

Confluence

Happy 150th: The House that James Built

One hundred and fifty years ago a man built a house. It was likely the largest he built in the area. Previous to building it on St. Lawrence Avenue, then on the outskirts of town, he lived with his wife and children in a stone house at the corner of East Grand and Prospect. The one he built on St. Lawrence was made of limestone provided by a local limestone quarry. The man was James Hanchett and he came to Beloit in 1840.



Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead, 1987

He was a man of means who became prominent and respected. He built the first dam in Beloit in 1844. In 1856 he built Hanchett Hall, which stands today at the corner of Broad and State. The following year, in 1857, he built the home we're celebrating and moved his growing family out to St. Lawrence.

For a reason unbeknownst to the Society the property was purchased by Caroline Hanchett, not by James. L.G. Fisher sold it to her on 18 June 1857. The property was, by all accounts, a lovely setting consisting of 40 acres. There are several references to this homestead as a "Farmstead" and as a "Fruit farm." Caroline managed this farm with her children while James was in the Colorado gold fields, attempting to recoup losses from a bad railroad investment. (James did recoup his losses, returning to Beloit in 1865. Sadly, he died shortly after his return.) Caroline managed the farm until the early 1880's putting it up for sale in 1883. Charles Hanchett, her son, purchased the homestead for \$4,000 on 10 September 1883.

Two years later, Charles sold 20 of the original 40 acres to Montgomery McNair for \$3,600. Six years later, in 1901, Lillie and John Bartlett bought the home nestled on 20 acres. It is with the Bartletts that the Beloit Historical Society enters the picture and eventually becomes the caretaker and spokesperson for this enduring gem of Greek & Italianate Revival architecture, the Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead.

You may be aware that of the Bartletts, there were three sisters who became homeopathic doctors. Their names were Mary, Lucy Etta and Edith. It was Etta, the only sister of the three to marry, who deeded the Homestead and property to the Historical Society in 1962. The timing was fortuitous as wise investments from a 1932 donation of \$5,000 from Henry Talmadge afforded the Board the ability to make renovations and repairs to the homestead.

On 30 August 1962 Walter Dundore, Director of the Beloit Historical Society at that time and Richard Calland, then City Manager, and a hundred invited guests dedicated the Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead as an historic site and attraction. From 1962-1985 the Society, volunteers and community residents worked to promote and restore the homestead. This work of volunteers and supporters seems to be as solid and of lasting value as the structure James built back in 1857. The efforts continue to this day.

The upstairs rooms are being renovated and will be used for a variety of displays which will open in the near future and the Beloit Garden Lovers Club of Beloit continues with its project of beautifying the grounds. So it is with pride and a sense of accomplishment that the Historical Society wishes the Homestead a happy 150th. It is also the 30th anniversary of its listing on the National Register of Historical Places. To all those who have nurtured this site and this Homestead we tip our hats in honor of you.



Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead, 2007

Gifts to the Society

The Society received a bequest in the amount of \$10,000 from estate of Arthur Gibbs.

Beloit Historical Society

Founded 1910

Officers

President Cathy Piazza
Vice President Sue Drevdahl
Treasurer Maggie Janke
Secretary William Bolgrien

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Executive Director Paul Kerr
Custodian Fred Bull

Newsletter edited by Jen Scott

Other contributors to this issue:

Paul Kerr, Cathy Piazza,
Joanne Ciulla, Ron Klein

Date of Next Board Meeting:

August 16, 2007, 4 p.m.

