



# Kaukauna Area Historical Society

## Kaukauna Area Historical Society

Volume 1, Number 1

Dr. Herbert Tanner  
Kaukauna Historian

### We Need To Keep The Coals Burning

“To you words are ashes, but to me they’re burning coals.” Jim Lang, reporter for the Kaukauna Times, penned in 1956 as a lead in with his interview with Grant Wittman. Grant reminisced about his 90 years of growing up in Kaukauna, the building of the locks, the corn field growing where the north side bowling alley presently is, the floating drawbridge and the development of Thilmany Mill. A first hand experience by someone who didn’t have to scour books or newspapers to relate what had happened. Grant had lived it.

Kaukauna residents will tell you the swimming pool is located on Beaulieu Hill. Yet few are aware of who the Beaulius were. Mrs. Margaret Beaulieu lived in a log cabin at the foot of Beulieu Hill. She was interviewed by the Kaukauna Sun in 1901. At that time as the oldest living native born in WI, Margaret remembered the log house at the foot of Beulieu Hill, visiting with Chief Konka Pot and where he lived. Margaret related how her father and grandfather fought on opposing sides during the revolutionary war.

In 1948, Mrs. Martin Heindl’s memories were printed in the Times. She rekindled memories of the gypsy camps at the edge of the city, using kerosene lamps, picking berries with pails tied around her waists and surviving cold winters. In the same year John Corcoran was interviewed and reminisced about David J. Brothers’ Civil war exhibit at the library and how he had helped David set it up. Brothers’ established the Brother’s Hotel on the north side. Most Kaukaunans are familiar with Dr. Tanner and the volumes of history he preserved. John Law completed a historical account of his father, George Lawe, while George was on his death bed.

These stories provide a warm social history reconstructing the fabric of daily life in the past and documenting the mundane details of family and scarce. The sad part is that almost all the docu-

mentation or stories passed on cover the late 1800’s or early 1900’s. Life didn’t stop after the 1920’s. Kaukauna continued to grow and change. Where are the warm social histories from the 30’s, 40’s, 50’s, and 60’s?

We need to keep the coals burning. Lets start with oral histories from members of the Kaukauna Area Historical Society. Remember oral history is spoken history, subject to all the bias and vagaries inherent in human recall and that’s okay .

City fathers have continued to document the growth and changes the city of Kaukauna has experienced, but first-hand experiences are what provide us with first hand knowledge of every day life in the past. Time marches on. This is an excellent opportunity for the Kaukauna Area Historical Society to stoke up the burning coals and share the warm memories of a wonderful city before it is too late.

Carol Van Boxtel

### A Look Back In Time

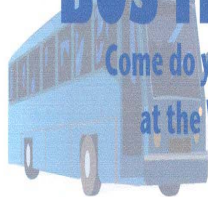


Kaukauna Times July  
12, 1923

**SUCCESSFUL TONSIL CLINIC**  
A very successful tonsil clinic was held at the city nurse's rooms in the Municipal building, July 9th, at 8 a. m., when fifteen school children were operated on by Dr. Brooks of Appleton, assisted by Doctors Body, Nolan, Flanagan and Estes, and a corps of willing nurses, the patients paying according to their parents financial ability.  
The people of Kaukauna with their usual public spirit, loaned cots, sheets and blankets very generously. Mrs. O'Connell, municipal nurse, takes this opportunity publicly to thank Dr. Brooks and the Kaukauna doctors for their valuable time and hearty co-operation in loaning sterilizers and operating table, also all those who so willing loaned cots, sheets and blankets, and the hardware merchants who loaned basins, etc.  
The parents of these little patients are to be congratulated on having such an efficient operator care for them right in their own home town.

