

The Cyclone of 1883:

A photo essay of two minutes that made Beloit History

In light of the recent hurricanes and tropical storms pounding the south eastern United States, we think it of interest to our readers to take a look at Beloit's most historic storm. On June 11, 1883, at 6:00 p.m., a cyclone hit Beloit, killing one man, severely wounding a dozen others, and caused \$100,000 worth of damage (nearly 2 million in today's dollars.) The two minute blast had a dramatic impact on nineteenth-century Beloiters and was a topic of discussion into the mid-twentieth. Following is a photo-essay from the Society's archives.



**Northwest corner of
State and Grand.
Emerson Drugs on
the corner.**



**Rear view Kinsley
Carriage Works on
North State St.**

Beloit Historical Society*Founded 1910***2004 Officers***President:*

Mary Frey

1st Vice President:

William Yoss

2nd Vice President:

Richard Ranft

Treasurer:

Harry Schermerhorn

Secretary:

William Bolgrien

Board of Directors

David Collins

Larry Durban

Maggie Janke

Tom Jones

Steve Kinkade

Ron Klein

Cathy Piazza

Terry Russell

Walter Scholten

Date of Next Board Meeting:**October 21, 2004****Lincoln Center Staff:***Executive Director*

Paul Kerr

Volunteer/Event Coordinator

Loretta Hatch

Custodial Engineer

Fred Bull

Business Manager

Scott Reichard

The Newsletter, *Confluence*, is published quarterly for the membership of the Beloit Historical Society to inform readers of Society activities as well as educate them on the history of Beloit. The Beloit Historical Society manages two sites, Lincoln Center Museum with main offices at 845 Hackett St. and Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead 2149 St. Lawrence Ave. For further information please call (608) 365-7835 or e-mail us at beloiths@ticon.net.

*Newsletter edited by**Scott Reichard*

Other contributors to this issue:

Loretta Hatch, Paul Kerr

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

For further
information on
Society events call
Lincoln Center
(608) 365-7835

Saturday, October 30 – Halloween Costume & Gala Auction Benefit
6:00 p.m. Beloit Country Club. Annual endowment fund raiser. See page 12 for more details.

Friday, November 19 – Annual Membership Dinner & Meeting
6:00 p.m. Lincoln Center. Annual dinner and meeting. Program: Terry Lynch portrays Meriwether Lewis. Cost: \$30 members, \$35 non-members.

***Cub Food Receipts***

Our last batch of receipts brought in **\$30.90**. For each Cub Foods receipt submitted the Society receives 1% of the total. Thanks to everyone who participates in saving the receipts and thank you Charlie Jones for volunteering your time totaling them each quarter. Please keep saving receipts, and be sure to get them in before the end of the quarter. Every Penny Helps !!

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From The Director

Upcoming Events

The Halloween Costume Gala & Auction Benefit for the Historical Society is set for 30 October 2004. It will be held at the Country Club of Beloit and festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. All of you have received an invitation to attend so we don't need to go into all the details again. What we would like to emphasize here is the need for auctionable items. If you have any to donate please let us know and we will make arrangements. The evening promises to be fun and entertaining so mark it on your calendars and join us for a good time and a good cause.



The Beloit Historical Society's Annual Dinner is scheduled for 19 November 2004. The program will be presented by Terry Lynch who will portray Meriwether Lewis. Mr. Lewis will discuss the Corps of Discovery, a scientific and military expedition commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson, and its 28 month journey to find and map the easiest waterway passage to the west coast. We will also vote on new members to join the Board. It promises to be a full and enlightening evening. We hope the membership will participate with us celebrating the end of a fruitful year for the Society as well as celebrating with Meriwether Lewis the 200th anniversary of his phenomenal adventure. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. Invitations will follow this newsletter.

