

## Hughes and Haskell: Beloit Boys of the Silent Service

In late January Vicki Nelson called the Beloit Historical Society. She is a researcher for the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum founded in 1981 and located in Honolulu, Hawaii. The museum is located on the shores of Pearl Harbor conveniently close to the USS Arizona Memorial. Vicki doesn't live there, though it seems she does a lot of visiting. She lives in northern Wisconsin and phoned from there asking if we could provide a photograph of Elmer James Hughes.

The search was on. Looking through drawers, on shelves, paging through scrapbooks and yearbooks and then, naturally, in the last drawer and in the last scrapbook which was compiled by Mr. & Mrs. Carlton Thompson and donated to the Society in 1980, we found what we were looking for. There on page 24 is a handsome photograph of Elmer James Hughes under the newspaper headline: Finished Submarine School. Along side his photograph is another of Robert Gerald Haskell. They both graduated from Beloit High School in 1940 and from submarine school at New London, Connecticut in 1943. Elmer

"Jimmy" (as they called him in high school) Hughes was a fire controlman on the USS Golet and Robert was a motor machinist on the USS Herring.

On page 80 of the scrapbook they are listed among the casualties of war. Both sets of parents got a letter of condolence from the Secretary of the Navy, James Forrestal.

We scanned the photographs and sent them off. Both were appreciated.

Through discussions with Vicki we learned about submariners, the importance of silence in combat, and a project that came to fruition in March of 2005. Started by Charles Hinman who works at the

USS Bowfin Submarine Museum the project was called On Eternal Patrol and concerned

researching lost submarines and their crews. Talking further with Vicki, and with Charles Hinman, who was kind enough to call from Honolulu, we learned more about submarine warfare.

Charles informed us that during WWII the estimate for the number of sailors who served on submarines

was 18,000 – 24,000; that over 3,600 died in service between 7 December 1941 and 2 September 1945; that the 17-18% casualty rate was the highest in

any branch of service; that when a sub was sunk it was usually with all hands on board; and finally, that submariners who died were considered On Eternal Patrol.

Elmer had a determined look for his Senior class photo of the 1940 Yearbook. He took radio, orchestra, chorus and told those who knew him that he loved to dance. Four years later, after a good deal of schooling, he was serving on the USS Golet in the Pacific. The Golet departed the home base of Midway on 28 May 1944 to patrol the waters off of the northeast coast of the island of Honshu, Japan. It was then to leave those waters on 5 July, reporting back to Midway on the 9th. That didn't happen and the ship was officially reported

missing with all hands 12 July.

Elmer left behind his mom and dad, Mr. & Mrs. Willard Hughes who lived at 540 Public Ave., brothers Warren and Waldo, a step brother Ronald and a sister Pyhllis.

Robert Gerald Haskell has the best smile of any of the seniors on page 34 of the 1940 yearbook. He loved sports, particularly basketball. His nickname was Bibs and he wanted to be a coach. Four years later he was serving on the USS Herring in the Pacific. He left for patrol from Midway a week earlier than Elmer, on 21 May 1944. He and his crew



Robert G. Haskell, MoMM 2/o  
**Robert Haskell  
Reported Dead  
By U. S. Navy**



Elmer Hughes

**Elmer Hughes,  
Sub Crewman,  
Gave His Life**

## Beloit Historical Society

Founded 1910

### Officers

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Newsletter Contributors: Paul Kerr, Dwight Alton, and Nancy Wallace; layout by Jen Scott.

Board meetings are the third Thursday of every month at 4:15 p.m. and are held at Lincoln Center, 845 Hackett Street.

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 [Pkerr@beloithistoricalsociety.com](mailto:Pkerr@beloithistoricalsociety.com). Or see our web site at [beloithistoricalsociety.com](http://beloithistoricalsociety.com).

were to scout the waters around the northern Kuril Islands which were deemed "a likely area for the enemy".

