

2020

FEB/MARCH/APRIL

FCHS Newsletter

Annual Meeting

Saturday
March 28th
11am to 2pm
Whispering Springs



Inside:

- 1st High School in FDL
- Painting Fundraiser
- Love Local History
- Grist Mill Project
- Volunteer Training

Change will highlight Annual Meeting

On Saturday March 28th, the Fond du Lac County Historical Society will be holding the Annual Meeting at Whispering Springs Golf Course. The meeting itself will be from 11am to 11:45, and a buffet lunch will be served at 12 noon. This year's menu is Italian style, and features Caesar Salad, Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo, Lasagna, and a variety of desserts.

The meeting itself will include details about the Society's accomplishments in 2019, particularly with the restoration of a number of buildings at the Galloway House and Village. New events and programs for 2020 will be highlighted, including a passport program in collaboration with 8 area historical societies and sites.

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Vanessa VanderWeele
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Quarterly Newsletter
Vanessa VanderWeele



"Love Local History" is key to membership

Looking for a history-loving Valentine this year? The Fond du Lac County Historical Society wants to be yours during their Love Local History membership campaign. Anyone who purchases a society membership between February 1st and 29th will receive a special Valentine's Day card with their membership materials.

Memberships start at \$30 and support the educational and entertaining programs and preservation at the Fond du Lac County Historical Society.

Members receive a newsletter four times a year, exclusive invitations to members-only events and a 10% discount in the Old Pioneer Gift Shop. They also have free admission to the Galloway House and Village, Blakely Museum and Thornton Library during regular hours.

Memberships are available on the historical society's website at fdlhistory.com/become-a-member/ or fill out the form on the back of your newsletter!

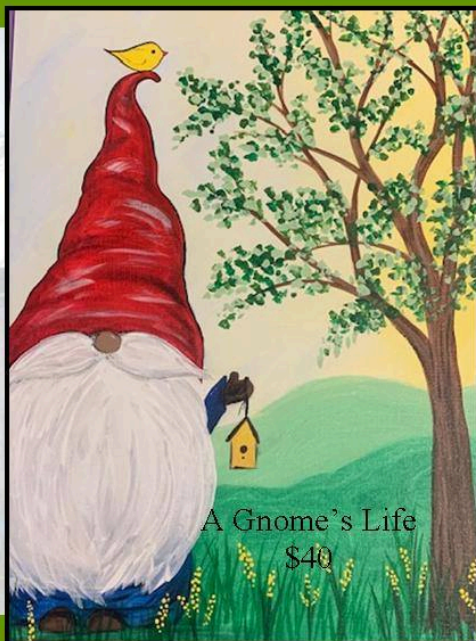
Paint and Sip!

On April 15th, Macy Place on the Road painters are coming to the Galloway House and Village to teach participants how to paint a 12"x 18" canvas of a Spring-themed garden gnome. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and all supplies are included. Tickets are \$40 per participant, and are available at macyplace82.com.

Where is Macy Place on the Road?

Mary Ann and Barb teach painting throughout Fond du Lac, including regular classes at the Senior Center and Share Fine Art Galleries. They also do private classes for parties, community groups and teams.

You can follow them and find this event on Facebook at [@macyplaceontheroadfdl](https://www.facebook.com/macyplaceontheroadfdl)



FDL Historical Society Painting Party

Fundraiser

Wednesday April 15
6pm

Proceeds benefit the Historical Society

A Macy Place On The Road Event

Volunteer Training starts April 17



Listen to
KFIZ radio
The First and Third Tuesdays
of every month at 10 am
for the latest news from the
Historical Society

Whether you are a current or new volunteer, we encourage you to attend one of our volunteer training dates in April! Besides basic knowledge about the society, you'll learn about the various volunteer roles and our safety measures.

How many fire extinguishers are on the property? Could you find one right away? If you don't know, it's time to be trained!

Volunteer Training will be held on April 17, 22, and 24 at 10 am & 5pm. RSVPs are appreciated, (920) 922-1166.



Love our Events? Join a Committee!

The Blossom Plant Sale, Ice Cream Social and Galloway Christmas Committees need someone like you!

Each of these events provides the society with opportunities for outreach and educating the community about local history. They meet once a month, with meetings becoming more frequent as the date approaches. Committees are responsible for organizing and running their event, and collaborate with other non-profits & businesses.

How does being on a committee benefit you? Working as a team is a fun way to build strong connections with other volunteers. You'll also be investing in promoting local history to our community, a key part of our mission. If you have some great ideas of new things to try, this is the best way to share your perspective!

**GET
INVOLVED**
Be a volunteer and reap the rewards
#VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact Vanessa at director@fdlhistory.com or (920)922-1166.