Since the last issue

Heritage Days this year was celebrated at the Harry Moore Pavilion. The Historical Society managed once again to have the 1st Brigade Band join us and the community in celebrating Beloit's rich heritage. They performed for two hours before a large, welcoming crowd on a most beautiful sunny day, 12 September 2004. Food and drink were offered for sale, memberships and books were also for sale. It proved a profitable afternoon for the Society and we have a lot of people and organizations to thank for making it successful: Visit Beloit, The City of Beloit, The Town of Beloit, Stateline Community Foundation, the Rock County Civil War Round Table, Suds O'Hanahan's and Drevdahl Auto Care.

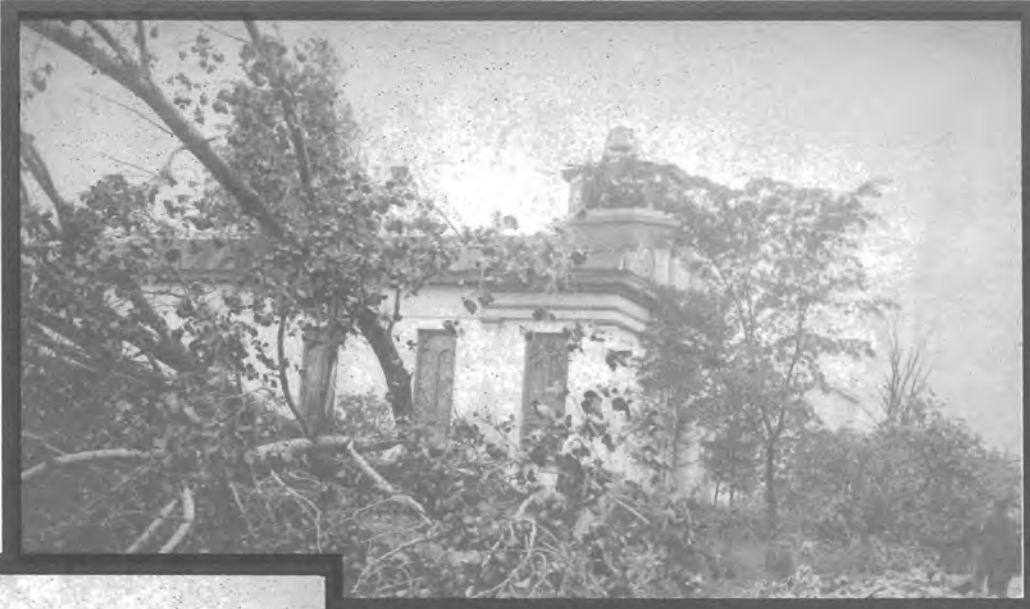
The City Hall of Fame of 19 September, another sunny Sunday, was a well attended affair. Five distinguished Beloiters were inducted: Bob Cox, Donald Cuthbert, Theodore Florey, William Freeman and Fred Morgan. Following the ceremonies which were admirably handled by Joe Kobyłka people remained to visit and partake of refreshments.

The Sports Hall of Fame event on the 23rd of September with program presented by James Gordon was another annual success. A hundred people in attendance applauded those inducted and these inductees were Richard Gupton, Mike Hahn, Rob Llorca, Jay Toubl and Betty Wendtland. Also honored were Dave Tarrolly and the 1988 Beloit Turner High School Football Team - State Champs for that year. Our thanks to Jerry Elliott, Dr. Dan Green and the Sports Hall of Fame Committee for bringing in the crowds.

Paul K. Kerr

Cyclone of 1883 (Continued from page 1)

**Presbyterian Church,
southeast corner
Broad and Pleasant.**



**Chicago-
Northwestern
Railroad bridge.**

**Across from
Presbyterian
Church, Broad and
Pleasant.**





**The Rock River
Paper Mill**

**Southwest corner of
State and Grand.**



**The Rock River Paper Mill.
The photo was marked with an
"x" to show where Edward
Halloran's body was found,
the only fatality.**



LORETTA'S VOLUNTEER NEWS

Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead is now closed for the season unless appointments are made through October. I want to thank our docents for getting us through the season once again. Your help is greatly appreciated. See you in the Spring!!