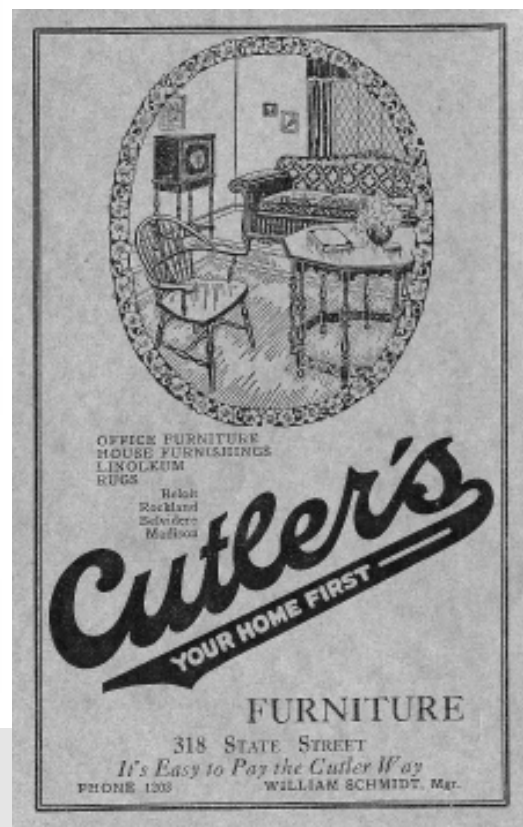
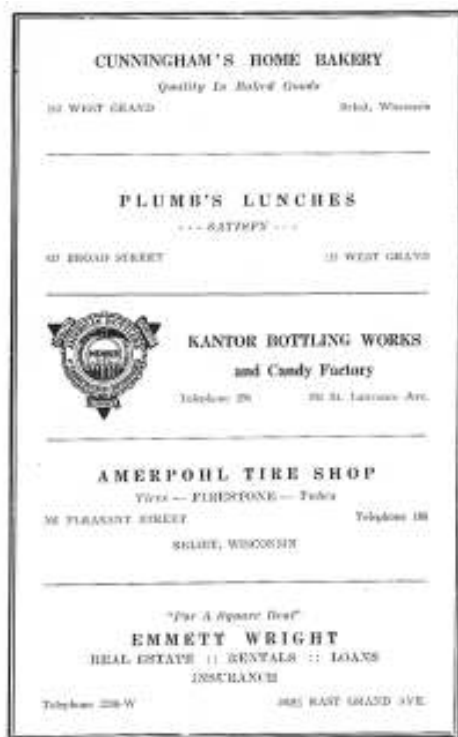
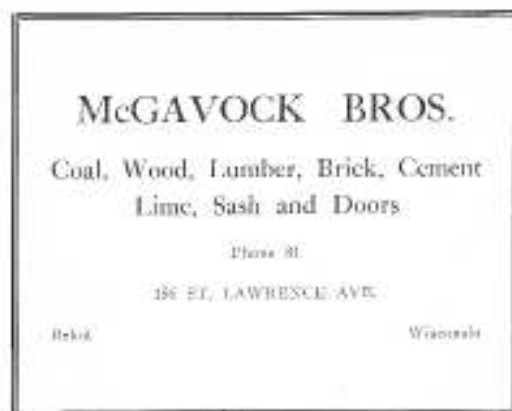
Executive Committee Meeting:

August 9, 2007, noon

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. Or see our new website which can be found on the web at beloithistoricalsociety.com.

Ads of Old

Excerpted from the 1928 year book put out by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Enjoy this Delicious Recipe

from the Young Ladies' Cook Book, published 1896, compiled by the members of the Young Ladies' Sewing Society of the First Congregational Church.

OXTAIL SOUP.

1 oxtail divided into small pieces and 3 lbs. of beef from shoulder, washed thoroughly, and put into 5 qts. of cold water. Boil slowly until the meat drops from the bone, and strain. Let stand over night. Skim off the fat, and put over the fire. Add 1 onion, stalk of celery, salt and pepper to taste, and boil 2 hours, strain again, and add 2 tablespoons of browned flour, letting boil again until a smooth liquor. This ought to make about 3 quarts when done. The juice of 1 lemon and 1 tablespoon of sugar at last, if desired.

J. A. S.

From the Director

Comes a time for remembering and for change. As regards remembering I'm thinking of Art Gibbs. Art died this past March and left the Beloit Historical Society a generous bequest of \$10,000. He used to come in often with donations and a story related to the thing donated-or not. What was sure from Art is that there would be a story. I know from one of them he was proud to have been a bat boy for the Fairbanks Fairies baseball team.



