

# Menominee County Historical Society



## NEWSLETTER

Janet Callow

EDITOR

VOL. 1 No. 44

April, 2009

### COMING EVENTS

3 May 2009 Sunday  
ANNUAL BALL  
See Back page for Details

20 May 2008 Wednesday  
Annual Orientation Day  
All guides & Substitutes  
1pm-3pm Heritage Museum

25 May 2009 Monday  
MEMORIAL DAY  
OPENING DAY  
HERITAGE MUSEUM  
10am—4:00pm

27 May 2009 Wednesday  
ANUTA RESEARCH CENTER  
OPENS FOR THE SEASON  
Wednesday 1pm to 5pm  
Saturday 8am to noon

### SPECIAL EVENTS

June 6 2008 Sunday  
HERITAGE DAY  
Downtown Walking Tours  
Marina Park

June 26-28  
UPPER PENINSULA HISTORY  
CONFERENCE  
Newberry MI

4 July 2009 HAPPY FOURTH!  
Closed all Day

Aug 2009  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
Chappee—Weber Learning Center  
Watch the media for date and time  
details.

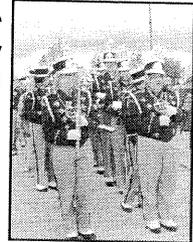
7 Sept. 2009 Labor Day Monday  
END OF SEASON  
Heritage Museum  
Anuta Research Center  
Open by appointment only  
Call 863-9000

### MARITIME DAYS

October 18-19, 2009



One of the biggest celebrations of the M&M area occurred when the US Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw sailed to the Menominee River and docked at the Government pier. High School bands from both towns were playing, school children were waving flags, dignitaries were on hand; representatives for Senator



Carl Levin, and Debbie Stabenow, Mayors of Menominee and Marinette, CEO of Marinette Marine, CEO Marinette Menominee Area Chamber of Commerce and our own Menominee Historical Society Administrative Director. All to welcome Commander Scott Smith and his crew for Maritime Days.

Tours of the ship and the lighthouse were scheduled for two days.

The Mackinaw was built for the Coast Guard at Marinette Marine in 2005 Commissioned in 2006



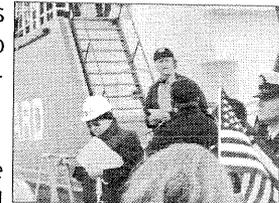
It replaced the earlier Mackinaw that served us as an Icebreaker for over 60 years.

Presentations were made by the Mayors, the Marinette Marine CEO, the Ships Commander with Mary Johns acting as mistress of ceremonies.

Mike Kaufman, our Director, wearing a lighthouse keepers coat and hat invited all to visit the North Pier Lighthouse, best known as the Menominee Lighthouse.



"He drew laughs when he thanked the Mackinaw and the crew for coming to help promote the renovation of the lighthouse" Over 1200 people availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the lighthouse this first time it was open to the public.



The deed to the lighthouse is in the hands of the City of Menominee. A lease agreement with the Menominee County Historical Society is in the offing so that it can be used as a maritime museum.

**DONATIONS 2009** 4/6/09

**Supporter**

Carol Hoida  
 Judith Malek  
 Charles & Bernadette Burg  
 Darwin Adams  
 Mark & Kersten Anderson  
 Steve Barstow  
 John & Mary Clark  
 Betty Degenaar  
 Barbara Johnson  
 Bob Landre  
 Pat Mallgren  
 James Meyer  
 Mike Mottl  
 Robert Chernetski  
 Douglas & Mary Lueskow  
 Bill & Julie Simmons  
 Kip Sturdevan

**Contributor**

Larry Ebsch  
 Marlene Monson  
 Chris Olson  
 Margo Stark  
 Norma Armstrong  
 Bart & Laurie Stupak  
 Wells Fargo Bank  
 Gwendolyn Bagley  
 Bob & Karen Brisson  
 Harry Ellery

**Patron**

Richard Bayerl  
 John Helfert  
 Carol Herman  
 Katherine Murwin  
 Nell Reidinger  
 Joe & Carla Wagner

**Benefactor**

Janet Callow



**A MOMENT OF PRAYER**

for those Members who  
 have  
 passed from our sight but  
 remain in our memories.