Heritage Days drew a large number of visitors who took advantage of the beautiful weather and made their rounds to all of the Heritage Days attractions. We thank those who volunteered their time to help make Heritage Days a huge success: Ron Klein, Lois MacGowan, Lloyd & Peggy Page, Jeune Nelson, and Kathy Piazza. We also thank those who were present at Harry Moore Pavilion to lend a helping hand: Phyllis Morrison, Jean Combs, Kim Krueger, Mary Frey, Bill Weiland, Duane and Kevin Drevdahl, Beth Kerr, Haley Hatch, Tom Hankins, and also our re-enactors, Don Williams and Harley Whitt.

Lois MacGowan:
Thank You for
volunteering once
again to help serve
refreshments for the
City Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony on September 19th!!!



WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEER

Wilma Jensen

Fall Quilt Classes Offered!!

Beloit Historical Society's Spring & Summer Quilting Classes were very successful this year; therefore, the Society is offering fall classes for anyone interested in participating.

One more fall class will be offered Saturday, November 6, (Chenille Pillows & Scarves) at Lincoln Center. The class runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with Bobbie Fiske instructing. Beginners are welcome, so sign up today! Cost is \$11 for members of Beloit Historical Society and \$12 for non-members. For further information and a supply list contact Lincoln Center at (608) 365-7835 or Bobbie Fiske at (608) 365-4528.

Garden Lover's Club of Beloit Seeks New Members!

The Garden Lover's Club of Beloit would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in becoming a new member. This small group of ladies does the planting and tending of the gardens at the Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead. The group meets on the fourth Thursday morning of each month during the summer season to enjoy camaraderie, an exchange of garden tips and to work in the flower beds. Winter meetings include gardening presentations and assorted outings. Dues are \$12 per year. Membership status ranges from active members to contributing members who are not able to attend monthly meetings, but wish to support the club with dues and donations. For more information please contact club secretary, Cathy Piazza at 362-8477.



Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?
For more information contact
Loretta Hatch, Coordinator of Volunteers
at (608) 365-7835

Society Wish List!!
New or Used Digital Camera

*We'd like to remind everyone that the Beloit Historical Society is a **repository for Beloit History**. If you have objects, letters, diaries, photos, documents, clothing, etc., that pertain to Beloit history or someone from Beloit, please keep us in mind as a permanent home for these items.*

Correction

In our last newsletter there were a couple errors in the "Mibs & Mibsters" article, one in particular that was brought to our attention by several readers. Larry Krueger's nickname was not "Butch"; that moniker belonged to his brother Alvin. And American League Posts should read American *Legion* Posts.



1867. ANNUAL STATE BASE BALL TOURNAMENT OF WISCONSIN.

\$1500 IN PRIZES TO BE AWARDED

There will be a STATE BASE BALL TOURNAMENT held at

BELOIT, WIS.

COMMENCING TUESDAY, 3D SEPTEMBER, 1867.

Under the auspices of the

Wisconsin Association of Base Ball Players.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE PRIZES TO BE DISTRIBUTED:

SENIOR PRIZES—First Class.

FIRST PRIZE—\$100 in Greenbacks and Gold Mounted Bat,	\$200.
SECOND " 80 " Pure Silver Ball,	150.
THIRD " 60 " Mounted Rosewood Bat,	125.

SECOND CLASS.