## BUS TRIP TO MADISON

Come do your genealogical research with us  
at the Wisconsin Historical Society



- WHEN:** Saturday, April 8, 2006
- WHERE:** Meet at the Family History Center (FHC) at 425 Park Ridge Avenue, Appleton
- DIRECTIONS:** From Hwy 41 take the Richmond Street Exit South. Turn Left onto Park Ridge Avenue. The FHC is on the right. Park your car in the farthest two rows from the church (west towards Richmond St.) the church be will having an activity in the late afternoon.
- TIMES:** 6:30 a.m. – Board the comfortable coach  
6:45 a.m. – Promptly depart Appleton  
5:00 p.m. – Depart Madison. Arrive in Appleton around 7:00 p.m.
- LUNCH:** Bring a bag lunch or on your own. Beverage/Snack vending machines. Across the street is the Student Union with a cafeteria.
- COST:** \$26 due by April 1st. No refunds after April 6th. After the deadline please contact Connie for seating availability. (Seating is limited to 36 passengers and last year we had a waiting list.)
- FVGS MEMBERS:** Early registration accepted until February 18th, after which time registration is open to all wishing to participate. For membership information: Visit our website (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wifvgs/>) or contact Connie for details.
- CONTACT:** Connie Bikowski at (920) 788-9877 OR [cbikowski@new.rr.com](mailto:cbikowski@new.rr.com)
- PLEASE NOTE:** We will have a pickup in Oshkosh at 7:05 a.m. at Planeview Travel Plaza/Truck Stop. Please indicate on the registration form if you are interested.

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### Kaukauna Area Historical Society Newsletter

The Kaukauna Area Historical Society publishes the KAHS Newsletter quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter) It is intended to promote Kaukauna area history, assist members with historical and genealogical research and provide current society activity.

Deadlines for article/letter submissions are:

Spring Issue (March) by February 28

Summer Issue (June) by May 31

Fall Issue (September) by August 31

Winter Issue (December) by November 30

Send submissions to:

Kaukauna Area Historical Society

P. O. Box 513

Kaukauna, WI 54130

or email

[www.kaukaunahistory.org](http://www.kaukaunahistory.org)

### Genealogy Research Just Became Easier

Now is the time to start researching your family tree, organize and document family stories and verify family events.

Mention family tree research and two programs immediately come to mind, Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest. Both Internet sites charge a fee for home subscribers. The Kaukauna Public Library now provides free access to both sites for library patrons.

Ancestry Library edition includes:

- US Data Collection of vital records, WWI draft registrations and the Social Security Index
- US Census Collection of census indexes (listing every name, rather than just the head of household) from 1790 to 1930, with links to images of the census records
- UK and Ireland Collection of census images and indexes, civil registration indexes from 1837 to the present, and parish and probate records from the 1500's through 1837

(The Ancestry Library edition doesn't include City Directories of the United States, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index or Biography and Genealogy Master Index).

Heritage Quest Online offers:

- US census head-of-household indexes from 1790 to 1800 with links to document images
- The *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)* and the *Genealogical and Local History Collection (GLHC)* of more than 25,000 family and local history digitized books. PERSI database contains 1.6 million citations to articles in 6,300-plus English-and French-language (Canadian) publications dating back to 1800. Approximately 20,000 additional citations will be added over the next several months.

Area library patrons are asked to call the Kaukauna Public Library, 766-6340 to reserve a computer with access to Ancestry and Heritage Quest programs.



## More Than One Kaukauna

### Newspaper

Have you tried the “other” Kaukauna newspaper in searching for family history from Kaukauna, and the surrounding areas of Little Chute, Kimberly, Freedom, Town of Kaukauna, Brillion, Hollandtown, Dundas, Darboy, Sagole, and Snyderville? An excellent source of free genealogical data can be found at the Kaukauna Public Library website. <http://www.kaukaunlibrary.org>.

In Kaukauna between 1885 and 1920, three newspapers were published, the Kaukauna Zeitung, Kaukauna Times and the Kaukauna Sun. The Sun appears to be the socially prominent newspaper during this time period and contains detailed articles on social activities, births, weddings, obituaries, land transfers, probates, building of homes and businesses and detailed historical data on Kaukauna and surrounding areas. Most researchers are not aware of the Kaukauna Sun paper and only ask for the Kaukauna Times.

