

## **Franklin Historical Society August 2012 Newsletter**

### **HONORING THE FARMING WAY OF LIFE**

It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon in late July — a break from the extreme heat that has been a major part of the summer's weather pattern. Invitations had been sent out weeks before to Franklin's farm families — families that are still farming in Franklin and descendants of farm families who were representing their ancestors. The event was designated as a kick-off event by the barn fund-raising committee of the Franklin Historical Society.

The event was held at Legend Park in Franklin next to the complex of historical buildings behind City Hall. Under the pavilion roof and the large trees, people gathered to greet old neighbors and renew old acquaintances. The program began with a welcome greeting by Luanne Burdick, Chairperson of the Barn Fund Raising Committee and then the Pledge of Allegiance by Lily Naldony, the young poster artist for the fund raising campaign. Mayor Tom Taylor spoke about the positive impact that the Franklin Historical Society is having on the city and Jim Luckey, President of the Franklin Historical Society, spoke of the importance of the barn project to the community.

The Wendt family of Franklin, represented by daughter Joanne Kaczmarek, told the guests present that her family is happy to see that the barn will be used to educate people about farming and that it will be used as a living museum. The 1880's barn, she said, is a true representation of the types of barns that were on Franklin farms during the early years of Franklin.

A special guest at the event was Ed Schlueter, whose family farm was located at the sight of the Civic Center complex and the Franklin Public Library. He recalled his days of growing up on a farm, about how hard the family worked but also how much fun they had living on a farm.

After Schlueter finished his comments, the farm families in attendance were introduced. It was not unusual for many of those in attendance to be related to 2 or 3 other families present, because the Franklin of years ago was small in population and people met and married those from school, church or the nearby area. Some of them brought photos of their farms, family trees, family photos and a lot of memories to share. There were also lots of hugs and handshakes for people they had not seen for some time.



The farm families spoke of an earlier Franklin, when it was a much smaller town, of going to one-room schools, of no indoor plumbing, of crops they raised, of animals they had on their farms and what they did for recreation. Some spoke of how special it felt to grow up in a small town atmosphere where everyone knew everyone else.

After the general program, guests had an opportunity to view the site of the future barn and on display at that site were farming tools and equipment. Many talked about how these tools were used and which ones they had on their farms.

The children in attendance were invited not only to tour the exhibits but to play some old-fashioned games, games reminiscent of those played in the old one-room schools. Games like ring toss, "hoops", "graces" and even a potato relay game were available to the children. Afternoon concertina music was provided by Vernin Tretow and Luanne Burdick as guests enjoyed the refreshments being served.

The barn that the Franklin Historical Society hopes to build will not only be a building full of farm tools and equipment, but it will be an educational learning experience. It will become another example of a "living history museum", just as the Whelan School is now.

At the end of the afternoon, farm families were suggesting another event that they would like to attend to continue their support of the barn building project. They, with the Franklin Historical Society know how important preserving examples of that rural way of life is to future generations.

**- The above story is a condensed version of this weeks "Historically Speaking" column in the Franklin Citizen newspaper written by Judy Scherrer board member and historian of the Franklin Historical Society. Please pick up a copy of this bi-weekly newspaper to read the complete story, and stories in future weeks. They are quite informative and interesting.**

**Save This  
Barn**





## Regional Metro Conference

The Franklin Historical Society hosted the Wisconsin Historical Society's annual Regional Metro Conference July 14 at the Franklin Public Library. We last hosted this event in 1998. There are over 20 active historical societies in the Milwaukee County Metro area. Ten of these societies which includes the FHS were represented.

The purpose of the conference is allow the WHS an opportunity to update the individual historical societies of their programs, and provide an educational class. Perhaps even a greater purpose is the chance for all of us to get to know each other, and learn from each other. I believe this did happen.

In recent years the conference has been poorly attended with a general lack of interest. I was told this up front by the WHS. The FHS set out to change this. In fact we more than doubled the normal attendance, and had our guests raving about our program.

Mayor Tom Taylor with some help from Scarlett O'Hara ( Kathryn Harrison ) opened the conference. Training in making the most of your photo collections was instructed by Rick Bernstein of the WHS. This was followed by the FHS renowned Civil War in Song group's performance. Our guests gave them a prolonged standing ovation. This performance will be long remembered by all.

Ultimately the success of any event comes down to the food. We served our guests a healthy and varied breakfast. The Franklin homemade lunch included chicken and polish sausage with many excellent side dishes and a great dessert bar. There were more then 60 people to feed. Below I will list what is a long list of volunteers who made this such a successful event. The fine food and the economical preparation done by Judy Scherrer and Marian Luckey deserves special mention. ( The FHS did make a nice profit )

After lunch we had a round table discussion where every historical society had a chance to speak about their programs. A tour of our building completed the day.



**Thank You - Civil War in Song Committee** - Acknowledgements to Al Block, Sue Gawrisch, Ken Gawrisch, Barbara Pforr, Dale Pforr, Katie Theel, Russ Kenitzer, Kathryn Harrison, Lance Herdegen, Janet Ahrens, Doug Esty, Chris Krueger, Andrew Pforr, Nancy Bratt, Jerry Latawieg, Luanne Burdick, Dell Lester, Addy Sadowski and Jonah Pforr.