1st PRIZE—\$40 in Cash & Silver Mounted Rosewood Bat, \$80.00	SECOND PRIZE—Silver Mounted Rosewood Bat, \$50.00	\$65.00
THIRD— " PITCHER AND GOBLET,		

JUNIOR PRIZES—Clubs under Eighteen Years of Age:

1ST PRIZE—\$40 in Greenbacks and Silver Mounted Rosewood Bat, \$100	2D PRIZE—BY WISCONSIN, CRICKET BALL, REG. SIZE AND WEIGHT, \$75.00.
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PONY CLUBS, UNDER FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

Prize, \$10 in Greenbacks and a Full Set of Bats, Balls and Ball,	\$25.00.
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SENIOR CLUBS, OUTSIDE THE STATE:

FIRST PRIZE—\$100 in Greenbacks, and Gold Mounted Rosewood Bat,	\$200.
SECOND " If three Clubs enter, a Silver Wine Caster,	75.

JUNIORS—Outside the State:

PRIZE—\$50.00 IN GREENBACKS, AND SILVER MOUNTED ROSEWOOD BAT,	\$125.00
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SPECIAL PRIZES AWARDED AS FOLLOWS.

BEST CATCHER—Silver Pitcher and Goblet, by Rock River Insurance Company,	\$50.00
BEST PITCHER—Silver Pitcher and Goblet, by Beloit National Bank,	50.00
BEST HOME RUNS—Silver Caster, by A. Bell,	25.00
MOST THROVEN—Silver Cup, by W. P. Alexander, City Hotel,	25.00
BEST RUNNER—Gold lined Silver Cup and Nance, by N. O. Sherman,	25.00
CLUB Securing the Greatest Number of White Washes—Box of Soap, by N. O. Perkins & Co.,	5.00

SWEEPSTAKES, - - \$25.00

THE DRIVING PARK GROUNDS IN CITY LIMITS, HAVE BEEN SECURED.
ACCOMMODATIONS RESERVED IN HOMES AT LOW RATES.
CLUBS MUST ENTER ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2.

Arrangements will be made by the Committee in regard to the manner of playing, which they trust will prove satisfactory.
The Officers of the Association will spare no pains to make this, the First Tournament for our State, the most successful ever held in the West.
T. J. WHITE, President. A. HILWAY, Secretary. C. T. CHASE, J. R. BENTLEY, E. T. SHARP.

*Inside the Adams
Collection Room*



Pictured left is a recent acquisition of the Society's. A rare broadside advertising the first baseball tournament in Wisconsin, and to be played in Beloit at the Driving Park Grounds on September 3, 1867. Note that at this early date the game was spelled as two words.

We currently have **748** members on our rolls. The following people have renewed their membership or have become new members between July 8 and October 1, 2004. A big Thank You for supporting the Beloit Historical Society! (Underlined indicates new member; numbers next to names refer to multi-year renewals.)

