



Waupaca County Historical Messenger

Scandinavia's Eliason Cabin Project Continues

Scandinavia

The Eliason cabin, which is currently in the process of being restored, is a very important part of our local history. The original structure was probably built in 1851 by Hans Jacob Eliason, an immigrant from Eidanger, Norway. Hans Jacob (1810-1878) and his wife Anne Kristine (1813-1881) were among the first white people to settle in this area north of Waupaca.

The first significant piece of historical importance related to the cabin involved the first white child born in the Indian Land which this area was originally known as. The child, Olina "Ina" Olson who was born in 1850, was adopted by the Eliasons when her mother died a few years later. When the Eliasons passed away Ina inherited the property. She would marry Magnus Brynteson, who in 1918 sold the farm to James Bestul. The cabin and its many additions was acquired by Jen Berna who in turn donated the cabin to Friends Of Scandinavia History (FOSH).

The second important historical happening occurred on April 28, 1854 when the Township of Scandinavia was created at a meeting held in the cabin.

As previously noted, numerous additions were made to the cabin over the years which were to conceal the original cabin in such a way it was no longer recognizable as such.

When FOSH acquired it in 2006 there were three doors in the cabin, each one leading to one of the additions. There was also a "front" porch on the east side which was probably built in the late 1890s, and had no door access. Because no photos are currently available of the original cabin prior to the add-ons, it is impossible to restore the cabin to its original configuration.

The first major project was to "find" the cabin. This involved removing all the additions. This was accomplished with the help of Todd Cartwright and his crew who had the necessary equipment to remove (demolish) the unwanted structures.

The next challenge was to determine how to make the building stable enough to move it from the farm site, to its new home in the village park, a move of approximately 1/2 mile. Fortunately we had the assistance of some very knowledgeable, and dedicated, individuals who were up to the challenge. It took the most of a year to stabilize it.

On June 14, 2008 we were ready for the big move. Robert and Christine Faulks had offered to provide the equipment, and along with a large turnout of volunteers, the cabin made its journey to the park. Restoration work began almost immediately, the most important being getting the cabin lowered on to a cement platform. Saturday mornings became regular work periods.

It was decided that only one door was necessary, and would be placed

on the north end. On the south end where there were two doors, windows would be placed instead. We located some original barn logs which were used to replace some of the deteriorated ones.

Jumping ahead to 2009 the work continues. So far this year a portable sawmill has been brought in to cut replacement logs and roof boards. Saturday, May 30th, found our dedicated volunteers nailing on the new roof boards.

Entertainment for the day was provided by yours truly when I fell through the ceiling and was left suspended by the armpits from the ceiling joists--the lower part of my torso hanging like a chandelier to everyone's amusement.

Special thanks goes out to Carl Lantz, a local carpenter, for his tireless efforts in ramrodding this project. Also to Bud Peterson and Phil Wemmer for their dedication and perseverance. *Doug Watson*

Fremont

Fremont Area Historical Society (FAHS) meetings are held the last Monday of the month, except for January and February. Our goals is to document historical facts, and to present programs about the history of Fremont Wolf River area.

Current officers are: President, Wanda Harrison; Vice-President, Mel Maierhafer; Secretary, Violet Koepp; Treasurer, Ann Mathwig; and Historian, Elsie Yohr.

We recently placed benches in Fremont for people to rest and relax while enjoying the peaceful atmosphere.

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FREMONT--From front page

At our last meeting Elsie Yohr presented information on the headwaters of the famous Wolf river, fishing, logging, etc. Yohr also told the story behind the Memorial Day poppy.

Fremont is celebrating River Days on Saturday June 13th. FAHS will participate by having a stand where we will be selling memberships, Fremont picture calendars, and sugar cookies. Also, on June 14th is the American Legion chicken barbecue, and we will be there with our stand.

Violet Koepf

Iola

On behalf of the Iola Historical Society (IHS) I would like to thank everyone that attended the 2009 Historical Think Tank for Waupaca County held at the Iola Historical Society on Saturday, April 25th. We also want to thank the Waupaca Historical Society who offered to host the next "Think Tank" this fall. Participation was very good considering this was the first time these groups have met. Hopefully all the organizations will be represented at future meetings.