As regards change I'm thinking of a recent one- the tearing down of Goodall's at Pleasant & Broad. That corner won't look the same. Thomas Goodall founded the company in 1905 and it's had a presence in Beloit ever since. If he were alive today maybe he'd be surprised it

lasted as long as it has. Maybe not. At any rate there are numerous changes inevitable in a city and this is one of them. In the next hundred years people will be talking about the Ace Hardware store located on that spot.



So we offer a fond farewell to Art and to Goodall's. Let us remember the people and the changes that have made Beloit.

Paul Kerr, BHS Director

Past Events

May School Tours were successfully held with docents conducting numerous tours to about 400 third graders. Most of them from Beloit elementary schools. Thank you to Carol Bolgrien for coordinating the tours with docents and to the team of docents: Ron Klein, Virginia Knutson, Lynda Moon, Lois MacGowan, Barb Blackman, Bonnie Kretsos and Betty Lowrey.

The Volunteer Brunch was a tasty treat as well as a musical success with forty of the Beloit Historical Society's finest volunteers attending this past 19 April. The Brunch is the Society's official thank you to all those who work so hard on its behalf. ABC catering provided the sumptu-

ous fare and Linda Bachand the resonant musical numbers with lively stories about each of the compositions.

The Annual Meeting attracted eighty members to the Lincoln Center this past 27 April. Tamara Thomsen of the State Historical Society's Underwater Archeology department enlightened the crowd with a slide show about the Rouse Simmons, better known as the Christmas Tree Ship. Tamara mentioned the new technology used today to answer questions about the sinking of this ship which took place in the icy waters of Lake Michigan in 1912. Also at the Annual Dinner the Board elected two new members: Debra Jensen DeHart

and Martin Kades.

Aaron Stecker, running back of the New Orleans Saints, entertained an animated crowd of sports enthusiasts at this year's **22nd annual Sports Hall of Fame** on 21 June. This year's inductees were Ed DeGeorge, Robert Grady, Jean Luebke, Richard Raddant and Vincent Stankewitz. Our compliments to the Sports Hall of Fame Committee members for making this another fund raising success. The members are: Jerry Elliott, John Carroll, William Fitzgerald, John Heinke, William Watson, Jim Franz, Hardy Johnson, LaMont Weaver, Mardie Farr, Daniel Green, David Luebke and Rick West.

A new event for the Society was **Luncheon on the Lawn** held at Hanchett-Bartlett Homestead 6 & 7 June. Gary Alseth played the harp, lovely ladies modeled vintage hats and Red Hatters brought themselves and their guests from as far as Madison. This new fund raiser netted \$2,000 to be applied to continued renovation and repair to the Homestead. Thanks to those who made the event a success: Ron Klein, Lois and Roger Roen, Sue Drevdahl, Cathy Schafman, Jeanette and Roger Goecks, Cathy Piazza, Terry Russell, Amy and the Beloit Garden Lovers Club who have transformed the Homestead and grounds into the beautiful vision it is today.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 9—Heritage Days, 8-5 p.m. Stop by our booth in Horace White Park.

Sept. 16—City Hall of Fame, 2 p.m. The Historical Society will induct into the hall five individuals who have volunteered their services for the betterment of Beloit.

Oct. 20—Gala Auction, 6 p.m. The Gala is being held at the Roger Bryden showroom floor on Broad street. *See insert for more information.*

Contact Beloit Historical Society for further information (608) 365-7835



Membership News

Please make a special effort to thank and welcome our new members. The following have joined the Beloit Historical Society since the last newsletter:

Ed Jordan
Charles & Sandra Kinkade
Marge Krueger
Pete Marino
Kelly O'Brien
Tammy Schindler
Steve & Connie Truesdale

Help Wanted

Volunteer Office Help Needed

Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Computer skills preferred

Wish List

Microwave

Vacuum Cleaner in good shape

Gas-powered Edger

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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.

Visit our web site at
beloithistoricalsociety.com

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