

A Look Back: How the DAR preserved the Panther Intaglio

Preservation of Native American earthworks is currently an important topic in Wisconsin. Assembly Bill 620 rekindled our collective discussion about Native American mounds, their cultural significance for both Native American and U.S. history, and how their presence on the landscape affects how we interpret our own history.

Looking back into our archives we know that this is not a new issue. Fort Atkinson's Panther Intaglio was brought to national awareness in 1855 in Increase Lapham's The Antiquities of Wisconsin but was not given permanent protection until 1920. Our own community history shows that the preservation of Native American earthworks has been important for generations of community residents. The history of the Fort Atkinson Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) demonstrates that perseverance can make a lasting change. The DAR's mission is similar to the Hoard Historical Museum's: we are both called to preserve and protect history for future generations.

-Dana Bertelsen, Assistant Director

Wisconsin is home to more effigy mounds—earthworks sculpted in the shape of mammals, birds, reptiles, and spirits—than any other state. Before settlers came from the East in the 1800s, Wisconsin had 15,000-20,000 effigy mounds. Today only 4,000 remain.

The Fort Atkinson Panther Intaglio is believed to be the last remaining intaglio (a depression in the ground rather than rising above) in the world. It was surveyed and documented in 1850 by Increase Lapham and was one of 11 intaglios that he surveyed. Our intaglio was saved for future generations through the pioneering efforts of our local Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Fort Atkinson Chapter of the DAR (now the Fort Atkinson-Eli Pierce DAR Chapter) was the first to endeavor to preserve the intaglio located along the Rock River on Riverside Drive in Fort Atkinson, at the urging of Frances Jones (*nee* Cole). Frances came to Fort Atkinson as a schoolteacher in 1868 and was already interested in effigy mounds. Once the DAR was established in 1899, Frances encouraged her chapter to protect the intaglio. They did, and after two decades, the DAR and the City of Fort Atkinson dedicated the intaglio on June 5, 1920, thereby saving it for future generations.

Unfortunately, not all earthworks recorded by Lapham were able to be saved. Many of the local mounds groups were already damaged by 1900. Thousands of effigy mounds were destroyed by farmers, speculators, and newly arrived settlers. They were also intentionally excavated for their curiosities.

In 1904, the Chapter met with Mr. George Telfer, the owner of the land on which the intaglio was located. Telfer promised the ladies that “as long as he lived the intaglio would never be defaced” and promised to mow the intaglio for a stipend (as recorded by Angie Kumlin Main in the Chapter's history in 1949). The following year, the Chapter took further steps to preserve the intaglio and leased the land for three years. The lease included permission to place a fence around the effigy to protect it from possible destruction. Unfortunately, the lease was not renewed in 1908. In 1910, when George Telfer passed away, his son approached the DAR and informed them that unless they were able to buy the land for \$200, the intaglio would be plowed under.

(Continued on page 4)



Panther Intaglio. Image from the Museum Archives.

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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

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Director's Musings

By Merrilee Lee



Hello all!

I hope that winter has treated you well. For a Wisconsin winter, the weather has been (so far) quite kind to us. We are looking forward to a busy spring and equally busy summer; look ahead in the newsletter for more information on future events. We hope to see you at some upcoming events!

Study history long enough and a person quickly starts to see similarities between the present and the past. Something that has always been a part of life is change. Jobs change, friends change, even kitchen cabinets change. Some change is easy to accept. But the most difficult change to accept is the loss of a loved one. In the past year we lost 17 members of the Historical Society and five members so far in 2016. Those we lost were long-time members, active volunteers, and people whom we considered to be part of our Museum family. It is due to their efforts and energy that the Museum and Fort Atkinson is what it is today. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those who have passed.

My grandfather, who passed away a few years ago, was well-known for his wicked (and not always appropriate) sense of humor. My family has "Grandpa Bob"-isms that we say when the timing is just right. His one-liners and his entire sense of humor, his life-long interest in gardening, and his love of family are all part of his legacy.

Today the Museum is the living legacy of all those who have and continue to support it. Whether members, volunteers, directors, board members, tireless advocates, or event attendees, we are thankful for your efforts and promise to continue the good work started here almost 80 years ago.

Merrilee

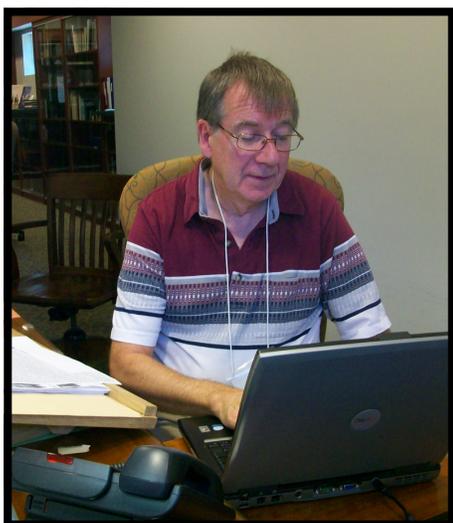
The Hoard Historical Museum recently
received memorials in honor of:

Jim Baird
Lucille Draeger
Richard Northey

We are grateful for the gifts and pledge
to remember their legacy.