This meeting shows we are all interested in obtaining better media coverage, and the sharing of ideas to better our organizations. Over all the meeting was very positive and I know I came away with some new ideas. I truly believe by working together in the future we can all benefit from the "Think Tanks."

On another subject that did not come up at the meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to recommend each and every historical society sign up with the list server that is set up through the Wisconsin Historical Society. It is a good way to learn what is going on with other historical societies throughout Wisconsin. Check out the site at localhistory@listserve.uwec.edu.

On Saturday, June 13 IHS will be hosting the Waupaca Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) with a tour of our Historical Village. On Sunday, June 28 the Iola Historical Society will hold its 25th Annual Strawberry Fest along with our new "Whatzit" which will run from 11 am to 4 pm. "Whatzit" is an appraisal

fair, where for a small donation, the public can bring items in to learn what the item is and have it appraised to find out its value.

Everyone is invited. *Lyle Mork*

New London

This coming August 1st and 2nd the New London Historical Society will be holding their annual Heritage Days & Rail Fest. The event will be take place at Heritage Historical Village, 900 Montgomery St. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm both days.

On Saturday visitors will witness a pre-1840's buck-skinner rendezvous encampment featuring a tomahawk and knife toss. Historic demonstrations will include a blacksmith, "live action" train holdup, shooting demonstrations and movie stunts by "Whips, Garters & Guns," at 12:30 and 2:30 pm. Pony rides for kids, kids face painting, food and refreshments will also be offered.

Sunday will be a repeat performance of Saturday, plus a 11 am non-denominational church service being held in the village chapel with Pastor Bill Bartel.

Visitors will be able to tour all the onsite buildings located within the Village. More information can be had by calling (920) 982-8557 or (920) 982-5186. *Bob Polaske*

Rural

The Rural Historical Society (RHS) will be serving its annual sundaes on Saturday, June 20th from noon to 4 pm as part of the Waupaca Strawberry Fest Celebration.

We will also be celebrating the birthday of Rural's best known author, Margaret Ashmun. Ms. Ashmun was a well known author of a series for teen age girls--the Isabel Carleton books--during the 1920s and 30s. In addition to the Carleton series she wrote numerous other novels, and was also a professor at UWSP, UW Madison and several eastern universities. Connie Haack Hurlbut, professor at UWSP, did her thesis on Margaret and will be presenting programs at 1 pm and 3 pm. It will all take place at the Society's

headquarters building on Main Street in the village of Rural.

The Society's museum is now open to the public on Sundays and Wednesdays from 1 pm to 3 pm. Exhibits feature the history of the village. The entire village of Rural is on the National Register of Historic Places. Visitors are encouraged to take a walking tour.

Helen Robinson

Waupaca

The Waupaca Historical Society will host the fall Waupaca County Historical "Think Tank" in the Holly History and Genealogy Center [321 S. Main Street, Waupaca, Wisconsin 54981] at 10:30 am on Saturday September 19, 2009.

The tentative schedule includes a presentation by Art and Ursula Rathburn on "Guidelines for Oral History Interviewing and Story Writing."

A Fall rap session will take place with each historical society sharing summer events. Emphasis will be on capturing new members/volunteers and activating current members. Following the meeting there will be a guided tour of either the Holly Center or the Hutchinson House Museum.

The Hutchinson House Museum successfully opened for the Memorial Day weekend with six docents attending to about 30 visitors.

Jerry Chappell

Your Help is Needed

In order for the *Messenger* to be a usable resource for Waupaca County Historical organizations to share ideas and information, it is important that each one of us provides input. Please assign a reliable member of your group to be responsible for getting information to me in an orderly fashion, which of course means meeting deadlines.

At the present time, it hasn't been determined when the next issue will be published, but your contributor will be notified in plenty of time prior to the deadline.

Any questions, or suggestions, can be directed to Doug Watson, P.O. Box 15, Scandinavia, WI 54977. Phone: (715) 467-2729. e-mail: dwatson@tds.net.