

Hoard

HISTORICAL MUSEUM
FORT ATKINSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NATIONAL DAIRY SHRINE MUSEUM

Fall

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Fort Atkinson Historical Society

80th Anniversary of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society

2019 marks the 80th anniversary of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society! The idea of a community museum was first put into motion in 1933 by the Fort Atkinson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR collected historical artifacts from city residents in preparation for the city's centennial celebration scheduled for 1936. The organization stored their collection in a basement room of the Dwight Foster Public Library. As the collection grew, community members were interested in seeing the artifacts. The DAR agreed to open the room, now the city's first museum, each Saturday to allow citizens of Fort Atkinson to see the collection. The room became the Dwight Foster Museum, and DAR member Zida Ivey, became the first paid staff member (earning \$10 per month) to open the Museum.



Dwight Foster Museum in the basement of the Library.

In 1957, the Museum moved from the library to its current location, the former residence of Frank and Luella Hoard. Frank was the youngest son of former governor and Hoard's Dairyman founder, William Dempster Hoard and his wife, Agnes. Built in 1864, the Hoard family resided in the house from 1909-1956. Frank passed away in 1939 but Luella continued to live



Past Museum Staff:
Zida Ivey, left

Hannah Swart and
Helmut Knies, below



in the family home and boarded schoolteachers due to her proximity to schools in town. The house was sold to the city for \$1 by Frank and Luella's children, Bill Jr. and Shirley, after their mother passed away in 1956.



Aerial view of the Hoard Historical Museum in the 1970s with Foster House in lower right corner. The Hoard House is circled in the top left.



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www.hoardmuseum.org
www.facebook.com/hoardmuseum
Hours: Tuesday – Saturday
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Closed Sundays & Mondays

2018 FAHS Board of Directors

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Loren Gray, *Treasurer*
Denice Jones, *Secretary*

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Merrilee Lee, *Museum Director*
Matt Trebatoski, *City Manager*

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Merrilee Lee, *Museum Director*
Dana Bertelsen, *Assistant Director*
Tammy Doellstedt, *Volunteer Coordinator*
Linda Ager, *Beverly Dahl, Dorothy*
Harwell-James, *Operations Assistants*
Greg Misfeldt, *Maintenance*



Merrilee's Musings

By Merrilee Lee, Museum Director



What makes a museum? Is it the artifacts, exhibits, or programming? The members, volunteers, or other stakeholders? The building?

For the Hoard Historical Museum, what made us a museum is an idea. In 1933, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) had the idea to collect and share artifacts from Fort Atkinson's history in honor of the town's centennial celebration. This idea was so successful that six years later, the Fort Atkinson Historical Society was formed to continue the DAR's initial idea of preserving our community's history.

More than 80 years later we continue to preserve, protect, and promote our community's history and culture. We are an asset to Fort Atkinson, a regional destination, a community-gathering place, as well as a history-preserving archives and artifact collection. I hope that the Museum's founders would be proud of what the Museum has become in the 80 years since their initial idea.

We have an exciting 2019 calendar of events planned that includes anniversary celebrations and are looking forward to commemorating this milestone with you. You will soon be receiving a letter asking you to renew your membership to the Fort Atkinson Historical Society & Hoard Historical Museum, which we hope you will. Your membership and support help us further our mission and helps us carry on the work started eight decades ago.

Thank you for all that you do for the museum and hope to see you soon at OUR museum!

Merrilee

Do you have an IRA from which you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) and not certain what to do with the funds? Choose us! The Hoard Historical Museum and the Fort Atkinson Historical Society are a registered 501 c 3 charitable organization. Contact the Museum for more information.

