



THE HISTORICAL BULLETIN

December 2017

Vol. XXXV1, No. 4

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

2016 HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD WINNER

LEONARDO DA VINCI SCHOOL FOR GIFTED LEARNERS 139 SOUTH MONROE AVENUE, GREEN BAY

by Jerry Abitz

It gives me pleasure to see how a program has progressed from its first mention that I recall back in the school year of 1962-1963 when I had to identify students in my sixth-grade classroom at Jackson School who would be eligible for a program then identified as Gifted and Talented. To hear that the program finally got off the ground, moved into the facilities of Langlade School, and now has its own school building, is quite an accomplishment, and a story in itself.

With a growing enrollment of 130 and limited ability to expand, a new location had to be found to allow for future growth. Sitting unused in a central Green Bay location, was the then vacant St. Francis Xavier Cathedral School, a Catholic grade school, that had closed its

doors. The adjacent Convent last had been used as the office of the now defunct *Green Bay News-Chronicle* newspaper. The future of each building appeared to be uncertain. With GBAPS' track record of having converted another former school of the Green Bay Diocese into an

elementary school, this may have been viewed as a "no brainer." They had retrofitted the former St. Joseph Academy, and converted it into an elementary school that we know as the Aldo Leopold School in central Green Bay.



Above: Exterior of the Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners as it looks today. **Bottom:** Original architectural drawing of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral School (1929). Photos courtesy of Leonardo da Vinci School archives..

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LEONARDO DA VINCI SCHOOL

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The Cathedral school and its companion convent were designed by a prominent Green Bay architectural firm, Foeller & Schrober, in 1929 and 1938 respectively. The design was in the Tudor Revival style, matching the other buildings in this Cathedral District. The GBAPS purchased the school building in 2014. They built a two-story addition to house a 21st century learning space (the Thinking Studio), a conference room, a computer area, and an elevator. Within the school building, they worked to retain and restore the features of the original building. The windows, whose openings had been reduced in size during the energy crunch in the 1970s, were replaced with full-sized, energy-efficient windows that matched the original appearance.

The original ceramic tile on the floors and walls were retained. The stairway balustrades were reconstructed to replicate the originals which meet current codes. The decorative plaster at the entrance to the gymnasium which had been painted over was restored to its original appearance.

In 2015 to meet the growing needs of the student body, GBAPS purchased the convent building, which was then renovated to create an additional four new classrooms. A connecting corridor was built

linking this building to the school. These renovated buildings now serve as a modern and fully equipped learning center for Green Bay students..

Miron Construction was the general contractor. Hurckman Mechanical did the heating and air conditioning while Eland Electric did the electrical work. For this endeavor, the Brown County Historical Society awarded the Green Bay Area Public Schools one of its 2016 Historic Preservation Awards.

Kudos to the Green Bay Area Public



Top Left: Original water fountain. *Photo courtesy of Berners-Schober archive.* **Top Right:** Water fountain which incorporates a blend of the old (floor tiles, and new (water fountain with refillable water bottle option and new tile. *Photo by JoAnn Metzler, Leonardo Da Vinci School..* **Center:** Classroom from days gone by. *Photo courtesy of Berners-Schober archive.* **Bottom:** Computer work station in the hallway outside of the Thinking Studio (library). *Photo by JoAnn Metzler, Leonardo Da Vinci School..*

Schools for their foresight in providing a new home for a growing program by retrofitting a significant downtown building. This act should be significant to eliminate the "brain drain" where parents of these special students do not need to move to another school district to meet the needs of their child.

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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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.*

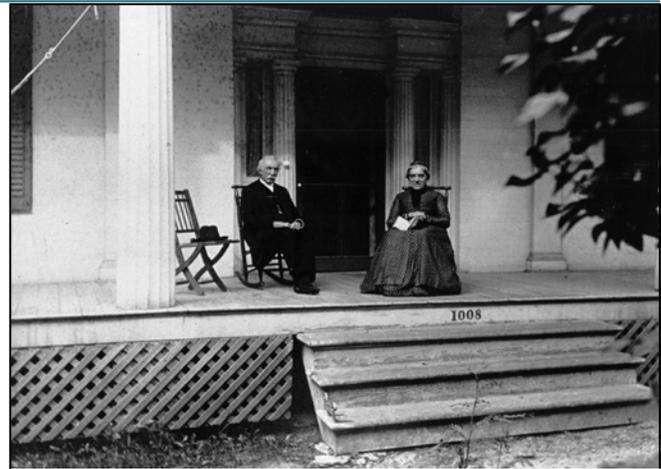
"This is the *v-e-r-y* best day of my life!" an excited five-year-old sang as she left the Fairy Tea. Hazelwood has hosted generations of "best days of my life."