Unlike the Golet, however, the Herring was to rendezvous with the USS Barb on 31 May to determine who was to patrol which areas of this Pacific. It was decided that the Barb would patrol the south and west, the Herring would cover the north and east. Shortly after this meeting the Barb picked up an enemy survivor from a vessel considered to have been sunk by the Herring. All was quiet following this event. Messages were sent to the USS Barb and to the USS Herring requesting a response. Only



Elmer Hughes

the Barb responded. The Herring was expected back at Midway the 3rd of July and when it didn't show the submarine was officially listed as missing on the 5th. Robert left behind parents Mr.



Robert Haskell

& Mrs. Clifton Haskell who resided at 956 sixth street. There was no mention of brothers and sisters in the newspaper announcement.

Two young graduates from Beloit High School went off to fight in World War II and died in the depths of the Pacific. They join 161 other Beloiters who died in that war. Hughes and Haskell, though, died in the silent service of the U.S. Military and like Charles Hinman said are now, to this day, On Eternal Patrol.

## February is Black History Month!

In honor of this occasion, here are some facts from our own history:

### Beloit's Pioneer African-Americans:

Emmanuel Craig - 1839  
Gilliam Perry - 1846  
Joseph Bowling - 1848  
William Atwood Waffles - 1858  
Filas Malone - 1858

Black population in 1855

18 out of 2,753

In 1860: 27 out of 4,098

In 2010: 5,582 out of 36,967

## Upcoming Events

Beloit Historical Society will sponsor its **Second Annual Chicago Flower and Garden Show bus trip** to Navy Pier on **March 18**.

We still have some seats on the bus! A round trip price has been set at \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. To **make reservations**, please include names and addresses of those attending, along with payment and mail to B.H.S. Lincoln Center, 845 Hackett St., Beloit. For information call 365-7835.

The coach will leave Beloit Historical Society's Lincoln Center, 845 Hackett St., at 7:30 a.m. Coffee and rolls will be available in the center's lobby from 7-7:30 a.m. The bus is slated to be back in Beloit between 5:30 and 6 p.m.

The show features more than 20 gardens designed to inspire gardeners to transform any outdoor space, whether a front yard or a window box. More than 100 vendors will showcase their gardening, landscape and horticulture products and services, while horticulture experts will lead seminars daily.

## RESOLUTION OF THANKS

WHEREAS, The Beloit Historical Society has completed another successful annual fund drive, raising \$15,137 from 98 members and friends, and

WHEREAS, the Beloit Historical Society relies on these gifts to maintain our operations, and

WHEREAS, the Beloit Historical Society will use these funds to continue operation of the Hanchett-Bartlett historic house museum and the museum, archives, library and central office at Lincoln Center.

NOW, therefore be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Beloit Historical Society gratefully accepts these gifts and thanks all of the donors for their generosity and confidence in the board and its staff. While we cannot extend these thanks personally to each donor we can publish this collective thank you in the next issue of Confluence and in our annual report along with the names of each donor.

Adopted January 16, 2014

## RESOLUTION REGARDING MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE BELOIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WHEREAS, The Beloit Historical Society from time to time receives monetary gifts honoring deceased members of the society or friends from the greater Beloit community, and

WHEREAS, the Beloit Historical Society has no established policy for use of these funds, and

WHEREAS, the Beloit Historical Society has not previously recognized those memorialized in any special manner,

NOW Therefore be it resolved that the Beloit Historical Society adopts the following policies:

1. Memorial gifts unless otherwise restricted by the family or donors shall be placed in the general fund and used for the ordinary operations of the Society, and
2. That the names of honorees with death date shall be placed on a suitable plaque in the entrance to Lincoln Center. The names on this plaque shall include all such persons memorialized since 2010.
3. The names of honorees and donors shall be included in the annual report of the Beloit Historical Society.

