



# Historical Perspectives

*Discovering Our History*

1860 Light Station and Resource Center



VOLUME 34, ISSUE 3

WINTER 2023

## FISHING FAMILY SIGNS TO BE REPLACED

We are now in the fundraising stage for replacing the eight information panels that tell the story of the commercial fishing industry in Port Washington. Shortly after commercial fishing ended in Port with the sinking of the *Linda E* in December of 1998, the panels were placed in Rotary Park near the city's commercial fishing hub largely by Lloyd Smith of the Smith Bros. family. After almost 25 years, the panels are no longer readable, and the frames and signposts are so corroded they cannot be repainted.

The *Historical Society* is joining with Kiwanis along with the Schowalter, Smith and Ewig families to create new panels and place them in new frames and signposts. Each panel within a metal frame and attached to a surface-mounted metal post costs around \$600 including shipping. We would like to order the new panels before the end of the year so they can be installed before the summer of 2024. If you would like to contribute, you may donate on our website under the SUPPORT tab and designate that the funds go toward the Rotary Park signs. You may also mail a check to: PWHS, P.O. Box 491, Port Washington, WI 53074. Thank you for supporting the preservation of your community history.

Follow us on  
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and  
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- @PortWashingtonHistoricalSociety
- @1860LightStationMuseumPortWashingtonWI
- @porthistory



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# President's Message

## Your Remarkable Board of Directors

I have been asked several times during the last year whether members of the Board of Directors could be asked to volunteer, contribute, or give support to some event of the *Society*. The answer is that they are already doing all these things as I will point out below.

Some may not realize how unique the PWHS Board of Directors is in the world of non-profit organizations. Your Board is composed of a group of very dedicated, active and supportive *Society* members.

They do not simply attend bi-monthly meetings, advise the Executive Director, or provide corporate sponsorship to the *Society*. Your directors also serve on and attend standing committee meetings and strategic planning activities on alternate months. Additionally, they have been called upon to move displays at the *Resource Center*, work tables at community events, take inventories in our storage spaces, welcome guests to our facilities and guide tours at the *1860 Light Station*.

Each of your Directors have given generously of their time over the past year when volunteers were still in short supply. Further, they have donated funds, auction items and their time in support of our fundraising efforts.

I am very proud to have been associated with all of our 2023 Directors. I thank Mark Schowalter and Pat Curtiss for their years of service and look forward to working with our two new Directors, Mike Keller and Grant Smith, in 2024.



*Nancy Holley, President  
Port Washington Historical Society Board of Directors*



### **Board of Directors**

Nancy Holley, President  
George Bichler, Treasurer  
Barbara Joosse, Secretary  
Tom J. Carson  
Andrea Cole  
Majka Drewitz  
Kevin Grady  
Howard Hinterthuer  
Keith Janus  
Mike Keller  
Donald McCown  
Grant O. Smith

### **PWHS Exec. Director**

Dawn St. George, PhD

### **Resource Center**

#### **Co-Managers**

Jackie Oleson  
Geri Zehren

### **1860 Light Station**

#### **Volunteer Coordinator**

Andrea Cole

### **Newsletter**

Majka Drewitz  
Michele Weiland

### **Membership**

\$40 Individual  
\$75 Household

### **Philanthropic Levels**

\$250 Honor  
\$500 Patron

### **Contact information**

205 N. Franklin Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
262-268-9150

[www.pwhistory.org](http://www.pwhistory.org)

Click

### **Historical Perspectives**

is published 3 times per year

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING PRESENTATION

If you missed the 2023 October Membership Meeting but would like to see Nancy Holley's presentation on the state of the Society, you can download the presentation by clicking [here](#).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy talking about the history of Port Washington? Meeting others? Being a part of an endeavor that supports the *Historical Society*?

We need your help. There are many ways to help out, whether at the *1860 Light Station*, *Resource Center* or society programs or activities.