2016 Volunteer Awards

Joe Slaney- 2016 Volunteer of the Year



Joe began volunteering at the Museum in December of 2011 and is truly a “jack-of-all-trades.” He serves in the archives, at the greeter desk, in the kitchen, works at special events, bakes, assists with collections projects, and conducts tours. He is helpful, engaging with visitors, and gets along with everyone. He always enters a room with a great attitude and big smile!

Joe met his wife, Eunice Ann, at a school where they were both teachers. They have been married for 46 years and have three children, and three grandchildren. Together they share a love of travel and genealogy.

One of Joe’s hobbies is “people.” He actively seeks out ways to build relationships and to serve his community. He is the good neighbor that anyone would be glad to have next door. We are happy that he has adopted the Museum as one of his “people” projects.

Congratulations and thanks, Joe!



2016 Greeters of the Year

Norma & Al Peters



**2016 Archive Assistant
of the Year**

Barbara Orlando



**2016 Garden Volunteer
of the Year**

Bonnie Geyer



2016 Baker of the Year

Vicki Schicker



**2016 Skilled Craftsman
of the Year**

Phil Niemeyer



2016 Special Project of the Year: Duck Hunting Exhibit

Dick Wanie & Joel Winn



Intaglio article continued)

For unknown reasons, the intaglio was not purchased by the DAR or plowed under in 1910. However, in 1915 the DAR renewed their efforts to purchase the 30 foot by 70 foot plot of land. The owner initially offered to sell the plot for \$1,000, but eventually agreed to sell for \$500.¹ Fort Atkinson's Mayor John Hager and the City Council partnered with the DAR and agreed to pay \$300. The Fort Atkinson DAR was quickly able to raise the remaining \$200 to preserve the intaglio.

On June 5, 1920, state historians, archeologists, townsmen, and visitors gathered to celebrate the intaglio and witness the unveiling of a bronze marker. Town officials, DAR representatives, state archeologists, and Native Americans spoke of the need for historic preservation. They extolled the importance of the intaglio and honoring the past, recognized the work of the preservationists, and



The 1920 Panther Intaglio Dedication Marker. Image from Hoard Historical Museum Archive.

celebrated past Native American cultures that dwelled in the area.

In 1960, the Fort Atkinson Historical Society dedicated a Wisconsin History Marker at the intaglio. In 1970, the intaglio was added to the national register of historic places.

For more information about this topic, see Angie Kumlin Main's "Fiftieth Anniversary of the Fort Atkinson Chapter DAR, February 22, 1949" and the Jefferson County Union for June 5, 1920, both available for viewing on request in the William D. Knox Library and Archive at the Hoard Historical Museum.

1. \$500 in 1920 is worth \$5,925 in 2015. For the DAR to raise \$200 in 1920 is the same as raising \$2,370 today, per the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



An Afternoon with Jerry Apps

Jerry Apps, award-winning Wisconsin author and radio/TV personality, is coming to Fort Atkinson on Saturday, April 9.

Hosted by the Hoard Historical Museum and the Friends of the Dwight Foster Public Library, Apps will appear at 1 p. m. at the Old Friedens Church, next to the Dwight Foster Library at 108 E. Milwaukee Ave.

Apps will give a short talk, read selections, and take questions from the crowd. The event is free and open to the public. After the presentation, Apps will be available to autograph books for attendees. Light refreshments will be served.

Apps is Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the author of more than 35 books, many of them on rural history and country life. His nonfiction books include: *Living a Country Year*, *Every Farm Tells a Story*, *One-Room Schools*, *Cheese*, *Breweries of Wisconsin*, *Old Farm: A History*, *Barns of Wisconsin*, *Horse Drawn Days: A Century of Farming With Horses*, *Whispers and Shadows*, and *Wisconsin Agriculture: A History*.

Many of Apps' books are sold at the Museum Gift Shop, where Members of the Museum receive 10% off their purchase. Purchase now to ensure that Apps signs your favorite book!

For more information about Apps' upcoming visit, contact the Museum at 920-563-7769 or visit our website, www.hoardmuseum.org.

Nice weather is around the corner...

Mark your calendar for our *free* "Concert on the Lawn" in May. Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Listen to live music while enjoying the beauty of the Museum Lawn and Gardens.

