

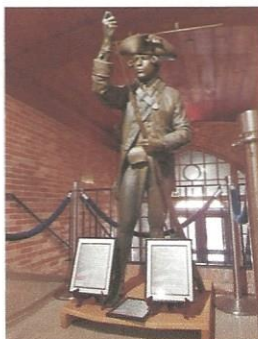


## Franklin Historical Society March 2024 Newsletter

### Franklin Historical Society's Annual Membership Meeting Saturday April 27 Franklin Public Library Fadow Room 9161 West Loomis Rd.

We will start at 1 p.m. with a special educational and entertaining program which will be a free program open to members and the general public. Brian Barrett who is an experienced speaker, published author and a revolutionary war historian will present the program featuring his new book **"Finding the American Revolution in Wisconsin"** which will be out perhaps as early as March of this year.

Mr. Barrett's program will present maps and examples of places, monuments and memorials that exist (or should exist) in municipalities that have an American Revolution namesake or are symbolic of the Revolution. There are no other publications with this valuable information. Surprisingly, there are over sixty Wisconsin places that qualify for citation in his book. His book is certainly appropriate for the 250th anniversary of the USA on July 4, 2026.

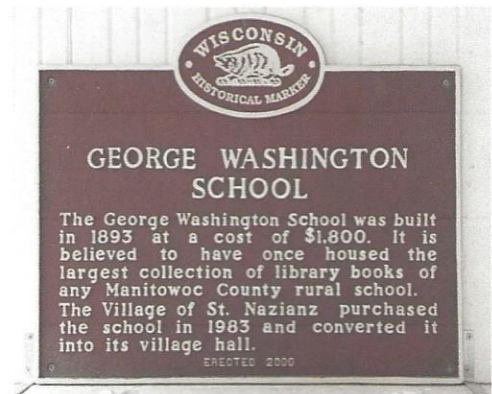


On the left is Casimir Pulaski a Polish hero of the war. We know of Pulaski High School and a number of our members attended there before Franklin High School existed.

The second picture is of a

Revolutionary War soldier statue that resides at the St. Johns Military Academy in Delafield.

The George Washington School historical marker picture came from Brian Barrett, and I thought the volunteer teachers that do our Franklin Historical Society's Whelan School program would be interested in seeing the plaque. The school was built in 1893. The original Whelan School was built as early as 1852. A lot of history between these two schools.



The revolutionary war program will end around 2 p.m. From there we will take a short break to serve our members and guests some treats and beverages. We will then start our formal membership meeting.

The meeting will involve membership approval of the minutes from 2023 meeting where hard copies will be available to members in advance, reading of the 2023 treasurers report for membership approval and any questions. Next will be the president's report and an open question period. Followed by board elections by membership with four of the nine spots open for a three year term.

The four candidates right now are Judy Scherrer, Roger Lange, Barbara Pffor and Dale Pffor. If you are considering joining the FHS board election please call Jim Luckey at 414-421-6539 or email at [luckeyjim@yahoo.com](mailto:luckeyjim@yahoo.com) to get on the ballot. It is possible that if you are an active member of the FHS you can nominate yourself or have a FHS member there to nominate you as a candidate. All candidates will be allowed a chance to speak to membership if they want.

**Question** for Franklin Historical Society members. Since 2011 I have been mailing out 4 to 5 newsletters a year that for the most part had only black & white pictures. The last newsletter in 2023 I sent out two versions one the black & white in the mail and the other with colored pictures by email. Some of you got both. Definitely the one with colored pictures is better. The problem is that trying to print the color ones is very costly.

Already several members have told me they are good just receiving the email copy. There is no problem at all continuing to mail out the newsletter for those that want it. I just want to save a few dollars for the FHS. So if you might want to receive the newsletter by email please contact me directly at [lucykeyjim@yahoo.com](mailto:lucykeyjim@yahoo.com) which would give me your email address if I do not have it. Or call me at home 414-421-6539. Thank you.

## 2023 Christmas Program Pictures



Ken Gawrisch does one of three non-denominational services in the Franklin Historical Society's St. Peters Chapel. The services in many ways are the highlight of the Christmas program. Thank you Ken!



Another highlight was our Children's program where they performed a variety of poems, music and play acting and Santa came to visit.



Vern Tretow & Dale Pforr performed music of the season in our Franklin Town Hall Museum. We served our guests some Christmas treats.

## **Reconstruction of the Sheehan/Godsell Cabin**

In the last FHS newsletter there were pictures of the Godsell family home that the cabin was attached to. Here are some pictures of the reconstruction of the cabin in our Franklin Lions Park historic village of buildings.