Recent Events at the Museum

☞ Governor Hoard Day and Civil War Celebration ☛

On Saturday, October 13, the Museum celebrated Governor William Dempster Hoard's 182nd birthday and the 100th anniversary of his death. Director Merrilee Lee acquainted audiences with "The Wars of W.D. Hoard: Civil War through WWI," and invited visitors to view the Hoard House in mourning for W.D. Hoard's passing. Steven Person, docent at the Wisconsin Historical Society's Black Pointe Estate in Lake Geneva, gave a talk as a Victorian funeral director. Stan Graiewski and Jim Dumke, Civil War reenactors from the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association, demonstrated surgical methods from the Civil War. The Hoard House will be dressed in mourning through November.



Stan Graiewski and Jim Dumke portraying Civil War Surgeons with Josh Juarez as a patient.

☞ Booker T. Washington and W.D. Hoard Update ☛

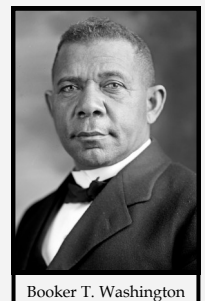
In the Summer 2018 newsletter, we featured a letter from the Archives that was part of the correspondence between W.D. Hoard and Booker T. Washington. From the letter, we were able to see that Hoard supported the mission of Washington's Tuskegee Institute, a school for African Americans in Alabama founded in the last decade of the 19th century. In the letter, Washington thanked Hoard for his supportive editorial published in the Jefferson County Union. At the time we were unable to find the Friday, October 25, 1901 editorial, however, Brian Knox, president of W.D. Hoard and Sons, was able to locate it and sent the Museum a copy. Brian, thank you for your help in completing the story!

The silly attempts of the Memphis Appeal [a Democratic newspaper in Memphis, TN] and other rabid Southern papers to create prejudice against President Roosevelt because he paid the deserved courtesy of inviting Booker T. Washington to dine with him at the White House is falling as nauseous as a shower of bilge water on the country. There is a sense of gone-ness at the pit of every sensible man's stomach whenever he reads such stuff. When will these people learn good sense?

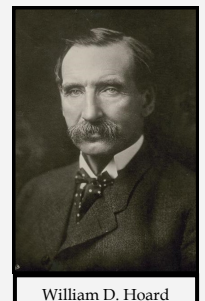
In 1898 the editor of the [Jefferson County] UNION chanced to be president of the Farmer's National Congress which held its annual meeting at Fort Worth, Texas. He was urged very strenuously that Mr. Washington be invited to appear before the Convention and deliver an address on The Industrial Education of the Negro, a topic which the south in particular, is vitally interested in.

His solicitations prevailed and Mr. Washington gave one of the most eloquent, comprehensive and statesmanlike addresses ever heard south or north. It was a contribution to the knowledge of every man, white or black, who was present and elicited warm praise from all. Mr. Washington has stood manfully in the light of what Guizot calls "the genius of common sense," in his efforts to make good, industrious, law-abiding, wealth producing citizens of the negro people. Does the Memphis Appeal want the negro to become a thief, a vagabond and a most serious menace to the peace and safety of southern society? Did it ever know of a man who was made a good citizen by denying him the hope and prospect of citizenship? Do men strive and labor to acquire homes and pay taxes to become a support to the state when encouragement to such acquirement is denied them?

Mr. Washington is striving in reality to save the Southern people from the logical results of their own folly, for it is nothing but folly to manifest a prejudice like this, against a man who is trying to make an industrious, law-abiding member of society of the negro.



Booker T. Washington



William D. Hoard

(Continued from page 1)

In 1968, an addition was built onto the back section of the Hoard House to allow for more exhibit space for the Museum. Oral history gives Mary Hoard, Bill Jr.'s wife, the credit for the addition. This was one of the first of many gifts that Mary gave to the Museum.

In 1969, the 1841 Foster House was moved to the Museum grounds. The house was returned to its original floorplan and furnished with period appropriate artifacts donated by Fort Atkinson Historical Society members, and opened to the public in time for the 1976 bicentennial.

The National Dairy Shrine decided to move from Waterloo, Iowa, to Fort Atkinson in 1973. The NDS was originally organized in 1949 to honor dairy leaders and pioneers, to record the history of the dairy industry, and to promote its products. The Dairy Shrine's new building was dedicated in the fall of 1981 and given to the city.