The First Fond du Lac High School

School days in Fond du Lac sixty years ago by one who was there and graduated from High School, Class of 1862: by Carver N. Griffith

Carver N. Griffith (Son of J. Q. Griffith, the latter known to all the older residents of Fond du Lac as a lumber dealer and saw mill owner from the early fifties to 1885) came with his Father's family in September, 1849 from western New York to Fond du Lac, by the Great Lakes to Sheboygan. There being no railroads in those days, the mode of travel was by wagon to Fond du Lac; at times, under much difficulty, as after Fall rains, the roads were almost impassable. Two or three years after, portable saw mills were taken into the woods, and heavy oak planks were sawed and placed upon this road, making for some time thereafter a substantial toll road.

The subject of this sketch first attended school at the age of five in a small school house, with one room, on West Arndt St. north of the old St. Paul's Episcopal Church; our teacher in the summer time was Miss Susan Place, a very kind and considerate teacher, who gave us the younger pupils, on the last day of school, nice little cards upon which was inscribed "Reward of Merit;" to the older and especially good ones, she presented clusters of wax fruit made by herself. In the winter, there were more scholars: Mr. Van Vleck was our teacher. There being not sufficient seating capacity, two long slabs were provided for the smaller ones, with leg supports, too long by the way, driven into them diagonally. Our feet did not touch the floor, and we were very glad when recess came and we could go out and see teacher skate and cut figures on the ice. He had fine "turnover" skates, with little brass acorns on the end of the curl, whereas the small boys had only "stub-toes." Teaching to spell by choosing sides and spelling down, was much in vogue in those days, and was considered very good practice.

In the summer of 1854 my Brother Wilber and myself attended the Marr St. School. I think Henry Van Ness was teacher. H. P. Brown taught there later. In going home we passed B. Wild's Bakery, Kirk's Candy Store, R. A. Baker's Bank, with the shining ten and twenty dollar gold pieces in the window, Schertzinger's Jewelry Store, and others I could mention, all now out of business, except the latter who I think is the oldest merchant of the street.

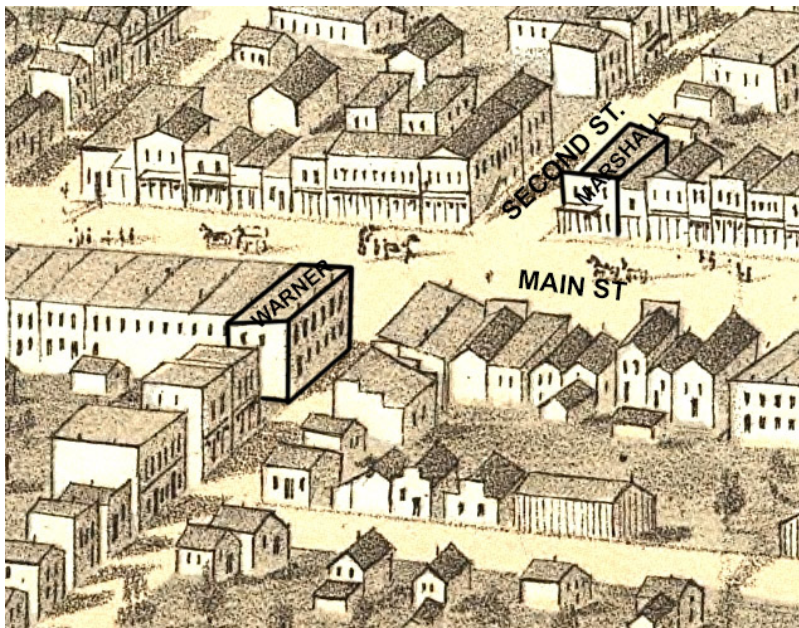
At the Marr St. School we used to play "pom-pom Pull-away, Come or I'll fetch you away" in the street. There were not autos to run over the small boys then. We next attended the north Union School on Cotton St. in 1855. Our teachers in the summer were Miss M. S. Merrille and Miss Mason, followed by Mr. Van Allen and A. N. Merriman. Miss Jennie Merriman, afterwards Mrs. Geo. Jones, taught the primary department.

Mr. Van Allen's mode of punishment was the ruler, upon the heads of the pupils. Prof. Merriman was strict disciplinarian and a first class teacher. I have heard him say many times, "I forbid whispering in school." "What is right for one, is right for all to do at the same time." He taught afterwards for many years in the schools of Chicago and gave great satisfaction.

When the High School was organized in 1859 a vacant store building on the N. E. corner of Main and Merrill St. was procured. Prof. E. C. Johnson was Principal. Miss M. S. Merrille Assistant. All scholars from the Cotton St. School and Marr St. School who could pass the requisite examinations were admitted. There was a good delegation from each of those intermediate schools, and the High School, if we only had had a suitable building would have been on the high road to success. Prof. Johnson was a good teacher as my report for the year of 1859 will show.