Watching over Green Bay's growth from wilderness to city, Hazelwood is part of our cultural identity, hosting landmark events from discussions leading to Wisconsin statehood to the damming of the Fox River. From her back porch, her residents saluted young soldiers heading down river to fight the Civil War. Hazelwood bears witness to our community's history and that of our nation, while giving future generations a sense of home.

Hazelwood is the community's grandmother. Like many grandmothers, she has cared for our community, preserving its history, telling its stories and educating us. Like many much younger grandmothers, she's still working. In fact, she's the oldest and busiest grandmother in the county!

Here's what keeps her busy — civic engagement, preserving the past and promoting innovative educational programs for every age group. For over 180 years, Hazelwood has watched over our community. **Now, she needs your help to protect and to continue her legacy.**

Your generous support to our Capital Campaign will secure the future of this historic community landmark. We have reached approximately **\$560,000** of our campaign goal of \$1.6 million. The funds will be used for:



Elizabeth Smith Martin and her brother Admiral Melancton Smith on the front porch of Hazelwood (c. 1890). Image courtesy the Brown County Historical Society archives.

\$1,000,000 — Hazelwood Historic House endowment to supplement operating and historic preservation expenses

\$350,000 — Hazelwood Historic House current renovation, maintenance and innovative educational program development

\$250,000 — Continued support of *Voyageur Magazine*

We thank all of the business leaders, foundations and individuals for their support. We continue to make substantial progress, but there is much more work to be done.

END-OF-YEAR CAMPAIGN MATCH OPPORTUNITY

There are no small donations. Again this year, the 1923 Fund has issued a challenge in addition to their \$15,000 gift to the Capital Campaign. They have pledged \$15,000 in matching gifts for *donations of \$250 or less by June 1, 2018* — which means your gift of \$250 produces \$500 in donations.

As you evaluate your taxable donations this December, please remember our community Grandma so she can continue to be here for us, showcase our roots and leave a legacy for generations to come. Your support of the Capital Campaign today will secure our community heritage for the future.

VIKING HOUSE FINDS NEW HOME AT UWGB

by Heidi Sherman, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay

The word “Viking” elicits images of the Norse gods, Marvel comics, violence and arch nemesis football rivals, but these popular signposts mislead and distort the image and reality of Scandinavian life more than a thousand years ago. The Vikings, more appropriately called the “Norse,” did raid monasteries, pillage towns and immigrate to forbidding lands, but they were also common folk who enjoyed spending time with their kids, eating home-cooked food and nesting on cozy farmsteads. A new living history installation and experiential archaeology lab, the UWGB Viking House will show the softer side of Viking life by allowing visitors to experience firsthand what it may have been like to live a thousand years ago.

The donors, Owen and Elspeth Christianson, are avid reenactors who have studied medieval Scandinavia since the 1970s. They long dreamt of building a Viking hall, and finally did after taking a class on the grindbyggning technique (Norwegian timber framing) in 20007 at the Versterheim Folk School in Iowa. Timber-framed houses were common in Norway until ca. 1100 when the log cabin became a favored style. The Christiansons designed and built the grindbygg with friends over the summer of 2011, adding wooden benches, a central hearth, a warp-weighted loom, a bed decorated with Viking animal motifs, and other medieval elements they learned from careful study of archaeological sources. The door latches, for example, were modeled after ones unearthed at Hedeby and dating to the 10th century.

Once the house was built, the couple continued to study and experiment, addressing the challenges encountered by using the house as people would have done in the Viking Age. The cooking pit proved to be a work in progress since it produced a lot of smoke, even though the house had multiple vents and windows. Each summer, the Christiansons made adjustments to the vents, and traveled to other Viking hall replicas in Iceland, Norway and Denmark to see how others dealt with smoky hearths. Through it all, they shared the house with their friends in the Society for Creative Anachronisms and the Sons of Norway.

In 2013, I learned of the Christiansons’ remarkable house when planning a hands-on learning seminar for UWGB history students. I wanted students to learn history by getting their hands dirty – by breaking flax, blacksmithing and cooking over an open fire. Although we had never met, the Christiansons invited me and my class of 20 students to their place for a weekend of learning at their Viking hall. With the help of their friends from the SCA, the students learned enough blacksmithing to make S-hooks, were introduced to Viking weaving and clothing and how to make a stave bucket, and prepared meals over the fire with ingredients used during the Viking Age. No sugar or potatoes were allowed. “Viking Camp” became a much-anticipated annual tradition for UWGB history classes.