The Museum underwent another addition in the 1990s. The Civil War Era Exhibit and Lincoln Library was dedicated on February 16, 1997.

From 2006-2009, the Hoard Museum Legacy Project dramatically expanded the Museum's footprint and added the Mysteries of the Mounds Exhibit, the William D. Knox Research Library and Archive, Jones Family Gallery, new staff offices and a kitchen, and restored the Hoard House kitchen.

Help us Celebrate our 80th Anniversary!

The Hoard Museum will be in the 23rd Annual Holiday Lighted Parade on Saturday, November 10th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in downtown Fort Atkinson. This is our first event celebrating the Fort Atkinson Historical Society's anniversary of promoting, preserving, and protecting our community history. We are delighted to share that John and Julia Chady will be driving their 1924 Model T Ford and Museum volunteers will be handing out candy.

Our Museum is still in possession of the artifacts collected in the 1930s. Many are safely tucked away in our collections rooms, but others are rotated on exhibit. **In our 80th year, we will be exhibiting some of the earliest objects donated to the Museum and hosting programs and events relating to our anniversary.**

Stay tuned!



From left to right: Roald, Maren, Linda, Bjorn, Brett, Elsa, Brita

2019 Volunteer of the Year

The Ager-Hart Family

Brett, Linda, Bjorn, Brita, Maren, Elsa, Roald

This is the first time in 34 years of presenting the Volunteer of the Year award that an entire family has won the award.

The Fort Atkinson Historical Society is very thankful to have hired Linda to work as an Operations Assistant at the Museum! Besides being an excellent team member, little did anyone know that her family would become such great volunteers. (And sometimes guinea pigs for new ideas!) We appreciate the Ager-Hart family's positive attitudes and great work ethics. There are many programs that would not flourish if the Ager-Hart family were not here to help get them off the ground! Dairy Day at the Mooseum, the July 4th Ice Cream Social, an August ice cream social fundraiser at Barrie park, and the Holiday Open House are a few of the events that come to mind. The Ager-Hart family works very well together to support the Museum.

The family keeps very busy. Brett is a special education teacher; Linda, when not at the Museum, homeschools the younger children; Bjorn is pursuing a post-graduate degree in Mathematics at UW-Milwaukee; and Brita just graduated with a politics, philosophy, and economics degree from Carroll College and is applying to graduate schools. Maren, Elsa and Roald are very active with their 4-H club, classwork, and extracurricular activities. They never run out of things to do on their farmstead, raising chickens, rabbits, goats, horses, bees, cats, and dogs and tending to their large garden.

Thank you Ager-Hart family for all that you do for the Museum!

2019 Volunteer Award Recipients

Thank you to all of
our 225+ volunteers!

Renaissance Man - Jack Blodgett



Jack is receiving this award because he is a man of many talents. He serves on our board, greets visitors from around the world, makes delicious cookies, and keeps the museum beautiful with his home grown dahlias (that could truly be award winning). He loves to chat with the visitors on a variety of topics. He helps out with special events. He is truly a man for all seasons. Thank you, Jack, for all that you do.

Museum Detective - Barbara Orlando



Barbara has earned this award because she helps solve many mysteries around here! She spends many hours outside of her assigned shifts researching for us. She helped reunite a family Bible with descendants of the original owner, compiled the Hoard Family genealogy, and indexed the residents of the Munro Cemetery in Hebron. Barbara willingly helps researchers at the museum find what they need. Recently, a visitor sent in a donation to thank the museum for help, and they specifically thanked Barbara Orlando for her assistance. She also volunteers with Find-A-Grave and a local genealogy research group. Thanks, Barbara, for going above and beyond your assigned volunteer role.

