.org!</u>



CONGRATULATIONS, WINNERS!

National History Day is an amazing program that allows students to use a variety of media to express their original scholarship based on a yearly theme. The regional program, coordinated by the Cofrin Library Archives on the UW–Green Bay campus, took place March 4. BCHS provided an award to a Junior and Senior project that relates to Wisconsin history.

- Junior Division: Exhibit by Jackson Boersma, D.C. Everest Junior High School "Frank Lloyd Wright: Taking a Stand in Architecture"
- Senior Division: Documentary by Jacob Halfman and Jonathan Tesch, Seymour Community High School - "Aldo Leopold: Redefining Man's Relationship with the Land" (State Finalist!)

...VOYAGE OF THE AQUILA

(continued from page 2)

building a steamer exclusively for the freighting business between Green Bay and Lake Winnebago and its tributaries, and had purchased the engines of the *Aquila* for this new steamer, *The Elwood.*⁷

Exactly what happened to the *Aquila* after this is unknown, but John D. Lawe recalls in 1927, "The old steamer *Aquila* . . ., after her days of usefulness were over, was hauled out on the banks of the East River and, stripped of her machinery and boilers, peacefully rotted away, the scene of many piratical exploits carried out on her decks by the boys of the neighborhood."

The six-year-old *Aquila* may have ended its days very near the spot of its triumphant first journey.

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Footnotes -

^{1,2}Rudolph, Jack. "Green Bay in Furore [sic.] over Arrival of Aquila in 1856," Green Bay Press-Gazette (October 25, 1955) p.26.

³Green Bay Advocate, Robinson & Bro. June 11, 1857 Vol. 11 No. 37 Page 3 Col. 1

⁴Green Bay Advocate Robinson & Bro. July 2, 1857 Vol. 11 No. 40 Page 3 Col. 2

⁵The Green Bay Advocate Robinson & Bro. July 16, 1857 Vol. 11 No. 42 Page 3 Col. 1

⁶Green Bay Advocate Robinson & Bro. February 2, 1860 Vol. 14 No. 26 Page 3 Col. 1

⁷Aquila" Wisconsinshipwrecks.org

⁸Lawe, John D. "The Fox and Wisconsin River Improvement," *Green Bay Historical Bulletin*. Vol. 3, No. 1: May-June, 1927.



Launching BCHS' Digital Archive Project!



Our Mission – To create a digital collection of historical images and documents covering all aspects of the history of Brown County that will be easily available to and accessible by historians and history enthusiasts.

Millions of historic images and documents reside in museums, libraries and other archives across the country. But there are many millions more in photo albums, shopping bags and shoeboxes sitting on bookshelves, tucked away in closets, or collecting dust in attics in our own homes. A huge depository of historical information, these items are, sadly, too often discarded and lost forever. Our mission is to save as many of these gems as possible!

MAKE PLANS TO SCAN EVENT! Saturday, April 1, 9:00a-4:00p BCHS' Hazelwood Historic House

For details, questions or to schedule a time slot, call Kent Crain at the *Voyageur* office (920-465-2446)

The Brown County Historical Society Digital Archive Project has a begin date, but hopefully never an end date! Our intention is to digitize as many photographs and documents relative to the history of Brown County as we can over the coming years, and make them available to the public.

Do you have old photos from Brown County's past? Street scenes, school related images, newsworthy events, sporting events, transportation, industry, aerial photos, etc.? Would you be willing to let us scan and add them to our growing digital collection? If so, then please *join us at our first scanning event!* (Bring a flash drive — we'll copy all of your digitized images to it for you!)

Help us preserve Brown County history! Add your photos to the BCHS Digital Archive Project!

History Treasure Tour WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 4:00-8:00p Explore Brown County's

Explore Brown County's Hidden Treasures in one evening!

Light Refreshments. No Charge.

This popular event is back for its third year with even more participating organizations! Brown County Museum Federation organizations open their doors with special behind-the-scenes tours, performances, and conversations with staff as part of this exclusive event. Spend the evening discovering something new at an old favorite or explore a new historic treasure.

We invite our community members to visit all or any of Brown County Federation of History Organizations' partner organizations at no charge throughout the evening.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Ashwaubenon Historical Society Museum of History and Culture (new location at 936 Anderson Drive)

(The) Automobile Gallery

Brown County Historical Society (at Hazelwood Historic House)

De Pere Historical Society

Green Bay - De Pere Antiquarian Society (at the Neville Public Museum's Auditorium)

Heritage Hill State Historical Park

Historic Allouez Society

(at the Riveria Bar and Grill, 2150 Riverside Drive)

Howard-Suamico Historical Society

(newly-restored barn, 12787 Velp Ave.)

National Railroad Museum

Neville Public Museum

Northeastern Wisconsin Masonic Library/Museum (525 Taylor St.)

Oneida Nation Museum

For additional information, check out the BCHS website and Facebook page or contact individual organizations for more details.

Brown County Federation of History Organizations

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEIGHBORS —

ANA PARTNERS WITH BCHS TO CREATE WALKING TOUR OF ASTOR NEIGHBORHOOD

by Deby Dehn

"If Homes Could Talk" will be an ongoing project in partnership with the Astor Neighborhood Association and the Brown County Historical Society to document the social history of the Astor Neighborhood. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, the Astor District includes some of Green Bay's most elegant high-style homes and interesting historic sites. The project will include walking tours throughout the 25-block Astor Historic District bordered by Mason, Van Buren and Grignon streets and the east bank of the Fox River.

The concept is to collect and present local history and historical anecdotes through a collaborative activity in which several neighborhood residents will be able to volunteer their homes to be a part of the tour. They then will provide a location for written

signs and graphics to be placed in front of their homes, telling stories and offering information from the recent or not-so-recent past. These descriptive signs will be on display for passers-by to read and learn from as they walk along the tour route. Workshops on how to research the history of homes will be provided for interested residents. In the future, the ANA hopes to develop a down-



Historic Mitchell Joannes house, built in 1900. *Photo courtesy of the BCHS archives*.

loadable app for cellphones that will include the stories and maps that will provide an on-demand experience for visitors to our district. (Look for additional information as it becomes available on our Facebook page.)

Profits from this year's ANA wine tasting will be used to develop these tours and fulfill our mission:

The mission of the Astor Neighborhood Association is to maintain the integrity, vitality and diversity of the Astor community through the protection and preservation of its history, neighborhoods and architecture.

HISLOKICYF 20CIELA & HYSEFMOOD HISLOKIC HONSE FIKE NO ON <u>EVCEBOOK</u>; BKOMN CONNLA

ADMISSION
Adult \$6.00 • Seniors (60+) \$5.00
Children (5-17) \$4.00 • Children under 5 are FREE.
AAA and Time Traveler discounts available.

HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE MUSEUM

See details for events on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

Tours, programs and teas scheduled at your convenience
by appointment throughout the year.

BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BCHS offices — 8:30a-4:00p, weekdays
1008 South Montoe Street, Green Bay WI 54301 MAP
Phone: 920-437-1840 / www.brownCoHistoricalSoc.org

MARCH – JUNE 2017

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Green Bay WI 54305-1411

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