



SUMMER 2011 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc.

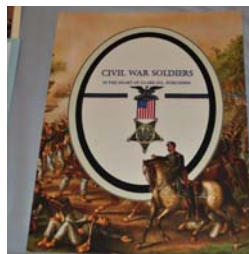
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Recent Actions & Reports of 1897 CCJM Board of Directors Meetings

Approved Motions to:

- Publish Quarterly Newsletter.
- Purchase T-shirts for (Clark County) National History Day regional competitors.
- Accept donations from Stan & Janet



Schwarz (Civil War Soldiers books), Florence Drescher, Mary Lou Meredith, Marden Brothers, Ron Radke, and Robert Wilsman Sr.

Heard Reports Regarding the following matters:

- 2010 IRS Form 990-

EZ filed in May, 2011.

- Noted spring cleanup & building repairs completed.
- May School tours given.
- Report of Summer Tours given (so far) Noted good attendance each Sunday!
- Rotating Display Room—complete Clark County in the Civil War (see pg 4).
- Upstairs corner display (Vintage Merchant Advertising—(below) completed.



- Heritage Days participation—Open for

tours Sat & Sun 1-4 pm AND displays created in 2 downtown Neillsville store front windows showing some of Neillsville's Heritage.

- We will get quotes re: add phone/ internet service to Museum & getting Player Piano repaired (Donations pending)
- Family History and Oral History Projects almost complete.
- CCJM website/ Facebook page will be created soon.
- Signed up for Techsoup.com. (Hardware/software at low cost to non-profits).
- Museum brochures to local merchants & locations.

O'Neill Creek Dam construction completed by 12 Men in 58 days—and after 5 Floods!

1911 - Building the O'Neill Creek Dam - under the Hewett St bridge in Neillsville. Tom Hommel (at right with white hat) and crew during construction.



In November, 1911 the Neillsville dam—constructed on O'Neill Creek—under the Hewett Street bridge, was completed.

Record rains fell in 1911. At the time, Neillsville averaged approx. 31 inches of annual rainfall. During the eight weeks of Dam construction—19 inches of rain fell. Flood waters would destroy days of work and the crews would have to start the work all over several times!

When Neillsville was first founded, a timber dam was built to create water power for the gristmill machinery and then in later years, to provide ice for James Paulus's Ice company and the Neillsville Brewery (owned by Kurt Listeman in the early 1900's).

This first (timber) dam was located between the two bridges on O'Neill Creek, and needed repair every year—before the creek froze for the winter. The extraordinary rains of 1911—swept the old timber dam away, creating the need for a new dam.

Recognizing the value of a fine body of water right in the heart of the city, the Neillsville

City Council offered to pay for the necessary cement, if Listeman and Paulus would pay for the labor to construct a new concrete dam on the O'Neill Creek. Due to the harsh spring thaws and ice backups, a special "cold latitude dam" was designed.

Stones were brought from the Mound north of town and every batch of cement was hand made and carried to its destination. Sand bags and supplies were lost to flood waters many times throughout the project.

Every work day was precious if the dam was going to be completed by winter. The crew worked 12 hour days in harsh weather conditions and standing in cold water up to their knees in order to build the dam. It started to rain on the 2nd day of construction and it kept raining (or snowing) almost every day—to the end of the project.

In the end, the solid rock concrete Dam (120' long, 16' high and 14' wide) was built by 12 men in 58 days!

WANTED:

PERSONS INTERESTED IN:

- **INTERVIEWING PEOPLE WITH TIES TO CLARK COUNTY, WI FOR THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.** (EQUIPMENT, INSTRUCTIONS AND TRAINING PROVIDED)
- **HELP COMPUTERIZING THE COLLECTION RECORDS OF THE MUSEUM.** (SOFTWARE & TRAINING PROVIDED)
- **PAINTERS**—1ST FLOOR EXTERIOR WINDOWS NEED TO BE REPAINTED.
- **MAKING A LISTING (INVENTORY) OF EACH ROOM IN MUSEUM**
- **CLEANING, SCANNING AND MAKING A LIST OF PHOTO AND POSTCARD COLLECTION.**



Opportunities are everywhere to get involved at the Jail Museum. The **“WANTED”** poster (left) features just a few of them. It’s just like the Ancestry.com commercial on TV ... *“you don’t have to know what you’re looking for... you just have to start looking!”*

REWARDS OFFERED!