The Kaukauna Public Library has indexed the Kaukauna Sun published from 1880-1916 on its website. The library is now indexing the Kaukauna times. Issues from 1917-1923 and 1986-2005 are posted on the internet. Indexing include adoption, anniversaries, awards, births, engagements, weddings, wedding showers, marriage license, obituaries, death notices, generations, birthdays, history of Kaukauna and surrounding area. The news articles include new businesses, probates, city council proceedings, social events, orphan train, Fraternal and Benevolent societies; property transfers, building of homes, accidents and injuries. Many articles cover the activities of the churches and schools in the areas.

#### Helpful hints for searching:

- Pages are not numbered and the same page may appear more than once. Also two issues may have been published on the same day so you will have to look at more than one issue for the correct page number. Early papers occasionally appear out of sequence on the microfilm. Check several issues after the date you are looking for.
- Try several different spellings of a surname. Early articles tended to abbreviate names, drop extra letters, especially

t, e, l, and the prefix van.

- Businesses frequently changed hands and will be listed under several names. Example: Hotel Brothers became Hotel LaSalle became Hotel Kaukauna.
- Try a key word or surname only. Complete titles or first and last name will bring up only a partial list of titles. Example: *Thilmany* will bring up all articles with the word *Thilmany* in the title, which include Thilmany, Thilmany Mill, Thilmany Pulp and Paper Co., Thilmany Co.
- Several letters of a word will bring up titles. Example: *thil* will bring up all the files for Thilmany, including a misspelling of Thilmany and also *Mathilda*.

Once you have found the date of an article, you can review the microfilm at the library or e-mail your request. Requests received by e-mail require a mailing address to send the photocopies and the list of articles being requested. The first five photocopies and printouts are free. Additional photocopies are ten cents per page. In addition to photocopy charges, mailing costs will be charged.

You may want to research the Kaukauna Sun at the library to examine more closely the social columns that list visiting relatives, vacations, travels and get-togethers which are not recorded on the website. These columns include Town Topics, Personal and Local, Little Chute, Holland-Dundas, Kimberly, Darboy, Town of Kaukauna, Freedom, Sagole and Snyderville. Only the data listed above has been extracted.

Anyone able to read German may want to review the German newspaper, Kaukauna Zeitung. The paper is available on microfilm at the Kaukauna Library.



## OCHS Offers Genealogy Classes

Outagamie County Historical Society will offer a genealogy class starting March 25, 2006. The classes will run for seven weeks on Tuesday afternoons from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm at the OCHS building at 330 E. College Ave. Appleton.

Topics include Introduction to Genealogy Research, Using Libraries and Research Centers, Census Research, Using Historical Societies and the LDS Resources, Record Keeping, Photograph Research, Courthouse Research, Cemeteries and Church Records, Military Research and Foreign Research. Instructor is genealogist Pat Lamont.

Cost is \$30 for non-members and 15.00 for members. If interested contact Jane Woolsey at OCHS. 920-733-8445 Ext. 115.



### Detective Sleuth's Corner

Need help solving a mystery? Submit a short request to our readers for help. Requests and answers, if found, published in following issue.

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### Location of Sunnybanks

At the January KAHS meeting Carol Van Boxtel asked if anyone knew where "Sunny Banks" was located. It was listed in the 1923 Times with social activities of the residents listed. Thanks to Becky Welhouse we now know that Sunny Banks was located in the Town of Lawrence. Becky unraveled the mystery by checking the 1920 census records for several of the people listed and found them listed in the Town of Lawrence.

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### Looking for information on Camiel Hillegeer

Since a very long time I am looking for the relatives of my mother's uncle Camiel Hillegeer born in Lapscheure, Belgium in 1896 on Feb. 22 and deceased on April 6 in 1961. He was living in Kaukauna, WI and had a son Norbert deceased too. Could you tell me if there are some relatives alive? Luc Vansteenbrugge, Belgium  
The Kaukauna Public Library received the above email request. Does anyone have information on this family? Contact Sue at the library.



## Kaukauna Historical Library Volunteer Projects

Looking for something to do? Would you like to help preserve history in the Kaukauna community? The Kaukauna Area Historical Society was founded in 2005 to collect, preserve and make available materials illuminating the history of the Kaukauna Area.