Adopted January 16, 2014

## Beloit Historical Society Donors and Memorials

### \$1000 And Over

Anonymous  
Bill/Carol Bolgrien  
Samuel Paddock  
Jane Solem  
Stauber Family  
Foundation

Nicole Yoss  
Kerry Ingredients  
(Matching Grant)

Mathews  
Catherine  
Mcmahon  
Marlene Meyer  
Marcia Minter  
Tom/Judy Nee  
Richard/Shirley  
Newsome  
Richard/Joan  
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Nightingale  
Robert Pederson  
Peter/Arlene  
Peterson  
B G Reichard  
Louise Reidenback  
Bill/Beth Rodermel  
Thomas/Jacqueline  
Roehl

### Under \$100

Victor/Sandy  
Adamsky  
Ronald/Joyce  
Anderson  
Tony/Marlene  
Bachim  
Harold/Francis  
Beckman  
Rudolf/Erna Beese  
Joyce Berg  
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Gerald Chapel  
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Theodore/Laverne  
Stevenson  
Kaaren Torkelson  
John Winkelmann  
Sabrina Zickert

### \$100-499

Larry/Karen Arft  
Frank Blodgett  
Jesse/Sandra  
Calkins  
Joseph/Ingrid  
Chamberlain  
Michael/Lolita  
Chamberlin  
Diana Collins/Brad  
Russell  
Richard Dexter  
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Roger Dutcher  
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Constance  
Matusiak  
Gerald/Brenda  
Mcmillan  
Lloyd Page  
John Patch  
Will Pollack  
Timothy Ramsey  
And Nancy Wallace  
Rich And Pat Ranft  
Loren And Diane  
Sass  
Jennifer Scott  
Marcia Stacy  
Tom/Mim Warren  
Gene Weeden  
Henry Woodard

George/Mary Clay  
Larry Collins  
(Honor Annabelle)  
Robert/Donna  
Darling  
Reginald/Mavis  
Daugherty  
G R Druckrey  
Eileen Finnegan  
Majorie Fizzell  
Mary Frey  
Fran/Marilyn  
Fruzen  
Gregg Furman  
Shirley Geffers  
Dr's Cornelia/Daniel  
Green  
Delores Hahn  
Ronald Hanson  
Mary Alice Harris  
Susan Hartman  
Elsbeth Heaney  
Caryl Hines  
Kathryn Hudson  
Ralph Irvin  
Cheryl Jackson  
Vicki Johnson  
Kathleen Jones  
Thomas/Sharon  
Jordan  
Curtis/Edith Julson  
Stephen/Sharon  
Kincaid  
Lawrenz/Juanita  
Knowles  
Lavaughn Kunny  
Sue Kurth  
Arnold/Marcia Lee  
Gerald/Phyllis

## Memorials

### 2013

Margaret Grauel  
Bradley Bowman  
Dave Collins  
Carl Swanson

### 2012

Gerry Elliott  
Olive Berhman

### 2011

Jean Luebke  
Elsa Fabiszak

### 2010

Roberta Lightfoot

### 2009

Thomas & Edward  
Brown

### 2008

Jackie Weeden

Beloit Historical Society  
Confluence  
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.

Visit our web site at [beloithistoricalsociety.com](http://beloithistoricalsociety.com)

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*Beloit*  
Historical Society

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## Volunteers Wanted!

**We  
Need  
You!**

Spring means school tours at the BHS and we need your help! We are looking for someone to act as "tour coordinator" starting in mid-March. The coordinator's duties include contacting schools and scheduling tours of the homestead.

Docents to give the tours are also needed. If you have a passion for story telling and would like to help, contact us!

Whatever your talents, we welcome new volunteers all year. Come on down and get involved!

Get rid of the winter blahs and that cabin fever at the  
**Beloit Historical Society's**  
**St. Patty's Gala Dinner & Auction**  
**Friday, March 14, 2014 at the Country Club of Beloit**

This event is going to be the most fun you've had in ages! The Irish Band, **The Breakaway Fiddle Strings**, will put everyone in the St. Patty's spirit as you check out the live and silent auction items.