As a museum member or volunteer, you can spend time browsing through the files and records, the rooms in the house or the displays in the Jail. You’ll be surprised how much Clark County history we have in our own local Museum.

If you’re interested in helping with these (or any

other) projects, please call any of the following people, or come to a monthly meeting. We meet the 1st Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm at the Jail Museum. Hope to see you there!

Natalie E. 743-6234
Shirley A. 743-6058
Sue Krueger 743-2571
Bonnie Koeberl 743-6746
Harvey Fischer 743-2734

New Members and Volunteers

Recent Memberships

Allison Abel
Gene Roehl

(CCHS Life Members)

Janice Miller
Alice Scidmore
M.E. Sjolín
Dorothy Voit

Welcome!

On This Day

July 13th, 1787—Northwest Territory Established by the Continental Congress.

July 4th, 1836—WI Territory Created. Col Henry Dodge is first Territorial Governor.

July 11th, 1839—First Patent issued to a WI resident (#1232 to E. G. Whiting, Racine for his “improved plow”)

Sept 1st, 1861—Luther College is founded. 1st Norwegian Lutheran college founded in the US.

August 27th, 1878—Christopher Latham Sholes (Milwaukee) patents his new invention—the Typewriter

July 27th, 1894—Forest fire destroys Phillips WI. 13 people killed & over 100,000 acres lost.

Sept 14th, 1918—Owen, WI—WWI war dissenters—attacked by Mob outside home. Shots were fired and arrests were made.

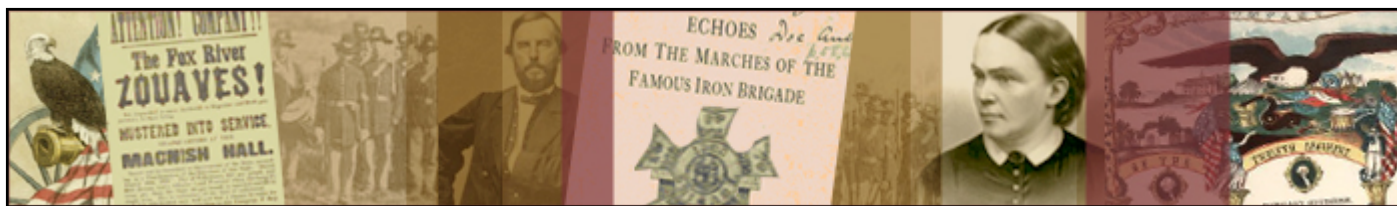
August 20, 1948—Northwest Airlines Flight 421 (Chicago to MN) crashes near Fountain City, WI in a thunderstorm. All 37 on board are killed.

July 20th, 1976—Hank Aaron Hits Record Home Run # 755 at County Stadium, Milwaukee WI

July 25th, 1999—First Milwaukee Brewer (Brewer’s Jersey) Robin Yount—inducted in the Baseball Hall of Fame.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



Civil War Sesquicentennial 1861 ~ 1865

In celebration on the 150th Anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War, the 1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc. has added a display of how Clark County and Wisconsin participated in the Civil War. Visitors will see a timeline of the events leading up to and during the War as well as photographs, books, letters, and artifacts from that time period.



Special attention is given to the soldiers who enlisted in Company I of Wisconsin's 14th Regiment, as well as other Civil War veterans who made Clark County their home.

The Country Prepares for War

After Fort Sumter, the governments of the North and the South began preparing for war in earnest. Troops were drafted, supplies were ordered and

weapons were purchased. Leaders from the North and the South were hoping that a single (or short term series of) battle(s) would bring an end to this conflict. The Union took aim at Richmond—hoping to take control of the Confederate Capital (less than 100 miles from Washington D.C.) and win the War. On July 21, 1862, Union General Irvin McDowell took his 35,000 troops and met 22,000 Confederate troops, led by Gen. Pierre G.T. Beauregard at the railroad junction at Manassas—near Bull Run Creek.