**Thank You - Volunteers** - Marie Garnhart, Brenda Magee, Anita Nickerson, Phil Nickerson, Judy Scherrer, Ken Scherrer, Denise Eberhardy, Marian Luckey, Lori Luckey, Rosi Englert, Matt Englert, Roger Lange, Joan Thompson and Doug Schmidt.

### **St. Martins Labor Day Fair Parking and Raffle**

On Sunday Sept. 2 and Monday Sept. 3 the FHS will be doing double duty. As for many years we will be parking cars for the fair at the Country Dale School. We will have a booth set up at another location in the fair to sell raffle tickets for our barn fund raising.

The parking is our most important source of operating income. On both days we must have coverage from 5 AM to 7 PM. The early morning hours and the early evening hours are covered. We really need help from 10 AM to 4 PM. Volunteers would be asked to work 2 hour shifts collecting the money and directing the vehicles to the volunteer Boy Scouts who will point out a parking spot for our guests.

Our volunteers will be provided with a free close parking spot for the fair. A good deal for everyone.

We also really need help selling raffle tickets for the barn project. We have two Packer tickets featured along with a \$100 gift card and a \$50 gift basket from Sendiks of Franklin plus many other fine prizes to raffle off.

Please call Luanne Burdick for the raffle schedule at 414- 423-0065. Please call me at 414-421-6539 for the parking schedule. Thank you to Dick Schmid and Ron Skane for already volunteering.

**Welcome Back - to the Kamper Family.** I am speaking metaphorically here. John Kamper was the first president of the FHS. He also was the City of Franklin's assessor for many years. His wife Patricia, daughter Susan and son Robert have joined us as lifetime family members to honor John who passed away in 2002. Susan now lives in Minnesota, Robert in Watertown, WI. and Patricia in Utah.

Susan told me how John went door to door to raise funds for the Whelan School House in the bricks to bucks campaign to move it to Legend Park.



**4<sup>th</sup> of July Float** - The FHS float in the City of Franklin's Civic Celebration Parade was a real eye catcher. A replica of the Wendt family barn the FHS is moving to Lions Legend Park was mounted on a large straw bed with flags and buntings. Many thanks to Ken & Sue Gawrisch, Dale & Barbara Pforr, Scott Ninneman and Robert Goelz for putting this together. Special recognition to our young talented artist Lilly Jean Naldony for her help.

**Eagle Scout Project** - Last week serious work was accomplished by Eagle Scout Candidate Bennett Hoeft and crew on the St. Peters Chapel stairway project. Footings were dug and filled with cement. Wood support framing was installed. The diggings were of a great challenge dealing with the clay soil, a layer of gravel and one big rock. Below are some pictures of the on going project, the volunteer people who are making this happen, and a comment from Bennett Hoeft.

#### Foundation Work

Eagle Candidate - Bennett Hoeft

Scouts - Ryan Simmons, Braden Schubring, Nathan Riniker

Scout Leaders - Todd Schubring, John Hoeft

City of Franklin Inspector - Fred Baumgart

Franklin Historical Society - Mr. Vogt, Mr. Luckey

#### Construction Framing to date

Eagle Candidate - Bennett Hoeft

Scout Leaders - John Hoeft

Construction Professionals - David Cuske, Gary Elkins, Matt Simmons

Thank you - **Gleason Redi Mix** for their generous donation of the cement they poured into the footings. Gleason does some great work for the City of Franklin.

Eagle candidate , Bennett Hoeft, commented, "The success of the project has been due to the generous donations of the Franklin Historical Society members, Franklin area businesses, family and friends. In addition, I want to extend a special thank you to Mr. Vogt for his support and hard work in this extreme heat. Thank you to all"





Eagle candidate Bennett Hoeft setting up the scaffolding



Bennett setting the 6x6 posts.



Mr. Luckey, Bennett, Braden Schubring, Todd Schubring.  
Bennett holding up the 23 lbs boulder he hit 3 feet down while digging one of the foundation footings.



Nathan Riniker (behind Bennett) Bennett Hoeft, Mr. Vogt, Todd Schubring. The cement is being poured into each of the foundation footings, the concrete is vibrated to remove excess air and water, and then anchor bolts were inserted by the team.



**Smokehouse Update** - Steve Gyuro of buildings & grounds has assembled materials on site for the construction of the walls. He has also found a volunteer mason **Tony Hablewitz** who has the skills to take on this challenging project. Tony's extended family are the Rutkowski's of Franklin who have been long time members and active supporters of the FHS.

**Cousins Subs Donation Days for our Barn Raising** - From 4PM to 8PM on Mondays Aug. 20 and Aug. 27 Cousins Subs of Franklin at Hwy 100 & Drexel located in the north end of the shopping center will donate 10% of all their sales. I encourage all of our members and friends of the FHS to stop by one or both of those days to enjoy some fine food and support our barn fund. Remember better bread. Better Subs. Better Day.

**Website** - [www.franklinhistory.net](http://www.franklinhistory.net) - Please visit our website

We have an excellent website with information about up coming events, what we are doing, history of the City of Franklin, pictures to see and interesting stories about Franklin. We will keep everyone posted about the progress of the barn project. Also contact information is listed on the site.

**Finally - Please support our efforts to raise the barn. We need your help. Call Luanne Burdick at 414-423-0065 or me 414-421-6539 or e-mail [luckeyjim@yahoo.com](mailto:luckeyjim@yahoo.com) Thank You.**

Jim Luckey  
President FHS