In 2015, Owen and Elspeth announced their plans to move closer to family and the wish to donate their Viking house to UWGB. After two years of planning, raising start-up funds and gaining permission from multiple levels of bureaucracy, we finally disassembled, moved and rebuilt the house at its new home on the UWGB campus, located on top of a hill

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Left: Owen and Elspeth Christianson, donors of the Viking long house in Viking reenactment garb (2013). *Photo by Kimberly Vlies.* **Center:** Viking House recreated on the property of Owen and Elspeth Christianson in Stratford, Wisconsin. **Right:** Viking house being dismantled and moved from Stratford to the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay campus. *Photos by Heidi Sherman.*

EVENTS

Join us for one or all!

HISTORY YOU CAN TASTE

FRIDAY, DEC. 1, OR SATURDAY, DEC. 2, 1-3P

During the holidays, there is no more cordial invitation than a pot of tea and a lavish array of sweet and savory delicacies. This year, our sweet treats are based on time-honored favorite recipes provided by local ethnic groups.



Reservations required. \$22/person

BOHEMIAN BROWN BREAD

RECIPE FROM
THE WISCONSIN CZECHS, INC.

Most Czech recipes had few ingredients. This bread recipe was considered a treat because it contained molasses and raisins.

2 c. buttermilk
1/2 c. dark molasses
2 c. whole wheat flour
1/2 c. flour
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
1 c. raisins

Combine buttermilk and molasses in large bowl. Gradually stir in remaining ingredients until well blended. Pour into 2 greased 8x4" loaf pans. Let stand 30 minutes. Heat oven to 350°. Bake for 40-50 minutes, or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean.

Cool in pans for 20 minutes. Remove from pans and place on wire rack to cool completely.



HERITAGE HOLIDAYS

DEC. 9 AND 16
12:00N-4:00P;
5:00-8:00P



Celebrate the holiday season by visiting Hazelwood Historic House for our ethnically inspired event. Hazelwood will be all decked out for the festivities, with the rooms decorated by local ethnic groups. Visitors will taste ethnic holiday foods, hear traditional stories, listen to songs, and learn about time-honored traditions and customs of several immigrant groups.

Sponsored by: Amicale Francaise de la Vallee du Renard, Casa ALBA Melanie, Polish Heritage Society, Shamrock Club, Sons of Norway, UWGB German Club, and Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. For more details, visit www.browncohistoricalsoc.org or call (920) 437-1840.

Cost: \$6/ Adults; \$5/Seniors (60+); \$4/Children (5-17)
NO charge to members.

VIKING HOUSE FINDS NEW HOME

(Continued from page 4)

overlooking the "meadow" (frisbee course) adjacent to the Wood Hall parking lot. Although we cannot use the fireplace in the house due to state building codes, little else of the house has changed. In the spring, we will construct a medieval kitchen, complete with a fire pit and clay bread oven, along with a medieval garden where we will raise ingredients common to Scandinavia in the Viking Age.

Planning has begun for the Viking House with a full series of events that will be open to public, including a medieval festival and kubb tournament to mark the opening season in April. Students and faculty also will plant the garden and give the house a coat of pine-tar paint-black for the trim and red for the pineboard walls. And, of course, we will use the house for hands-on learning instruction, to include blacksmithing and Viking textiles. Of course, these plans are contingent on funding, interest and participation from the campus and wider Green Bay community. If you are interested in supporting the Viking House, financially or in spirit, please contact Prof. Heidi Sherman with your ideas (shermanh@uwgb.edu or (920-465-5146). You also can follow us on Facebook and Instagram: UWGB Viking House. We look forward to hearing from you!

CALENDAR

EVENTS FOR 2018*

Partial listing of 2018 Events

MARCH

Saturday, March 10, 1:00-3:00p – The Women of Early Green Bay Tea. \$22/person.

MAY

Saturday, May 5, 10:30a-12n and 1:00-2:30p – My Gal and Me Tea Party (Girl Scouts). Includes Victorian etiquette and crafts, and tour of Hazelwood. \$15/person.

Wednesday, May 16, 4:00-8:00p – History Treasure Tour. Free event sponsored by the Brown County Federation of History Organizations. Check out our website for details.