Ruth Adams Judith & Jeff Adams (3) Allen County Public Library Ron & Joyce Anderson Nancy Appleby Jeanne & Clyde Bachand Carl & Mary Balson Tom & Teri Barnes Ethlyn Beeman Esther Belardi <u>Beloit Youth Hockey</u> <u>Assoc. (3)</u> Grace Bennis Pat Bjerning (3) F. Caleb Blodgett John Bort Robert Bort Susan Bort-Good Mary Bort-Nesbitt Dan Boutelle & Ann Bausum Richard & Irene Brill Lorraine Bringman & Al Roecker	Jack & Betty Brusberg Fred & Rose Bull <u>Jalina Bytheway</u> Patrick & Patricia Carroll Sally Carson Joe & Ann Chamberlain Herbert & Grace Christiansen <u>Michael Combs</u> <u>Tom Combs</u> Scott Crom Oliver & Lillian Davis Betty Dilworth <u>Duane Drevdahl</u> Gerald Druckrey (3) Janet Easland (2) Richard & Mary Elliott Jerry & Carol Elliott Lillian Engleson Lee & Marilyn Fassett Eileen Finnegan Caroline Florey Arnold & Betty Fogle Greg & Ann Furman Shawn Gillen & Barb Higgins	Lanier & Laurie Gordon Julie Gram Loraine Grandeffo Alta Green Barney Grommes Virginia Harrer Diana Haskell (2) Loretta Hatch Annabelle & Jim Hauser <u>Kevin & Kristi</u> <u>Hayden</u> Beth Heaney Donald & LaVerna Hilbig Phil Holmes Caroline Hufford- Anderson Helen Humke Ruth & Ralph Irvin Dorothy Jeffers Jeff & Susan Johnson Ed & Bertha Jordan Curtis & Edith Julson Ann Justus Virginia Karstaedt (2) Ann Kinast	Margaret & Richard Kinkade Ron & Carole Klein Brian & Joni Kobischka Faith & Joe Kobyłka David Konowal Tom & Peggy Lang Ron & Julie Lange (2) Leverne Larsen Jeff & Pamela Larson Glen & Leora Lee Roland & Edna Lewis Cheryl Licary Lois MacGowan Lois Martell George & Avis Masterson <u>Jenny & Sean</u> <u>McClain</u> John McDonnell & Judy Christensen (2) Gerald & Brenda McMillan George & Liz Merchant John & Marcia Minter Janet & Douglas Nicoll	Helen May Olsen Kenneth & Dorothy Ostoic Geri Perkins (2) Will & Muriel Pollock Lois & Roger Roen Marcella Salmons Robert & Mary Schindler Don & Kathy Schneider Ron & Jean Schrader (2) Shirley Smith June Smythe Carl & Lorraine Swanson Shirley Swanson Paul Thistle David & Jane Threinen Don & Tara Tinder (3) Allen Tuftee (3) <u>Nancy Wallace</u> Patricia Wilmott (2)
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From the
Beloit Free Press and Journal, 1867
The State Base Ball Tournament

From the
Files



The first annual Base Ball Tournament of Wisconsin is to be a great success. The best clubs of the state have already entered their names as contestants. The Cream City, of Milwaukee, have officially notified the state secretary that they will be present. Milwaukee will also be represented by a Junior Club. The action of the Cream City ensures the presence of the four leading clubs of the state, embracing the Cream City, Capital City, Whitewater and Badger [Beloit] Clubs. Janesville will be represented by two clubs, Madison by two, and many other towns and cities of the state are making active preparations to send delegations to contend for the generous prizes offered.

From Illinois several first class clubs will attend. Chicago will contend for the first Senior prize and also for the Junior prize. Rockford and Belvidere will endeavor to keep the prizes nearer home. While the probability of success has become a certainty so far as the attendance of clubs is concerned, the arrangements already made, and to be made here, are ample, judicious, and cannot fail to be satisfactory. The grounds are enclosed – and grounds that cannot be excelled anywhere – covered seats are in process of erection, and hotel accommodations will be ample and reasonable.

The Beloit Historical Society exists due to the generosity of its members and the community. Thanks to all who have contributed since our last newsletter (from July 13 through September 30, 2004)



Contributors

Sue Kurth, Pat Bjerning, Herb & Grace Christiansen, F. Caleb Blodgett, Allen Tuftee, George & Liz Merchant, Janet & Doug Nicoll, Ann Bausum & Dan Boutelle, George & Avis Masterson, Ron Anderson, Town of Beloit, Severa Peet, Barney Grommes, John McDonnell & Judith Christensen, Will & Muriel Pollock, Gerald & Brenda McMillan, Loren Sass, Helen Heckle, Virginia Karstaedt, Bob & Carol Schwaegler, Jess & Darlene Nelson, Civil War Round Table, Joe & Ann Chamberlain, Mary Herrmann, Marcella Savage, Gerald Druckrey, Merlin Nundahl

In Memory

of Clarence Brown

from Dorothy Brown, Jacquelyn Patch, Linda Jones, Norma Newquist & Nancy Spilken

Please keep in mind that the Beloit Historical Society is a worthy organization to receive a **memorial gift**. Past memorials have been put to good use for special purchases or exhibits. Consider us when it comes time to remember your loved ones, or even include us in your estate planning.