If you can help, please email us at [porthistinfo@gmail.com](mailto:porthistinfo@gmail.com) or call us at 262-268-9150.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

As the season of gratitude draws near, I want to thank you for your support of the *Port Washington Historical Society*. Through your membership, volunteering and generous gifts you help the *Society* achieve its mission - to preserve and share community history that connects the past to the present, with a view to the future.

As we look back on 2023, friends like you have helped us to accomplish so much:

- Complete the construction of an outdoor exhibit shelter for our historic lifeboat
- Develop an audio shipwreck walking tour along the harbor and walking tours of the historic downtown
- Purchase the condominium storage unit which we had been renting for over ten years
- Present our speaker series and author presentations - all open to the public
- Expand our Building and Historical Markers Programs
- Open new exhibits of the photos of two local war-time photographers

Looking to 2024, with your donations we will complete our major initiatives:

- Replace the Fishing Families markers in Rotary Park
- Welcome Keepers-In-Residence to the *1860 Light Station*
- Expand our partnership with the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary
- Increase community engagement with new relevant programming and exhibits
- Replace the server that stores Collections data

*PWHS* is stretching to do more, and we need your help to go further, as members always and as donors now. Any gift that you can give today to our Annual Fund will make a difference in directly supporting the *Society* in the future.

Warm wishes for a happy holiday season.

*Dawn St. George, PhD*  
Executive Director

## RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

It was a busy summer for visitors with the *Resource Center* open Monday, Thursday and the added days of Friday and Saturday. We had 598 visitors that came through our doors, enjoying the exhibits, accessing our business files, and exploring the Lake Michigan Table and Ozaukee Press Table. Both were well received. Volunteers are the heart of what we do whether at the *Resource Center*, at the *1860 Light Station* or being on the Board of Directors helping with events.

Our current exhibits will continue through the upcoming winter months: *Two Photographers, Two Wars, and Two Cameras*, the photography of the Korean Conflict through the eyes of Roy Zehren and the photography of World War II through the eyes of Vernon Biever, and *Remembering the Toledo*, a schooner that sank off Port Washington in an 1856 Lake Michigan storm with the loss of 40 lives.

Over two plus decades, visitors have enjoyed touring the *1860 Light Station* through the portrayal of the living quarters of its keepers. Items have been added and moved from room to room. Four volunteers have spent two years cataloging the contents of the *1860 Light Station* and *Generator Building* for the purpose of having an accurate inventory of the *Society's* collections. They also documented items from the *Linda Nenn Collection* currently being displayed at the *Light Station* and other items in storage. Needless to say, this has involved hundreds of items!

In September the *Society* was excited to be the re-



Candy dish

ipient of a donation of numerous items from a long-time member and supporter. It included a small candy dish and a variety of Archaic and Woodland Indian artifacts.

What is notable about the candy dish is not only the image of the 1872 *Wisconsin Street School* on the inside of the dish, but the underside of the dish is printed with "made in Germany for Jacob Schumacher of Port Washington." Jacob Schumacher was the son of stone mason Dominic Schumacher who had emigrated to the U.S. in 1854. Dominic set up a monument shop in a frame building on the corner of Washington and Franklin streets. It was taken over later by son Jacob and replaced by a stone building in 1931 by Jacob's son Matthias. Matthias's son Thomas was the last of the four generations of Schumachers to manage the monument works. A brick home now sits at the corner of Montgomery and Jackson streets, with a cornerstone that says Jacob Schumacher.

Archaic artifacts, 5000-8000 years old, include a copper fishhook and stone tools that were likely used as axes. Woodland Indian artifacts, 1000-2500 years old, including notched arrow points displayed inside the box frame, are ap-



Copper fish hook

(Continued on page 11)

# 1860 LIGHT STATION REPORT

The 2023 tourist season at the *1860 Light Station* was very successful and a lot of fun for all.

Counting members of the general public and ten private tours, we had a total of over 1100 people tour the *Light Station*.



This was an increase of 30% over our count

from last year!