In 1860 we were obligated to move, and Marshall Block on Second Street was the best obtainable; and Prof. Johnson was succeeded by Prof. S. H. Peabody. Early in the latter's administration occurred the Celebrated "Red Pepper Plot." Some boy at noon time placed some red pepper on the stove, and Professor called as witnesses nearly all the school in order to ascertain the ring-leader, which he did and dismissed him from school.

The High School required more room, so another move was necessary; this time to the upper rooms in Warner's Block on Main Street corner of 2nd. Here was held, in 1860, the first graduation exercise. George Willard (who afterward became a Catholic Priest) and Kate Frame received their diplomas.



This image is from 1867 and shows the corner of the Marshall Block on 2nd Street where the Fond du Lac High School moved to in 1860, and later to Warner Block across Main Street.

1st High School Cont.

In 1861 Garland L. Gillett, Kelsey M. Adams and Emma Jane Ward graduated. Chas. H. Morgan would have graduated, had he not enlisted in the Civil War. After he was discharged he moved to Missouri: studied law, and went to Congress. Had he lived until last year, the same tardy justice should have been granted him as was given my worthy comrade Maurice McKenna. In 1862 the graduates were Kate Hamilton, Ellen Delaney, Anna Longstaff and Carver N. Griffith. Clinton Ewen could have graduated, but on account of his age (he was fifteen I think) his parents wished him to remain in school another year.

T

he graduation exercises July 3, 1862 were held in Spencer Hall, East Division Street, the same building afterwards converted into the Methodist Church. Of the four graduates, all now living, Kate Hamilton married Col. C. K. Pier, who was the first man to enlist in the Civil War from Fond du Lac County. She has three daughters, all lawyers and married, four grandchildren, two boys and two girls.

Ellen Delaney is now Mrs. Ellen Delaney Arndt. She lives in DePere, Wis. She has one son, a newspaper man in New York City.
Anna Longstaff, now Anna Longstaff Oliver, lives in Grand Rapids, Mich. with her son Fred L.

Carver N. Griffith married Kate Hale of Waukesha County. They have two daughters; one will graduate soon from the Chicago University in 1922. The other is attending the University of North Dakota, at Grand Forks.

In reference to the course of studies pursued by the different classes, from our entry in the High School to graduation, it was about as I state hereafter, varying somewhat as to the student's after life. I enjoyed Latin, and as Prof. Peabody had planned a college course for me, started me in Greek. He had not been advised by my Father however, as the latter had arranged differently, wishing me to assist him in the Lumber business. The first year's school included Arithmetic, Algebra, History, followed by Geometry, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Rhetoric, Mental Arithmetic, and Latin Translations, - Ceasar's Comentaries, Vivi Romae, Sallust, Intellectual Philosophy and Moral Science. After I had returned from the Civil War Father gave me a four months' course at Eastman's National Business College in Chicago. This training assisted me much in the office, but my services were required in the Pinery and on the log drives, where the strenuous life, did much to take the place of the present day athletics, - baseball, foot-ball and basketball.

Going Viral: Sturgeon Spearing on Lake Winnebago



As of January 1st, this photo from the Thornton Library has been viewed by over 70,000 people across the country! It all began on December 20th, 2018, when the photo debuted as a #Throwback Thursday Facebook post. The description reads:

"Today's photo is of Lake Winnebago and an ice road marked with Christmas trees, keeping sturgeon spearkers and other adventurous folks away from cracks. Sturgeon spearing was banned in Wisconsin between 1915 and 1932, as global and local numbers dropped. This was caused by over-fishing and a high demand for caviar. Thanks to local conservation efforts, their numbers have rebounded in Lake Winnebago to over 35,000."

The post quickly went around online, and has the highest reach of any other digital marketing for the society. It has over 500 shares and likes, which continue to grow!

Calendar of Events For detailed event information visit fdlhistory.com

Mark Your Calendar

March 28 11am to 2 pm
Annual Meeting at Whispering Springs

April 15 6pm at Galloway House & Village - Paint and Sip Class

Tickets available at macyplace82.com

April 17, 22, 24 10 am & 5pm
Volunteer Training

May Historic Preservation Month
Event Details Coming Soon!

May 23 Galloway House and Village
Opens for the 2020 Season

May 25 Memorial Day Parade

Volunteers can march with us!

Grist Mill Siding

C.D. Smith worked in December through January to re-cover the siding on the Grist Mill. The original siding is preserved and visible inside.





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2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email _____

New Membership or Renewal Membership

Categories

- Newsletter Only \$15 _____
- Student Membership \$20 _____
- Individual Membership \$35 _____
- Family or Senior Couple \$55 _____
- Senior (65+) \$30 _____
- Life Membership \$500 _____

Please send payment, along with completed membership application to:
Fond du Lac County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1284
Fond du Lac WI 54936-1284

Interested in a Corporate or Group Membership? Call 920.922.1166.

**Become A
 FCHS Member
 Today**

If you are unsure of your membership expiration date, please contact our office at 920-922-1166.