JUNE

Wednesday and Thursday, June 13 and 14, 6:30p – “If Tombstones Could Talk” Fort Howard Cemetery Walk

JULY

Saturday, July 21, 1:00-4:00p – Faeries & Wizards Faire

AUGUST

Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 1 and 2, 6:30p – “If Tombstones Could Talk” Allouez Catholic Cemetery Walk

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday (6:00p), Thursday (6:00p) and Saturday (4:00p), Sept. 5, 6 and 8 – “If Tombstones Could Talk” Woodlawn Cemetery Walk

OCTOBER

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 5 and 6, and Saturday, Oct. 13, 4:30-9:00p – Haunted Hazelwood

NOVEMBER

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 1:00-3:00p – Hazelwood Holiday Tea

DECEMBER

Saturdays, Dec. 8 and 15, 12:00-4:00p and 5:00-8:00p – Hazelwood Christmas

*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!

THANK YOU

91.1 THE AVENUE

91.1 The Avenue brings the holidays to Hazelwood with a Community Impact Grant worth \$4,200 of air time. This grant will market Hazelwood's Heritage Holiday event for two weeks prior to the event.

Thank you 

...to the many volunteers who have contributed to the success of the Society's programs and events in 2017. We are truly grateful for the talent and time you have given us. Special thanks to *new* volunteers who joined us in 2017 – Amanda Booker, Lily Duquaine, Judy Ferrara, Jil Hock, Meghan Hock, Carol Lenz, Cathy Rottier, Katie Schmidt, Kara Schneeberger, Katelyn White and Joe Van Patten.

– Brooke Uhl, Volunteer Coordinator

FAREWELL FROM KENT CRAIN, VOYAGEUR MANAGER

It is with a good amount of regret that I announce I am leaving my position as the *Voyageur* manager. I have met and worked with some great people and made some new friends. Although I'll no longer be a staff member, I will still be involved in things like the Digital Archive Project.



Not without its challenges, I enjoyed the six-plus years I spent with *Voyageur* and hope that the changes, enhancements and improvements we started in motion will soon bear fruit, and that *Voyageur's* future will be prosperous and the magazine will grow to its full potential. *Voyageur* is a very unique publication and the people of Northeast Wisconsin are fortunate to have it. I'm grateful for having been a part of it.

THE RED CHAPEL AT ALLOUEZ CATHOLIC CEMETERY ~ UPDATE ~ by Chris Dunbar

"It always seems impossible until it is done."
– Nelson Mandela

An orange plastic fence with a NO TRESPASSING sign surrounds the red brick chapel in Allouez Cemetery, looking incongruous among the century old tombstones. The fence, required by the Catholic Diocese's insurance company, keeps us aware that time is of the essence in preserving this 140-year-old example of Romanesque Revival architecture.

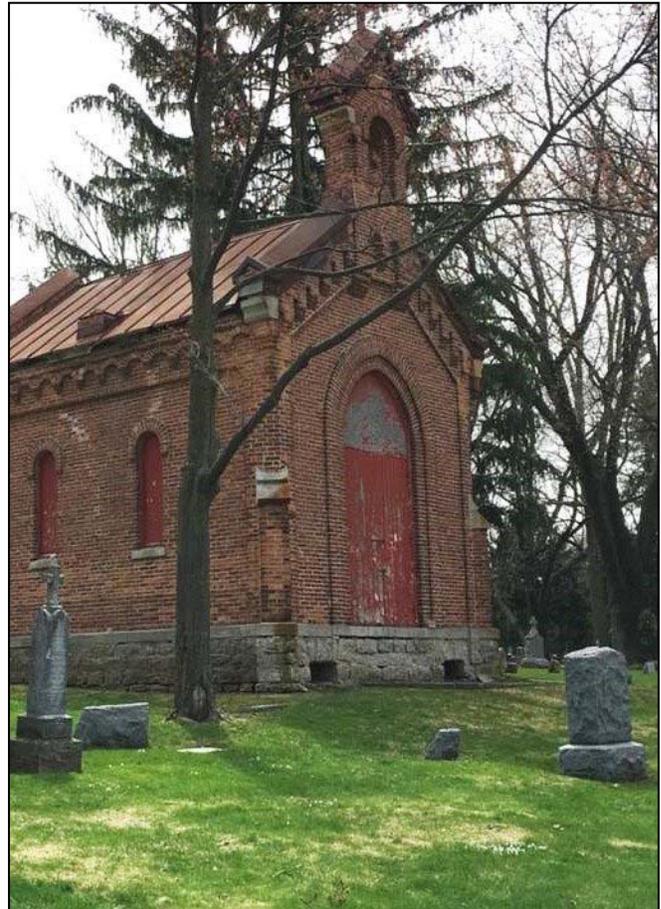
Thanks to a very generous donation by BCHS member Mary Dollar and her family, we move closer to our goal of removing the orange fence and preserving this historic gem.