Private tours can range from just a few people to over 40 visitors at one time, requiring additional volunteers and



a special strategy to make sure that everyone has a good experience.

I'd like to express a hearty "thank you" to our volunteers and student *Light Station* staff member, Dane Metzger. We couldn't have



We made sure to promote our Keeper Program which will begin in the spring of 2024.

had such a successful season without you all! Nearly all of the *Historical Society* executive board members volunteered as guides, many signing up for more than one day! It's a fun way to meet the public and share the interesting story of our historic *Light Station*. If you're interested in joining our team of volunteers, please send an e-mail to: [1860lighthouse tours@gmail.com](mailto:1860lighthouse tours@gmail.com). Training is available, and it's not at all difficult!



This exciting program allows members of the public to stay at the *Light Station* for a week or two, helping to guide tours for the public.

More can be learned about this unique experience by

going to our website, [www.pwhistory.org](http://www.pwhistory.org), and selecting the Resident Keeper Program heading.



## 2023 LIGHT STATION FAMILY VISITS



Chief Lyle Barnard  
1975-1976

On two occasions this summer we had visitors with special ties to the *1860 Light Station*... their families lived there! From the mid-1930s until the early 1990s the *Light Station* was not an active lighthouse, but a home to Coast Guard personnel and their families.

This year we had a visit from Sarah, the daughter of Lyle Barnard, one of

the Coast Guard officers who lived at the *Light Station* from 1975 to 1976. Sarah is the youngest of seven children in the family. This year Sarah was back with some of her siblings and extended family!



Marvin S. Cornell  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant 1942-1945

We also had a visit from the family of 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Marvin S. Cornell, who was stationed at the *1860 Light Station* from May 1942 to April 1945.

Marvin's grandson, great-grandson, and great-great grandchildren were photographed in the Keeper's Office with the photograph of their ancestor!



Family of Marvin S. Cornell

# WELCOME NEW & RETURNING DIRECTORS

Majka Drewitz and her husband Adrian live in Grafton, but her sons went to Port Catholic and Port High. Majka (pronounced Myka) came to the United States from Poland. After moving to the area, she joined the *Society*. Her Eagle Scout sons created the Coal Dock Park Historical Shipwreck Markers. Majka plays a big part in the coordination of our newsletter and helps with social media. This will be her second term.



Majka Drewitz

Mike Keller retired in 2019 after a 42-year career with the Port Washington Police Department. In his retirement, Mike and his family traveled a lot. This year alone, they went from South Dakota to the East Coast. Traveling is in his blood as he taught motorcycle safety classes across Europe for BMW. He is



Mike Keller



Grant Smith

a member of the St John XXIII Parish Men's Society. Members of his family have lived in Port since the mid-1800s. Mike has previously served on the Board of Directors at *PWHS*.

Grant O. Smith is a member of the renowned Port Washington fishing family and worked at Smith Bros. After the

family sold the business in Port Washington, he remained in the seafood industry as a regional manager. He now works for Aqua Star, a Seattle-based seafood company. Grant retired after 31 years with the Port Washington Fire Department.

A remarkable side note: Mike and Grant were awarded "Police Officer" and "Firefighter" of the Year respectively in the same year. Hoozah!

## THANK YOU MARK!



After serving a second nonconsecutive term on the *PWHS* Board of Directors, Mark Schowalter is stepping away from the Board, but not from his support of the *Historical Society*. Mark and Cathy remain members and most recently donated to the new Fishing Families panels in Rotary Park.

In 2020, Mark was recognized for his 50<sup>th</sup> year in banking. Mark retired in 2019, but, like his commitment to the *Historical Society*, continues to serve as secretary and vice chairman of the bank's board of directors.

We will miss Mark at our Board and Collection Committee meetings, but fingers crossed he will remain a fervent supporter of the *Resource Center* and the *1860 Light Station* by volunteering as a tour guide next summer. We are so grateful to Mark and his family's ardent support of the *Port Washington Historical Society*!