Assistant to the Volunteer Coordinator - Bethene Pitterle

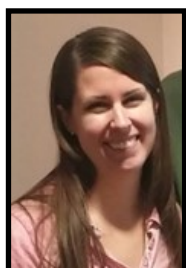
Bethene has volunteered at the museum in a variety of roles for six years, but she has found her niche by helping our Volunteer Coordinator spread a little sunshine. Each month, she selects and addresses the birthday cards and postcards* for our volunteers. This translates into more than 500 pieces of correspondence a year.

Bethene also plays an 1865 tenor horn in the historic First Brigade Band, a Civil War Band out of Watertown. She plays trombone for Jefferson American Legion Band. She is also a church organist. Thanks, Bethene.



*The postcards are sent to WFAW for the free birthday sandwich drawing sponsored by Subway. Volunteers, don't forget to tune into WFAW AM 940 at 7:30 in the morning, Monday-Friday, to hear your birthday announced on the radio. Lucky winners may win a 6-inch Subway sandwich.

Archive Assistant - Meghan Bernath



Meghan began volunteering at the Museum fairly recently, in 2015. She and her young daughter, Dillyn, generally volunteer on the weekend, our hardest time slots to fill. Her specialty is transcribing handwritten letters, a skill we value greatly.

Meghan is a military wife and works full time at a local financial institution. We appreciate her attention to detail and her willingness to take on new projects. Meghan, we are glad to have you as a member of our volunteer family.

Greeter of the Year - Mildred Lemke

Our greeters have the very important job of welcoming everyone who visits the Hoard Historical Museum. Millie has been volunteering at the museum for more than 25 years. Imagine how many visitors Millie has greeted!

Mildred is very friendly to all the visitors, interacts well with the staff, and assists with office tasks while at the Greeter Desk. Somehow she manages to fulfill her shifts even in winter, although she lives in the country and has to navigate a daunting driveway. Millie also has a large, extended family, and just recently became a great-great-grandmother!



In addition to volunteering at the Museum, Mildred volunteers at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. Millie, the twinkle in your eye always brings a smile to the staff!

Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum

☞ Black Hawk Artists Show ☛

**Opening Reception: Sunday, Nov. 4, 1-4 pm,
Open through November 16**

After 46 years, the Black Hawk Artist Show and Sale is one of the longest running community art shows in Wisconsin—topped by the Museum's Mary Hoard Art Show and Madison's Art Fair on the Square. All 46 shows have represented a partnership between the Black Hawk Artists and the Hoard Historical Museum.

Each year, the artists choose a theme, and this year's theme is *Zoom In*. Each artist created a close-up of an object or a concept to match this year's theme of *Zoom In*.



The Black Hawk Artists from left to right, top row: Angela Hamele Szabo, Karen Crosby, Linda Tump, Sally Koehler, Jan Gilkey
Bottom row: Jan Holewinski, Judith Henning, Julia Ince, Mary Wallace, Karen Gómez, Priscilla Heussner

The artists and the museum invite the public to join them for the opening reception from 1 to 4 p.m. on November 4. Artists will be there to answer questions about their inspirations, their references, or the techniques used in the more than 100 works of art. Fort Atkinson High School orchestra members will provide music and the artists will provide homemade treats.

The Black Hawk Artist group is distinguished not only by the variety of media, but also by the innovative approaches that make each show markedly different from past shows. This year features more three-dimensional work than in years past and includes pottery, jewelry, scarves, books, fiber art, and sculptures. Two-dimensional techniques including painting, drawing, photography, and digital enhancement created by the artists will also be on display.

☞ Garden Education ☛

Saturday, November 17, 2 p.m.

Join Master Gardener and Museum volunteer, Shirley Brown, as she explores some of the most interesting and unique trees in the world! Learn their characteristics, uses, and cultural significance. No registration needed!

This is the last garden program for this year. We hope you've enjoyed them and we'll look forward to seeing you next year!