In 2003-2004, the cabin was dismantled and reassembled. The Franklin Historical Society has maintained the cabin the last 20 years and has recently had the entire cabin resealed. The cabin was originally built in 1836 by Patrick & Michael Sheehan. Michael Godsell purchase it in 1911.

## St. Peters Chapel Repair for Christmas Services

Franklin's Department of Public Works saved the Franklin Historical Society's three chapel Christmas services! Thank you!

With our December 2nd program coming we experienced damage to the tongue and groove floor boards during a ceremony in the chapel. No one was harmed but we had a real problem with the shoring of the floor.

There is a small crawl space under floor, and we realized major repairs would be needed with little time to do so. An initial inspection was made by our City Engineer Glenn Morrow, DPW worker Dale Borchardt and myself. However the only way to determine the extent of the problem was to get underneath the building which Dale and me did. Dale came up with a plan that included extensive shoring up of the entire structure.



As you can see this was very tight difficult work doing the shoring work while making sure the floor was level and properly secured. I know how this was for I did help some until I became a fifth wheel and let the three fellows who knew what they were doing work, and they did a terrific job!

Our Christmas Chapel services were well attended and a joy for all.



This is one of the landmark public schools in the city of Franklin, the Riverside school, when it was used to educate area children. It was later used as a private home. The structure was located on Ryan Rd. one quarter mile west of S. 51 St. It was built in 1878 and is typical of the one room schools which for many years dotted the countryside. Now such schools are a thing of the past as Franklin has switched to modern facilities and consolidated school districts to meet

the educational standards of today.



Riverside School Class September 1951



Riverside School Class Spring 1950

FHS member Steve Gyuro wrote this information about the school.

I owned that school building for many years. The state sold off one room schools in 1954. Florian Foote bought Riverside for \$1800 and sold it to George White in 1973 for \$5400. He raised his family there. In one of those funny quirks that occur, I bought the place from George White in 1973 for \$18,000 and sold it for \$54,000 in the late 80's. Jack Schmidt was the last owner until the state, through eminent domain, took possession and wacked it due to the widening of Hy 100.



To the far left is the class picture of the 1946/47 of Riverside Grade School.

Next is a handmade yo-yo Steve found in the School.

If anyone would like a full size copy of any or all of the three class pictures and copies of the back of them with the students names and placement in the picture please email me at [luckeyjim@yahoo.com](mailto:luckeyjim@yahoo.com) and I will send them as an attachment to you by email. There are a lot of very familiar Franklin family names.

One surviving school building is our Whelan School located in the Franklin Historical Society's land marked historic village in Franklin's Lions Legend Park. The school remains active with our grade school program going strong for many years.

Another school building, Stargard, remains as a private home on S. 51<sup>st</sup>. In Judy Scherrer's book "Foot Prints of Franklin" appeared a story about the school where the first two paragraphs are below.



Stargard School Home Today



Whelan School Today

One-room schools have always shared a special place in the history of Franklin. Each school had been its own school district, but by 1950 residents voted for consolidation of these schools. They were sold at a public auction and eventually some of them became family homes.

One such school was the Stargard School. Located in the 7500 block of South 51st St. between Rawson Ave. and Drexel Ave., it replaced an earlier wood-sided structure built in the 1850's. The new school, built in 1888, was named Stargard for the area of 51st and Drexel, once known as Stargard Corners.



### City of Franklin Industrial Development Corporation

I received this certificate and have no idea about it. No par value is determined by the price investors are willing to pay. Does anyone know anything about this? Call Jim 414-421-6539.



On Saturday March 30th the Franklin Noon Lions Club held their annual Easter Egg Hunt a great family event. Many families visited our historic buildings. You can see two of our buildings in the background.

## Upcoming FHS Open Houses 2024

The Franklin Historical Society will open our historic buildings after the free **Concerts in the Park** summer series which start at 1:30 p.m. and our buildings will be open before 3 p.m. The listing of the bands will be out a little later.

We will have our traditional open houses on Thursday the 4th of July and our Christmas program on Saturday December 7th and other dates are being planned. If you have a group that would want a free private tour just contact Jim Luckey at [414-421-6539](tel:414-421-6539) or email [luckeyjim@yahoo.com](mailto:luckeyjim@yahoo.com).

**Welcome** - New member Phil Dibb. He lives in Colorado Springs, CO and is researching history of his family which has led him to the St. Martins area of Franklin. The FHS is attempting to help.

Please visit our website [www.franklinhistory.net](http://www.franklinhistory.net) and our face book. There you will find some good history of Franklin and current information.

Jim Luckey - President FHS