# OZAUKEE RADIO CLUB INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE LIGHTSHIP ACTIVATION

The Ozaukee Radio Club (W9CQO) and the LEFROG (Local Emergency Field Radio Operating Group) Radio Club held a joint special events station on August 19 and 20, 2023, at the historic Port Washington *1860 Light Station*. The special events station was activated for the International Lighthouse Lightship Activation weekend.



Tom, KC9ONY, Operating the 40 Meter Station



Port Washington 1860 Lighthouse US0114

The *1860 Light Station* guided maritime traffic on Lake Michigan during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The lighthouse is designated as ILLW Lighthouse US0114.

The operators made many contacts during the operational period including lighthouse to lighthouse contacts. Kudos to Fred, W9KEY, for organizing the

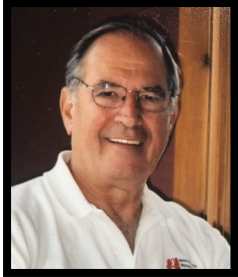


Fred, W9KEY, and Bill, K9GN, Operating the 20 Meter Station

event and to Loren, N9ENR, for his technical assistance setting up the station and keeping it operating. Tom Czaja, KG9EE, Wisconsin ARRL Assistant Section Manager

## PRESERVING A LEGACY

Individuals, businesses and organizations can leave their imprint on a community, and one such force has been a local architectural firm founded in 1946. Ollie Kempf's architectural firm that began that year expanded to include Wilmer Blong, becoming the leading architectural firm in the Ozaukee County area. Paul Ehrlich joined the firm in 1960 and the firm later became known as Blong, Kempf and Ehrlich. In later years Barrett Genson joined the firm.



Paul Ehrlich

The firm's work extended from residences to factories, city buildings, schools, stores and churches. The work was for both large and small projects extending throughout the County and into surrounding areas, eventually encompassing Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, Fond Du Lac and Dodge Counties and numbering to an excess of 2000 projects.

Notable projects included Holy Cross Church in the Town of Belgium, St. Peter of Alcantara Catholic Church and School in Port Washington, municipal buildings in Saukville, Grafton and Mequon, Port Washington-Saukville School District buildings and many, many more buildings across the multi-county areas. Two early projects were Port Washington's City Hall in 1953 and

the first Port Washington outdoor pool built in 1955. Numerous buildings in downtown Port Washington have been touched by the firm over the years. The firm has worked on nearly every city-owned building in Port Washington, including the Niederkorn Library.

In 1999 the firm was bought by engineering firm Boonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik, and Associates with Ehrlich and Genson and Associates becoming a part of the firm. Paul Ehrlich retired in 2005.

Concerned that the architectural plans would be discarded, in 2016 Paul's son Mike Ehrlich, also an architect, rescued the plans, storing them in his garage until the *Port Washington Historical Society* was in a position to acquire the plans. This spring the plans were moved to the *Society's Resource Center*, sorted by the communities in which

they are located and disseminated to the various local community historical societies. Work has begun on the hundreds of Port Washington plans, work that will continue through the upcoming months. The plans are a fascinating record of changes and growth of an area.

*(Information gleaned from Ozaukee Press articles)*

Jackie Oleson, Collections Manager



## DOA SECRETARY VISITS PORT WASHINGTON

In October, Wisconsin Department of Administration Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld visited Port Washington to formally award a \$40,000 coastal grant for pedestrian pathways and beach improvements at Upper Lake Park. During her visit, Secretary Blumenfeld, along with local leaders including *PWHS* Executive Director Dr. Dawn St George, made a stop and climbed the tower



David Spiegelberg, Wisconsin Department of Tourism and DOA Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld

at the *1860 Light Station* as she discussed the State's tourism-related investments. The *Port Washington Historical Society* had previously received a Tourism Capital Grant award to build a shelter for a restored lifeboat which is displayed outside the *1860 Light Station*.