**Saturday, May 21st
at 3 p.m.**



Fort Atkinson Historical Society's response to Wisconsin AB620

The Wisconsin State Assembly has recently brought forward AB620 which states: *This bill establishes a procedure for owners of burial sites that are currently cataloged by the director of the State Historical Society and owners of certain land contiguous to cataloged burial sites to challenge the existence of human remains in the burial site. Current law requires the director to identify and record in a catalog burial sites and, for land not platted for use as a cemetery, sufficient contiguous land necessary to protect burial sites from disturbance. Subject to certain exceptions, the disturbance of burial sites and cataloged land contiguous to burial sites is prohibited.*

Under the bill, the director must issue a permit for the investigation of a cataloged burial site to the owner of the burial site or to the owner of cataloged land contiguous to the burial site if the burial site was cataloged before the date the bill becomes law and the owner disputes the existence of human remains in the burial site and applies for a permit. An owner issued a permit under the bill may, at the owner's own expense, investigate the site for evidence of human remains using investigational methods set forth in the bill. If the investigation finds no evidence of human remains in the burial site, the director is required to remove the burial site and contiguous land from the catalog.

Below is the text of the letter that the Board of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society drafted and sent to our area representatives. If you are interested in contacting your representative, stop by the Museum to pick up a pre-printed postcard to voice your concern.

Dear Senator/Representative,

We are writing to you because of our profound concerns regarding AB620, or an act to amend 157.70 (2r) and 157.70 (5) (a); and to create 157.70 (5g) and 157.70 (5r) of the statutes; relating to: requirements for cataloged burial sites. (FE)

Our mission as the Fort Atkinson Historical Society is to *preserve, protect, and promote* the history of our area. We are fortunate that our area includes a large number of Native American mounds, including the only panther intaglio (mound in reverse) in North America. Our area's mounds are found on both private and public lands.

Preserve and Protect These mounds are sacred to Native Americans and vital to preserving our history. The mounds are thousands of years old and require preservation, regardless whether they are on private or public property. We feel that the Burial Mounds Protection Acts should remain unmodified and continue to preserve our mounds.

As the Fort Atkinson Historical Society, we feel that it is our job to help protect the mounds, because they are part of our local history. If you have visited our Museum, you have seen our exhibit and video explaining the history of the mounds. The majority of Wisconsin's mounds were destroyed in the 19th and early 20th century due to ignorance or greed. The few that have been saved should be treasured and revered, not destroyed. Some history can be preserved and put on display in a museum, but the mounds cannot. They are their own museum and it is our mission to protect them where they are. Please, let's not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Promote We promote our local history and the great state of Wisconsin each time a tourist comes to our museum. While AB620 might be beneficial to the Wingra Stone Company and a few others, mining is not the only industry in Wisconsin. In 2014, tourism to Wisconsin contributed \$18.5 billion dollars to the economy, which was a \$1 billion dollar increase from 2013. Our Native American mounds are a vital aspect of our tourism. The Hoard Historical Museum, supported by the Fort Atkinson Historical Society, drew more than 20,000 people to our community of 12,355 in 2015. People came from 41 other states and 20 countries to our Museum. They came here to learn about our Native American history and other local history.

If AB620 comes to a vote, we the Fort Atkinson Historical Society and constituents in your district ask you to vote "nay."

Sincerely,

The Fort Atkinson Historical Society Board of Directors



Spring is Selection Season for National Dairy Shrine

By Dr. David Selner, Executive Director of the National Dairy Shrine

Every spring the National Dairy Shrine accepts nominations for recognition awards for current and past dairy leaders and student applications for numerous scholarships. Over 170 National Dairy Shrine members volunteer to serve on selection panels for these prestigious awards and scholarships.

The National Dairy Shrine's Guest of Honor Award recognizes a current dairy leader that has had a large influence on the progress of the dairy industry. The Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder award recognizes a current dairy breeder who has developed outstanding dairy genetics. The Pioneer Award is given to dairy leaders whose careers have led to significant contributions in all facets of the dairy industry. The recipients of these honors enter the National Dairy Hall of Fame housed in the lower level of the museum. The new multi-media touchscreen monitors allow all visitors to view more information on these past and present Dairy Hall of Famers.



The student merit scholarships are awarded to students at 2-year and 4-year colleges from all over the United States. Each year, more than 150 students apply for scholarships in 11 different categories. These honorees not only excel in academics but also serve as leaders and mentors to their fellow students and in their communities. Over \$60,000 is given annually to more than 40 future dairy leaders by National Dairy Shrine. These outstanding students receive their scholarship checks at the National Dairy Shrine awards banquet every fall. Providing encouragement for future dairy leaders is one of the hallmarks of the National Dairy Shrine mission. By early summer expect to see the newly honored award winners added to the Hall of Fame and the announcement of the scholarship recipients from National Dairy Shrine.

Hoard Historical Museum Membership by the Numbers

Did you know....

The Museum has **395** members (Families are counted as one member)

268 members live in Fort Atkinson

19 members live outside of Wisconsin

1 member lives out of the USA

We have...