This first battle clearly showed that these troops were unprepared, disorganized and undisciplined. The Union seemed to be winning the day, but the Confederate troops were rallied by General Thomas Jackson who convinced the troops to take a firm stand. On this day, Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson earned his now famous nickname. When 10,000 replacement Confederate troops arrived, the Union troops retreated in disarray. Now Washington D.C. was in danger of being attacked, but nothing materialized. Both sides were disorganized...in victory and defeat!

Log onto the **Wisconsin State Historical Society's** website at www.wisconsinhistory.org/civil-war/ to learn more about Wisconsin's role in the Civil War.

~ The Black River Floods ~

Black River Falls Severely Damaged

October 6, 1911

Friday, October 6, 1911 was a day that the people who lived along the Black River in Wisconsin, hoped they would never see. According to news reports from that day, every dam on the river and most of downtown Black River Falls were damaged or destroyed by the flood that swept down the river that day.

1911 was an unusually rainy summer. It had rained for nearly 10 days straight, and on October 6th, the first dam gave way, at Medford in Taylor County. Next, the Hemlock Dam, between Withee and Greenwood broke and as the water levels continued to rise, the question asked over and over again was ... "would Dells Dam hold?" . If it didn't—would the Hatfield Dam be able to hold. The city of Black River Falls, and those further downstream, would be directly in the path of the flood waters if they didn't.

Dells Dam was built about 9 miles south of Neillsville and the Hatfield Dam had been built in 1907 by the La Crosse Power & Light Co. Neither of the dams had gates, but each had long earthen dikes on either side of the concrete dams. At the time engineers did not believe flood gates were necessary on the Black River.

As every man available piled sandbags on the sides of Dells Dam, hourly telephone updates of the water levels and the Dam's condition were relayed to those further down river. Eventually, the rain soaked soil could hold no more, and the river created new chan-

nels around the Dams. The water, now unheeded, rushed on with a fury towards Black River Falls.

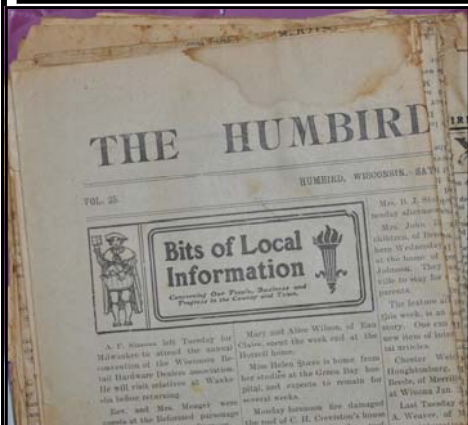


Warnings had been sent ahead to Hatfield, and beyond, and to all the farm houses along the way. People were warned to run for their lives to higher ground. The extent of the flood damage took everyone by surprise. Unbelievably, 42 acres and 80 businesses in Black River Fall's downtown business district crumbled and fell into the river that day.

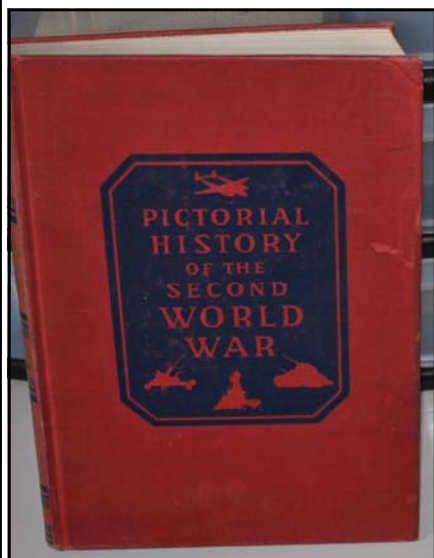
Families and business owners lost everything that day. Every grocery store in town was swept away as well as 2 hotels and 2 banks. Property losses amounted to over 2.5 Million dollars. Stories of courage, faith and determination were told of how these pioneers of 1911 survived the flood and went on to rebuild their homes and communities again.