Originally announced by Governor Evers in August 2021, the Tourism Capital Grant Program, funded by the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, provided awards to 26 out of over 200 requests to local governments and organizations to build, expand, or maintain buildings, travel-related infrastructure, or public attractions. The Tourism Capital Grant funding provided the *Port Washington Historical Society* the opportunity to not only create a new educational exhibit, but the potential for a positive economic impact through an increase in heritage tourism at the *1860 Light Station*.



Dawn St. George with Kathy Blumenfeld and David Spiegelberg



## IN MEMORIAM

*With great sadness we bid farewell to ...*

*Marion Huiras*

*“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.” (Pericles)*



## SEASONAL HOURS

### Resource Center

205 North Franklin Street

***Mondays and Thursdays***

***1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.***

Phone: 262-268-9150

### 1860 Light Station

311 Johnson Street

***Closed for the Season***



***The Port Washington  
Historical Society  
preserves and shares  
community history  
that connects the  
past to the present,  
with a view to the future.***

## NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

*Tom & Allison Antoine*

*Dick & Sylvia Ansay*

*Robert Barr*

*Allon Bostwick*

*Andrea Cole*

*Mike & Jodi Dickmann*

*Mike & Alison Didier*

*Mike & Jude Dow*

*Carl Eisenberg*

*James & MaryJo Fuhry*

*Howard Hinterthuer*

*Keith Janus*

*Carol & Jim Jarosz*

*Barbara Joose &*

*Chuck Whitehouse*

*Carol Jushka*

*Mike Keller*

*Shirley Lee*

*Jan Leone*

*Nina Look*

*Mark & Barbara Matera*

*Barbara Metz*

*Joseph Michaelchuck*

*Vincent Frederick Nast*

*Devon Polzar*

*Emily Poull*

*Jack Rooney*

*Susan Van Vleet*

*Tom Wellnitz*

# VISITORS RETURN TO PORT WASHINGTON

*We hope you enjoy this uplifting perspective of our wonderful community from a couple who began visiting Port Washington 35 years ago, stopped for 20 years, and this past summer began visiting again. Mel is the Treasurer of the Middleton Historical Society.*

*By Mel and Gail Krc*

My wife spent part of her youth living on the near north side of Chicago. She enjoyed being able to walk to the lake and swim off the rocks. But what she really enjoyed was a strong connection with Lake Michigan. She always enjoyed being near it and looking at it. When we lived in Wisconsin that connection was broken for a while. Then we discovered Port Washington. We started coming to Port about 35 years ago, and when we first saw it, that connection with Lake Michigan was re-established for her. We went there every year for about 15 years and then, for whatever reason, we stopped going there until our recent trip after about a 20-year absence.

Many things we saw earlier were still evident and enjoyable for us this time. First, there was the beautiful view of the lake. We were still able to park the car for a couple of days and enjoy just walking around the town. We stayed at the Harborview again - except when we first stayed there it was a Best Western Harbor-side. The new Harborview looked to be a complete remodeling of the older Harbor-side. But many of the hotel customers were still fishermen coming to enjoy the charter fishing available in Port. Two of the captains that we remembered from earlier visits were still in business - Captain Dave Meyer of Barbie Doll charters and Dan Fox who operates Foxy Lady charters. We had, in the past, gone out with both captains and enjoyed good fishing with great salmon and lake trout to take home with us. Our son caught probably his biggest fish to date

- a 22-pound lake trout which he could hardly heft at 11 years of age. On one trip with Dave Meyer's dad, it was so foggy out on the lake that we could barely see the mouth of the harbor as we were coming in, but we made it. Once the fish were cleaned, and in the cooler, we went to Smith Bros. for dinner and as we were seated the fog had completely lifted and the lake was calm and clear.

The marina was as full of boats as it has always been and provides some great viewing. Some of the names of current boats we remembered from much earlier visits.

Walking was still a great part of our visit, just as it was when we first started coming to Port. But going up the hill toward St. Mary's church, which we used to do, was something that we avoided this trip.

A walk past the band shell

and over to the beach was always a part of our early visits to Port Washington, and both are still there to be enjoyed by visitors.