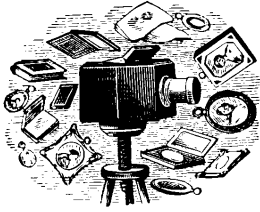
Volunteers are needed at the Kaukauna Public Library for the following projects:

- Identify and label photographs
- Catalog books, manuscripts and artifacts using a computer data base
- Scan in photos and manuscripts on library website
- Assist in preserving artifacts
- Assist library staff in researching genealogy requests
- Extract obituaries and weddings from newspapers
- Scan obituaries and weddings onto library website
- Extract data from newspapers on microfilm and enter into computer data base
- Digitalize articles on website
- Research library requests for historical/genealogy information

Additional projects include:

- Share your oral history
- Conduct oral histories
- Document St. Mary's and Holy Cross Cemetery
- Greeter at Historical Society meetings
- Update Kaukauna street names and research historical names that developers could use in the future to name streets
- Assist in developing children's historical programs
- Research area history and develop articles for the website on early settlers, businesses and historical activities
- Help at the Grignon home

If interested contact the KAHS at Box 513 Kaukauna or e-mail [kaukaunahistory.org](mailto:kaukaunahistory.org)



## Unidentified Photographs

The Kaukauna Public Library has numerous photographs of the Kaukauna area that aren't identified. Each issue of the KAHS Newsletter will publish several pictures for members to identify. If you recognize persons, building or landscape please notify the Kaukauna Public Library or KAHS.



Picture 1

Notation by picture questions if this is Trinity Lutheran . Also, wonder if this family is sitting on the porch of the house shown below.



Picture 2



Picture 5



Picture 3

Notation by picture questions if this is Trinity Lutheran School



Picture 4

**Kaukauna Area Historical Society Survey Results**  
**January 25, 2005**

1. Meeting Minutes **Check 2**

- (15) Send meeting minutes to members' e-mail address and make copies available prior to meeting for members not on internet.
- (14) Mail minutes to members.
- (11) Members should read minutes prior to meeting and will approve minutes at meeting.
- (6) Read minutes at meeting and approve.

2. Scheduling Programs **Check 2**

- (6) Limit length of program to 20 minutes
  - (12) Limit length of program to 30 minutes
  - (18) Schedule program following business meeting, so members not interested may leave
  - (8) Schedule program first, followed by business meeting.
- Written Response:** Don't want to limit length of some programs, some may be pretty interesting.

3. Programs you are interested in. **Check all interested in.**

- (7) Demonstration of Kaukauna Public Library web site.
- (14) Demonstration of Kaukauna Area Historical Society web site.
- (13) Demonstration of genealogy programs *Ancestry* and *Quest Pro* (Available free at Kaukauna Public Library)
- (17) Tour Helen Van Eperen's storage area of Kaukauna archival materials
- (19) Tour the Kaukauna Public Library history room and learn what is available and how to utilize what is available
- (14) Procedures for documenting family history
- (12) Members sharing examples of preserving family history
- (14) 15 minute Kaukauna history update at meeting. (Identify topic at prior meeting)

Additional interests. Please list below.

**Major public events with dinner first, bringing back people who have become entertainers, athletes, etc.**

**(Like a mini Red Smith)**

**Kaukauna's Railroad history**

**List of Kaukauna area assets to be preserved**

**Utilities history**

**(2) Tours of historic Kaukauna buildings**

**Life and times of the first mayor of Kaukauna, Henry Frambach**

**Early paper mills in Kaukauna 1870-1885**

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**Meetings**

The Society meets at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month except July and December in the Konapot Room at the Kaukauna Municipal Services Building 201 W. 2nd St.

**Current Officers**

President—Craig Lahm  
Vice President—Carol Van Boxtel  
Secretary & Treasurer—Diane Wittman

**Board Members**

Julie Coenen	Jim Severson
Rev. Harvey Kandler	Carol Van Boxtel
Jerry Kroll	Helen Van Epern
Craig Lahm	Diane Wittman
Tom McGinnis	

**Membership Information**

Annual Dues  
Single Membership \$12  
Membership year is from January 1—December 31