Join the Museum's Gardening Team in 2019

The Hoard Historical Museum is home to several beautiful gardens that enhance our grounds. Five main gardens—the Entrance Garden, Herb Garden, Fence Garden, Rain Garden, and especially the Roger F. and Sandra L. Anderson Intersectional Peony Garden—can make the museum a showplace in summer. The gardens are maintained by a dedicated group of Jefferson County Master Gardeners and additional volunteers and need care and attention through the growing season. New garden volunteers are always welcome to help with ongoing upkeep, spring bed preparation, and fall cleanup. Would you like to join the gardening team? The amount of time you give is up to you. For more information, please contact the Museum's Volunteer Coordinator, Tammy Doellsteadt, at (920) 563-7769 or email tammyd@hoardmuseum.org.

Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum

❧ Winter Workshop ❧

Saturday, November 24, 1-3 p.m.

Join us the Saturday after Thanksgiving for fun for all ages. Join us between 1 and 3 p.m. with your friends and family to explore the Museum and to make environmentally friendly bird feeders. While here, enjoy some wintry cookies, hot cocoa, or apple cider. You do not need to register to attend.



❧ Gingerbread House Contest ❧

Registration: Tuesday, November 27–Friday, November 30

The 5th Annual Gingerbread House Contest is open to all artists and bakers from around the region. This year's categories are Original designs (made by scratch or by kit) or Building Replicas (made by scratch or by kit). Construct your favorite house or make one of your own unique design. Enter as an individual or make your house as a group! For more information or for an entry form, stop by the Museum office or go to www.hoardmuseum.org.



2016 Gingerbread House entry.

❧ Holiday Open House ❧

Saturday, December 8, 1-4 p.m.

Come to the Hoard Historical Museum and join the festive fun during our annual Holiday Open House! The event is free and open to the public. Donations appreciated.

Interactive activities include children's holiday crafts and the opportunity to build and decorate your own gingerbread house out of graham crackers and candy. While you're here, you may enjoy holiday treats created by the Museum's volunteer bakers, admire our holiday decorations, take in an exhibit on winter in Fort Atkinson, hum along to holiday music, and vote for your favorite entry in the Gingerbread House Contest!

Vote for your favorite gingerbread house during Museum hours from Tuesday, December 4 through Saturday, December 8 until 1:30 p.m. Gingerbread House winners, including the winner of the People's Choice, will be recognized at 2 p.m. during the Holiday Open House.



Hoard House Library decorated for the holidays in 2017.

❧ Morning @ the Museum ❧

First Fridays of the Month, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

During the school year, the Museum opens an hour early for preschool children and their family members or teachers on the first Friday of the month. This time allows little ones to explore the exhibits at their own pace with their family or teachers. Refreshments for preschoolers and adults are served. Storytime is at 9 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. in the exhibit space, and crafts are available throughout the morning.



Volunteer Bonnie Schaefer reading to our littlest visitors during Morning @ the Museum

Upcoming themes: December 7: Ornament Art • February 1: Groundhog Day • March 1: Dr. Seuss Day

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Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum:

- November 4: ♦ 46th Annual Black Hawk Artists Opening Reception 1 – 4 p.m.
Open during Museum hours through Friday, November 16
- November 10: ♦ The Museum is participating in the Holiday Light Parade
The Museum will close at 3:30 p.m.
- November 17: ♦ *Interesting & Unique Trees in the World* Garden Education Program, 2 p.m.
- November 21-23 ♦ Closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- November 24: ♦ Winter Workshop 1 – 3 p.m.
- Nov. 27-30: ♦ Gingerbread House Contest Registration
- December 7: ♦ Morning @ the Museum preschool program, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- December 8: ♦ Holiday Open House, 1 – 4 p.m.
Gingerbread Houses on Display through Saturday, December 15
- ♦ December 25 - 26: Closed for the Holiday ♦ ♦ December 27 - 29: Museum Open! ♦
♦ January 1-2: Closed for the Holiday ♦ ♦ January 3: Museum Open! ♦
- January 8-19: ♦ Museum closed for maintenance
- January 22: ♦ Museum reopens for regular Museum Hours

Questions about our events? Contact the Museum office by calling (920) 563-7769 or emailing info@hoardmuseum.org.