But, in addition, some things have also changed. When we first began visiting Port Washington, one of the most visible features out our hotel window was the huge coal pile that was needed to keep the power plant going. A couple of times a week, a huge barge would pull up in the harbor and unload a tremendous amount of coal. This was worked on by a couple of large bulldozers that our son enjoyed watching. It was also home to many gulls whose bodies were made for a white

checkerboard pattern against the black coal.

Today, that coal pile has been replaced by a beautiful park with many walking trails and several nicely placed lookout points to the lake. One would never know now that there was a huge coal pile there not that long ago. In addition to the remodeling of the old coal pile area, there were now some very nice-looking build-

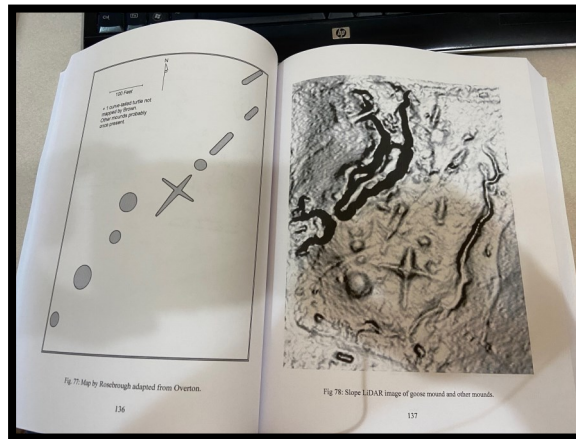
*(Continued on page 9)*





# 2024 SPRING SPEAKER SERIES SCHEDULED

On Tuesday, March 12, Chris Winters, a freelance photojournalist and the former staff photographer at the Discovery World Museum, will present *Written in Light: Stories and Photographs from 30 years on America's Inland Seas*. Smitten at the age of nine with the lore of lake boats and the legend of the wreck of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, Winters became a lifelong student of Great Lakes maritime history and culture. Of his many award-winning books, *Schooner Days*, the official history of the *S/N Denis Sullivan*, won a gold "IPPY" award for regional nonfiction.



A page from Kurt Sampson's book

Joining us on Tuesday, April 16, will be Kurt Sampson, Curator at the Dodge County Historical Society and co-author along with Bill Volkert of the recently published book, *Indian Mounds of the Horicon Marsh and the Upper Rock River*. This book is one of the most comprehensive mounds-related books ever published. It consists of 476 full-color pages, presenting a complete history of mounds exploration in the great Horicon Marsh and Upper Rock River region. Kurt will offer a few new insights and interpretations of the meaning of mounds in Dodge, Washington and Ozaukee Counties.

(Continued from page 8)

ings going up all over the downtown area.

Rotary Park did not exist when we first started coming to Port. That was added before the coal pile area was removed and redone and made for a nice place to sit, read, and watch the fishing boats coming and going.

The Smith Brothers restaurant used to occupy the building where Duluth Trading now stands. Whenever we visited Port in the early years, our first stop was there to have lunch. They made an excellent seafood salad on a croissant. And for dinner, they served an excellent whitefish - either cedar planked or not. Now, although we were only visiting for a couple of days, we did not see any whitefish on the menus of the restaurants we visited. Whitefish used to be a staple for any city set on Lake Michigan and is still found in abundance in Door County restaurants.

None of our earlier visits would be complete without at least one visit each to the Yacht Club restaurant and to George's Wilson House - neither of which exist now. The yacht club was the place for a burger lunch topped off by an excellent schaum torte. The Wilson House (whose name still exists on the current Port Washington State Bank building) was the place for fine dining in the earlier years (although the restaurant at the Port Hotel would also compete well). The Wilson House was a place for good German food (on Thursday nights I believe). They served excellent schnitzel, along with a couple versions of whitefish as well.

No review of the eateries in Port Washington would be complete without mentioning Harry's restaurant - a place for good breakfasts for locals as well as visitors - whose reputation was attested to by the fact that the place was always full of customers. If you didn't get

enough to eat for breakfast, you could always pick up a piece of baked goods from the case where the cash register stood near the front door.