Sponsor-A-Day

Why not consider sponsoring a day at Lincoln Center? By contributing the average cost of daily operations at the Society (\$300), you can pick a day to commemorate a special event or the memory of someone. Recognition of the contribution then is published in the Beloit Daily News and Stateline Shopping News.

Scholarship Fund

Every year the Society awards scholarships to students who are pursuing studies in the field of history. The Society has a continuing need of funds for our Scholarship program. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Beloit Historical Society's Scholarship Fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Do you have a jar full of pennies (or nickels, dimes or quarters) that you'd like to get rid of? You can put them to good use by dropping them off at the Lincoln Center. In October we cashed in our accumulated coins and received **\$270!** Thanks to everyone who remembered to "drop in a Lincoln penny for Lincoln Center."



Did You Know...

... that Beloit's Badger Base Ball Club, which hosted the 1867 Base Ball Tournament, was considered at the time to be Wisconsin's strongest team? Unfortunately they fell out of the competition after losing to the Whitewater team.

BONUS FOR NEW MEMBERS!

If you aren't a member of the Beloit Historical Society, why not consider joining us? You will become part of Beloit's repository of history, one of Wisconsin's oldest local historical societies (founded 1910), and enjoy the many benefits offered (see the membership form below.) And as an incentive to becoming a new member we offer a **free book** if you sign up: *Pioneer Beloit* by Arthur Luebke, *History of the Beloit Fire Department* by Herb Christiansen, or *Sparks from the Flaming Wheel*. Please join us in celebrating Beloit's history!

AN INVITATION...

The Beloit Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of Beloit's rich history. Please support us by becoming a member, and receive membership benefits: The quarterly newsletter, *Confluence*; free admission to the Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead and complimentary passes for friends; affiliate membership in the Wisconsin State Historical Society; and discounts on Society activities, programs, and souvenirs.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Family _____



Individual Membership			Family Membership		
1 Year	\$ 20		1 Year	\$ 25	
2 "	35		2 "	45	
3 "	50		3 "	65	
Additional, Tax-Deductible Gift					
Sponsor			\$ 50		
Supporting			100		
Sustaining			250		
Patron			500		
Benefactor			1000		
Other					

Beloit Historical Society
845 Hackett St.
Beloit, WI 53511

Phone: 608-365-7835
Fax: 608-365-5999
E-mail: beloiths@ticon.net

Beloit Historical Society's Halloween Costume Gala & Auction Benefit



Featuring large items including:

A 1993 Ford Taurus, a *Toro* Riding Lawn Mower, Luxury Hotel Stays, Weekend Getaway's, Fine Jewelry, Unique Art, Gift Certificates & much more.



Saturday, October 30, 2004
Country Club of Beloit
2327 S. Riverside Dr., Beloit, WI
6:00 p.m.

Social Hour & Viewing, Dinner Buffet,
Live & Silent Auction, Musical Entertainment,
Prizes & Raffles

Reserve Your Table Today!

Cost is \$50 per ticket. Tickets can be
purchased at Beloit Historical Society,
845 Hackett St.; Beloit
Visa & Master Cards Accepted!

GRAND PRIZE FOR BEST COSTUME!
Complimentary three-day, two-night stay
at the beautiful Golden Nugget Laughlin
Resort, on the banks of the Colorado
River in Laughlin, Nevada.



Confluence
Beloit Historical Society
845 Hackett St.
Beloit WI 53511

Address Service Requested

The Vision of the Beloit Historical Society is to
make history a focal point of community pride and
to serve as a constant reminder to the community
of its great and diverse heritage.

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**CHECK YOUR
EXPIRATION**

*Your membership expiration is printed on the
mailing label. If your membership is recently
expired or soon to expire, please renew your
commitment to preserving your community's
heritage today! Thank You!*

(If your expiration date is incorrect,
you may have renewed after the newsletter was mailed.)