The red chapel has been on the Historical Society's "watch list" for many years. The watch list, located on the BCHS website www.browncohistoricalsoc.org, provides awareness of architecturally or culturally significant buildings that face restoration needs or are in danger of being demolished. The Society does not have resources to fund the listed preservation projects but collaborates on preservation efforts when needed.

A *Press-Gazette* article by Paul Srubus brought the chapel's plight to the public eye. Public outcry and appeals to save the chapel culminated in the creation of a "Save the Red Chapel" group.

Fr. Dan Felton, vicar general for the Diocese of Green Bay, met with the group to clarify the position of the Diocese that repairing the unused chapel was not viable from a funding or priority standpoint. However, Fr. Felton stated the Diocese was amenable to the group raising funds for preservation work. It was agreed that the project would not start until all the required funds were in place.

We continue to work with the Diocese and will present the Diocese with a preservation work plan for their approval. Work will need to take place as early as possible in 2018. The structural projects include:



The Red Chapel was commissioned in 1876 by Bishop Krautbauer to house the remains of Bishop Melcher, the first bishop of the Green Bay Diocese. *Photo courtesy of the BCHS archives.*

- Metal roof/flashings to be donated by Mary Dollar, est. \$28,000
- Re-point brick masonry/replace bricks \$8,000
- Re-point stone masonry donated by NWTC masons
- Roof trim carpentry \$10,000
- Cellar bi-fold doors \$2,300
- Front door restoration \$2,000
- Permits and insurance 8,000
- Stained glass for windows \$25,000
- Protective storm windows \$2,500

A stained glass expert volunteered his labor to reproduce the windows. We hope to find donors to sponsor a window.

Thank you to the generous supporters who have pledged or donated to preserve this structure. We have raised \$20,000. We need your support. An additional \$10,000 will secure funding for the structural projects. \$35,000 will complete the entire project.

BUY HAZELWOOD!

Green Bay Press-Gazette
Tuesday evening, October 8, 1963

"It is apparent that if the old home, Hazelwood, is to be preserved for our children and their descendants, it is up to the Green Bay City Council and the Brown County Board to arrange to finance its purchase. To some people, the outlay of some \$40,000 for an old house at a time when there are continually high expenses for essentials like school buildings, may seem unrealistic. But a house like Hazelwood — with its architectural beauty and its history so closely associated with this community — is in itself one form of a school. The exhibition of historical sites and homes constitutes one type of tourist attraction. The preservation of such a home as Hazelwood has a value even greater for a community than the tourist dollar.

"Educators have long recognized the value of visual aids, and visiting an historic spot is a valid type of such an educational aid. What school child with any imagination whatever can help feeling excitement to walk where Jefferson Davis and Zachary Taylor once were? The continuity of history and tradition is suddenly a fact rather than a series of dates or lists of battles in a book.

"The tie to the culture and history of this community, to the people who explored and settled and

developed the area we call home is of great importance to our children and grandchildren. It is also important for all of us. We cannot make sound plans for the future without an understanding of the past. Historical sites and buildings

contribute considerably to this understanding."

Fortunately, for all of us today, the County heeded the public outcry and bought Hazelwood. Operated by the Neville Public Museum from 1964-1989, then ownership was transferred to the Brown County Historical Society; at that point, BCHS launched a \$750,000 capital campaign to reconstruct the south wing and create a library, office and exhibit space in the lower level. Now we need your help to preserving this historic landmark for future generations.

*For more about our current campaign,
please see page 3.*



Hazelwood (circa 1910-1920) with north addition. Photo from the BCHS archives.

Brown County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1411
Green Bay WI 54305-1411

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**HOURS for
DECEMBER 2017 – FEBRUARY 2018**

BROWN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BCHS offices — 8:30a-4:00p, weekdays
1008 South Monroe Street, Green Bay WI 54301 [MAP](#)
Phone: [920-437-1840](tel:920-437-1840) / www.BrownCoHistoricalSoc.org

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

ADMISSION

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

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY & HAZELWOOD HISTORIC HOUSE

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