The main street, Franklin, had some must-see shops whenever we first visited. Just across the street from the Harborside stood the Wind in the Rigging that had all kinds of great merchandise that would appeal to folks going out on the lake. The hardware store down the street had a great proprietor who always had a radio channel on, like a police scanner, that let folks know who, of the charter boat captains, was catching what out on the lake. There was also a great antique store that had everything one could expect to see in an antique store - with an emphasis on some bigger pieces of furniture that were quite old but still in good working order.

One staple of the business district, which is still there, is Bernie's Fine Meats. It was great to see it still open, like an anchor of the business district.

The building which now houses Schooner's pub was always there, even in our early years of visiting. Now, as then, there were a couple of motorcycles parked outside when we walked by in the evening.

We never missed an opportunity to visit the Shirley Gruen gallery. Her work really captured the city in all its dimensions. We purchased, and still have on our walls, about seven of her works, from the Smith Brothers boat that was always anchored in the harbor, to the church, to the various views of the harbor. Although Shirley has now passed away, her work still reminds us of the good times we spent in Port Washington.

Although some things have changed since our early visits, we still enjoyed Port Washington thoroughly and will probably be resuming what used to be our annual visits to the city.

# DONATIONS & MEMORIALS

## SOCIETY DONATIONS

Robert Barr  
Roger Barsch  
Mark & Barbara Matera  
Erik & Carol Moeser

## ANNUAL APPEAL

Paul & Judith Trump

## MEMORIALS

In Memory of Lloyd Smith  
Rosemary Haskey  
Margaret & Douglas Lamude  
Jo Ann Stade  
Paul & Judith Trump  
In Memory of Geri Johnson  
Nancy Bodenstern

## ARTIFACTS, ARCHIVES, PHOTOGRAPHS

Mary Beth Federspiel  
Mary Flierl  
Jane Runkel Frederick  
Barbara Holt  
Mary Jones  
Michelle Roden

## SOCIETY IN KIND DONATIONS

Dawn St. George

# BRIDGING PAST AND PRESENT AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

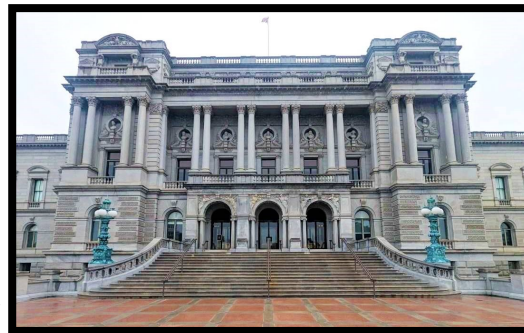
*In August, Dane Metzger, our greeter up at the 1860 Light Station, took a family trip to Washington D.C. We asked him to write a short article for the newsletter.*

Last month, I took a trip to our nation's capital - Washington D.C! There, I did every D.C. cliché: lobbied a congressman for oil, stole the Declaration of Independence, and visited a few Smithsonian museums. Additionally, much to the chagrin of my parents, I dragged them to the largest library in the world - The Library of Congress. Don't worry, they ended up loving it as much as I knew they would.

The Library of Congress (LOC) was founded in 1800 and is the United States' oldest cultural institution (the oldest federal institution that isn't the federal government). I gawked at Thomas Jefferson's library, drafts of the Declaration, and even found some reference cards and books about Port Washington and our neighbors (see below). But most of all, I learned that history doesn't just come to us in a textbook when we're bored in 7th hour US History Class... we are our own witnesses, judges, and executors of it.