You won't want to miss out on the chance to snag a super deal this evening. We have some absolutely incredible and unique items this year, both in the live auction and silent auction.

Included with each ticket is admission to the live auction, dinner, and a complementary drink. In addition, play the hilarious "heads or tails" game. We also encourage guests to dress in their Irish best for our "Irish Lass & Laddie" contest

Seating is limited, so buy your ticket now! Why not reserve a table for 8 or for 10 and make sure all your friends are in on the fun? Call the Beloit Historical Society at 608-365-7835 or visit us online today!



**A one week stay in a private condo on the Hawaiian Island of Kauai, including airfare!**  
 Kauai is the most beautiful island with all the waterfalls.

Four one-day passes to

**Disney World**

**in Orlando, Florida, including a one week stay at a timeshare resort, PLUS airfare!**



**Spring Clean Up Special!**

Includes gift certificates to Fish Window Cleaning, Elias Landscaping, Wolter Pool, Roger Theile Heating, and Always Cleaning. Relax and let these guys do the work!

**Private dinner for eight at the beautiful, historic Hanchett-Bartlett House** with meal



prepared by chefs from Bushel and Peck's. Includes harp & flute music, servers in period attire and all the ambiance of this 1800's home.

**Dessert of the Month for the rest of the year!**

(April through December) Wow! Solve all your entertaining needs and be the "hostess with the mostess" if you win this deal! Includes:

- Molly Bussie's famous melt-in-your-mouth cheesecakes (which are sold at Bushel & Peck's)
- Angel food cakes made-from-scratch from "You take the Cake" by Chris Welcenbach will bring "oohs and ahhs from your guests;
- Sandy Adamsky's special to-die-for desserts. She is well known for her culinary skills in the Beloit area.
- Nancy Wallace's buttery Norwegian cut-out Christmas cookies with amazing piping and decorations.



**I love my pet! gift package**

A personal portrait of your pet painted by local artist Norman Starks; including a gift certificate to Country View Animal Hospital, 2 night stay at Country Roads kennel, pet supplies, etc.

We will have more auction items coming, so check out our website at [www.beloithistoricalsociety.com](http://www.beloithistoricalsociety.com) for information, photos or to purchase tickets.



**A weekend stay in the fall at an authentic log cabin in the woods overlooking Mississippi River**, located in the beautiful country between Prairie du Chien and La Crosse. Includes basket of home baked goodies and bottle of wine.

## A Night of Romance!

One night stay at Ironworks Hotel, with a dozen roses, wine and wine holder, plus dinner for two at Merrill & Houston Steak Joint.

## 4 box seat tickets to see the Chicago White Sox

**Retired, rare pieces from Red Carpet collection jewelry by Lia Sophia.** This is the jewelry seen on all your favorite Hollywood stars. The pieces are beautiful and exclusive "statement" pieces. Collection will also include a few Kiam family designed jewelry.

## A beautiful one-of-a-kind stained glass panel

created by a local artist. This panel has over 137 pieces of cut glass and measures 21 x 12 1/2 inches. It would be an incredible focal point in your home!



All proceeds benefit the Beloit Historical Society.

## Beloit Historical Society's St. Patty's Gala Dinner & Auction

Friday, March 14, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Country Club of Beloit

Buy your tickets securely online at [beloithistoricalsociety.com](http://beloithistoricalsociety.com)!

We accept MasterCard, Visa, and PayPal.

### I'd like to attend the Gala Auction

*Included with each ticket is admission to the live auction, dinner, and a complementary drink.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST zip \_\_\_\_\_

tickets at \$50 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ *I am unable to attend, but would like to show my support for the Beloit Historical Society with the enclosed donation.*

Mail this form with payment to the Beloit Historical Society, 845 Hackett St, Beloit, WI 53511 by Friday, March 7.