16 organizations and clubs that are members

22 Business Patrons including 5 new business patrons: Badger Bank, Business & Tax Systems, LLC, Day Insurance, Fort Real Estate, LLC, and TenPin Motors, LLC.

Thank you to all our members who help support the Museum. If you are interested in becoming a Member of the Museum, pick up a form at the Museum today!



Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum

Saturday Morning Scholars – History of Haumerson’s Pond

On Saturday, March 12th at 11 a.m., Steve Mode will present “History of Haumerson’s Pond.” Mode will discuss the history of the pond and surrounding area, as well as the Friends of Haumerson’s Pond’s plans to revitalize the park.

The Saturday Morning Scholars programs are family friendly; all ages are welcome to attend. Programs are FREE and scheduled on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. on March 12th, September 24th, and November 19th.

In 2016, each Saturday Morning Scholars program will explore Fort Atkinson history, culture, natural world, and recent history.



NASCO artist John Lemke’s rendering of the planned shelter.

2016 Garden Education

The first four garden education programs of this year are all about garden do’s and don’ts. Learn how to plan *your* garden in terms of your available space and food preferences. Our well-attended January program was Square Foot Gardening for limited spaces. Attend on March 12th to learn how to avoid some common mistakes in planning and planting, how to maintain your tools, and what 4H students of the 1940s were learning. On May 14th, get tips on how to grow herbs and vegetables to use in your favorite dishes. Plan to attend these free programs presented by some of the Museum’s Jefferson County Master Gardener Volunteers!



Willow Lecture and Workshop

On Saturday, April 16th, the Museum will host Poppy Hatinger, a willow artist, who will speak about the historical and modern uses of willow and its artistic and functional uses. Poppy has studied willow basketry for more than twenty years and has presented throughout the Midwest. The lecture will be free and held at 10:30 a.m.

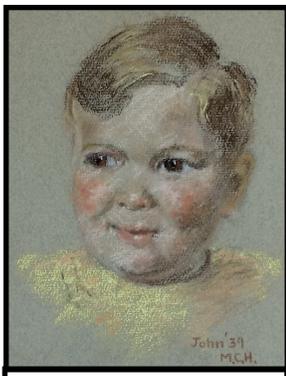
The willow workshop is from 1-3 p.m. and workshop participants will make a tension tray. The workshop is limited to 15 participants and costs \$20 for Members of the Museum and \$25 for non-members. **Call the Museum to reserve your place in the workshop!**



Mary Hoard Art Show

The first Community Art Show was held in 1960 in storefronts on Main Street. Fifty-six years later, the Hoard Historical Museum continues to organize and host the Mary Hoard Art Show.

- Part One features kindergarten through 8th-grade artists in the Fort Atkinson School District. The Opening Reception will be on Thursday, March 31st, from 6:30-8 p.m. The show will run through Saturday, April 9th.
- Part Two features Fort Atkinson High School and Jefferson County adult artists. The Opening Reception will be on Sunday, April 24th, from 1 - 4 p.m. The art will be on display until Saturday, May 7th at 2 p.m.



“John, 1939,” by Mary Hoard. John Northlich was her nephew.

Thank you to NASCO International for co-sponsoring the Mary Hoard Art Show. Additionally, we thank our Business Patrons for their support of the Mary Hoard Art Show: Abendroth Water Conditioning, Beauty and the Bean, Fort Real Estate LLC, Jones Dairy Farm, Kessenich-Tessmer Designs, and TenPin Motors LLC.

Hoard HISTORICAL MUSEUM
FORT ATKINSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NATIONAL DAIRY SHRINE MUSEUM



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
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Fort Atkinson, WI
53538

401 Whitewater Avenue
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Events at the Museum:

- March 2: Fort Atkinson Historical Society's Annual Meeting, 6 - 8:30 p.m.**
- March 12: Saturday Morning Scholars, *History of Haumerson's Pond*, 11 a.m.**
Garden Education, *Common Mistakes in Planning & Planting*, 2 p.m.
- March 25: Museum Closed**
- March 31: Mary Hoard Art Show Part 1 Opening, 6:30 - 8 p.m.**
- April 9: Jerry Apps at the old Friedens Church, 1 p.m.**
- April 16: Willow Lecture, 10:30 - 12 p.m., FREE**
Willow Workshop, 1 - 3 p.m., \$20 for Museum Members, \$25 for non-Members
- April 24: Mary Hoard Art Show Part 2 Opening, 1 - 4 p.m.**
- May 7: Foster House Open for Tours, 10-12 p.m.**
- May 11: 4th Grade Oral History Reception, 5:30 - 7 p.m.**
- May 14: Garden Education, *Planting your Kitchen Garden*, 2 p.m.**
- May 21: Concert on the Lawn, 3 p.m.**