The most interesting thing there was a woman we met, named Kimberly Crawford, a Congressional Relations Specialist. Quickly, I discovered that her role is to intertwine our past into the present by aiding our legislators in Washington by helping them navigate the Library's vast

resources. Our conversation in the main lobby of the library was too good not to keep, so I decided to make some history of my own. I asked Ms. Crawford about her job and why, in her own words, it is important to keep history alive - and my last question centered around joining your local historical society. By joining, you are a part of our history and become an active pillar of our community by gaining access to all of our resources. History isn't just for antiquarians, it's for everyone! See what kind of mark you can make on Port Washington and try to goad friends and family into joining. As always, the doors of history (the *Resource Center*) are



Library of Congress

open to visitors on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Scan the QR code and listen to a bit of our conversation down below:



*Note from the Society: When the Port Washington Historical Society embarked on a project to document historic buildings and the businesses that inhabited them, the Society needed to utilize information from sources that might tell us when buildings were built and what kind of business might have been*

*at that location. The Sanborn Fire Maps are one such resource and the Society only has copies of the 1904 and 1938 maps. From the Library of Congress, the Society was able to access Sanborn Maps from 1885, 1898, 1913, 1922 and 1948. These maps are one of many resources that the Library of Congress has for individuals to utilize.*



LOC catalog card

# LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER-IN-RESIDENCE

We've had an overwhelming response to our new program to be a resident lightkeeper and serve as a tour guide at the *1860 Light Station* for a week or more between Memorial Day and Labor Day in 2024. We only have two weeks left to fill for the entire summer. They are the last two weeks in August.



When you're a resident keeper, you'll stay in the second-floor two-bedroom apartment above the first-floor museum. The full program fee is \$200 for the week (for two individuals who sign up together) or \$360 (for two individuals) for two or more consecutive weeks. As a resident keeper, you will be joining many other individuals whose commitment and dedication over the years has contributed to the upkeep and restoration of the *1860 Light Station*. If you think this program is for you, please visit our website at [pwhistory.org](http://pwhistory.org) for additional information or email [porthistinfo@gmail.com](mailto:porthistinfo@gmail.com).

Resident keepers play a key role in helping to keep our restored, treasured piece of Wisconsin's maritime history alive for future generations.

Come join other volunteers next summer!

## PWHS SPEAKER SERIES



Dr. Amy Rosebrough - Wisconsin Historical Society



Barb Josse - Author



Dr. Patrick Jung - MSOE



## BEER GARDEN



Kait and Majka



Jodi and Mike



Jackie and Kate



Barb, Tom, Dennis and George (Lefty)

(Continued from page 3)



Stone tools

prox. 2" in length with the larger 4" Waubesa point in the middle. These artifacts were found on the Whitman and Irvin properties along Sauk Creek and the Milwaukee River, respectively. Round stones were found on the Didier farm in the Town of Port Washington. Thanks, Jane, for this fabulous donation! Information about the geology and early inhabitants of our area can be found at the entry to the Resource Center on the *Ozaukee Press* table.

If you haven't checked out the walking tours, there are four: *Seven Hills and Seven Stairs*, *Historical Markers of Port Washington*, *The Historic Franklin St. Walking Tour*, and *Barb Joosse's Shipwreck Walking Tour of Port Washington*.

Jackie Oleson and Geri Zehren, Co-Resource Center Managers



Stone points



## Port Washington Historical Society

P. O. Box 491  
 Port Washington, WI 53074-0491  
[www.pwhistory.org](http://www.pwhistory.org)

# Save the Date

### Speaker Series: Chris Winter - Great Lakes Photojournalist

*Written in Light: Stories and Photographs from 30 years on America's Inland Seas*  
 Tuesday, March 12: 7:00 p.m.  
 PWSB Community Room\*

### Speaker Series: Kurt Sampson - Dodge County Historical Society Curator

*Indian Mounds of the Horicon Marsh and the Upper Rock River*  
 Tuesday, April 16: 7:00 p.m.  
 PWSB Community Room\*

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Annual Fundraiser - Spring Fling**  
 Wednesday, May 8: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
 Newport Shores, 324 N. Lake Street

\*PWSB Community Room is located at:  
 218 E. Washington St. in Port Washington

For details and updates,  
 click here to visit:

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