Recent Additions to the Jail Museum's Collections



Seventeen issues of *The Humbird Enterprise* (1913 1914 1916 1926 1927 1928 1929 1950) from Charles Taylor (Mosinee WI) how received these papers from his relative—Anita Markman who lived near Humbrid.

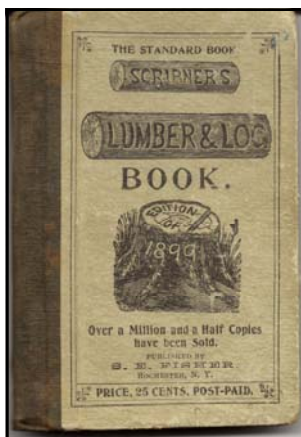


A 1946 Six volume book set titled *"Pictorial History of the Second World War"* (above) was donated by Jer, Ron, and Randy Marden.

A Model 95A Polaroid Speedliner Land Camera (below) set was donated by Mary Lou Meredith. This equipment was previously owned by her uncle, Gordon Hagie of Neillsville.



Natalie Erpenbach donated an 1899 **Scribner's Lumber and Log Book** (see at right). This book would have been used by logger and lumber yard merchants. It gives valuable information regarding type and quality of timber, best lumber practices, as well as scantling, board



measure, plank measure and cubic measure charts.

Member Ann Bates, Neillsville has loaned a **Sadd Charcoal Iron** to the Museum for display in the Laundry Room—an exhibit on the 2nd Floor of the Jail portion of the Museum.



Other Recent donations to the Museum's collections have come from

- Ron Radke—Leona [Kleinschmidt] Atley Memorabilia. Mrs. Atley was born in Lynn and was a one-room school teacher here in Clark County in the early 1900's.
- Florence Drescher—Pearl collar necklace, vintage parasol, & a set of curtain stretchers
- Bob Wilsmann Sr—Elvis Presley Memorabilia, and several commemorative area Newspapers.

Thanks to everyone for your Donations!



1897 CLARK COUNTY JAIL MUSEUM, INC.

New Member Application Form

1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc.

PO Box 41 Neillsville, WI 54456

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Annual Membership	\$ 5.00/year	Total Amount Paid: \$ _____ Date Paid: ____/____/____ Received By: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Annual Membership	\$ 12.00/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Historian Membership	\$ 2.00/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Professional Membership	\$ 10.00/year	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership	\$ 50.00/year	

First Name _____		Last Name _____	
Street _____	City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
Phone Number _____		Email address _____	
		_____ YES _____ NO (Interested in Volunteer Options?)	

Our Family History

\$25.00 per Family History Kit.

Great Gift Idea!!

© 2011 1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc. 215 E 5th St, PO 41, Neillsville, WI 54456

Family History Kits

for Sale at The 1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc.

Kits include an archival storage box and a supply of folders, photo sleeves, and instructions & checklists to get you started!

Contact any of the Members on Page 3 of this Newsletter to get your Family History Kit Now!!

1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc.
215 E 5th Street
PO Box 41
Neillsville WI 54456

Return Service Requested

1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc.

Officers:

President: Natalie Erpenbach	nerpenbach@tds.net	715-743-6234
Vice Pres: Shirley Anderson	Secretary: Kevin Struensee	Treasurer: Snick Quicker



1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc.

Upcoming Events

(All at the Jail Museum—215 E 5th St—Neillsville, WI 54456)

August 14th /21st /28th

Open 1~4 pm

Open for Sunday Tours

September 4th and 5th

Open 1~4 pm

Labor Day Weekend Tours

September 6th

7:00 pm

September Monthly Meeting

October 4th

7:00 pm

October Monthly Meeting

Summer Tour Season Ends on Labor Day
Museum Tours Are by Appointment Only ~ after Labor Day

The 1897 Clark County Jail Museum, Inc. operates as a Tax-Exempt 501(c)(3) organization