Terry Reichardt Nov 8 2008  
 Joseph Krygoski Nov. 28,2008  
 LorraineSharkey Dec. 16, 2008  
 Janice Wicinski Jan 7, 2009  
 Ottar Olson Jan.23, 2009  
 Georgia Jensen Feb.27,2009

**WELCOME  
 To our  
 NEWEST MEMBERS**

David Colyer—Traverse City MI  
 Pat Johnson-Menominee  
 Mike & Valerie Armstrong—Meno.  
 Kip Sturdevan—Encinitas CA  
 Dan Svoboda— Chapin SC  
 Menominee Granite Company  
 (Joe &Carla Wagner) Meno.

**CHANGING YOUR  
 ADDRESS ?**

Please inform us by  
 e-mail  
 jcallow1@new.rr.com  
 or by snail mail to  
 Menominee County  
 Historical Society  
 P.O. Box 151  
 Menominee MI 49858

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Janet Callow for Ottar Olson  
 Norma Armstrong Lorraine Sharkey  
 Jean Marvin for Bob Marvin

**THEY WILL BE MISSED**

Lorraine Sharkey  
 Ottar Olson.  
 Lorraine was a greeter on Tuesday  
 mornings for many years. She always  
 had a big smile and was ready to do  
 extra tasks. Besides being a wife,  
 mother, she was a nurse, active in  
 civic activities, and enjoyed many  
 hobbies.  
 Ottar Olson a former Secretary of the  
 Menominee County Historical Soci-  
 ety, helped to create the Society as we  
 know it. He was a well known teacher  
 and Principal and especially remem-  
 bered for his years as substitute  
 teacher after his retirement from the  
 Menominee Public School System.

**Financial Secretary Note**

A "Thank You" to all the members  
 who have renewed their membership  
 this year.

To those members who have not as  
 yet sent in their membership dues we  
 hope you will do so soon.

All members are needed to  
 support the Historical society.  
 It is more important than ever!

Any questions call Mary at 863-1191

**SPECIAL DONATIONS**

Lithocrafters, Inc.  
 Janet Callow

**MENOMINEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

2008 OFFICERS

President	Pat Krah
1st Vice-President	Arnold Organ
Secretary	Katherine Murwin
Financial Secretary	Mary Lueskow
Treasurer	Marlene Monson

PAST-PRESIDENTS

Marie Swanson  
 Dr. Dorothy Granskog  
 Katie Jones  
 Germaine Vincent  
 Pat Mallgren

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janet Callow	Beverly Johnson
Norma Armstrong	Bruce Johnson
Kurt Berge	John Helfert
Clayton Parcels	Mike Kaufman
Denise Taylor	James Borski
Barbara Kell	Barbara Pesola
Eileen Behrend	Amber Allard
Rose Barker	Bonnie Paulsen
Lou Ann Borski	

MEETINGS

The Board of Directors is composed of those named above, plus all Officers and Past Presidents as listed above.. The Board of Directors meet on the 1st Monday of each month at 12 noon, in the Board Room of the Wells Fargo Bank, 962 1st St., Menominee . All Meetings are OPEN Meetings.

Hello!

Welcome to the 2009 Summer Season at the **Menominee County Heritage Museum**

When you visit the Heritage Museum you will see our commitment to the artistic community of Menominee County.

**Artist Thomas Winchester Wells**

Three new pieces from marine artist Thomas Winchester Wells (1916-2004) will be on display. They have been purchased from the Spies Library Foundation.



Barb Pesola, Curator

Thomas W. Wells, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wells of Sheridan Circle, Menominee, MI attended Menominee high school. In 1942 Tom graduated from Yale University School of Art. Tom is internationally known as a marine artist and is well recognized among square-rig sailing men. In his paintings he combines his artistic training and his personal experiences aboard the square riggers. Mr. Wells is past president of the Puget Sound group of Northwest painters; a Fellow in the American Society of Marine Artists and life member of the Association of International Cape Horners, St. Malo, Australian Section. Some of Wells works are being featured in the Contemporary American Marine Artists 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition 2009 at the Noyes Museum of Art, Oceanville, New Jersey. Upon completion of the Noyes Museum of Art venue, the exhibition of more than 100 of today's best marine artists will travel in 2009 to the Spartanburg Art Museum in South Carolina (March 3 to May 2) and the New Bedford Art Museum in Maine (June 7 to September 5).

I encourage you to talk with artists you know and invite them to consider placing a piece or pieces of their work at the Museum. All mediums will be considered - oil, watercolor, pastels, pencil, sculpture, wood carving and photography. When a work is donated to the museum it becomes the property of the Menominee County Historical Society.

Menominee County and the surrounding counties have a rich history of artistic talent. All aspects of the arts contribute to the total enrichment of our citizens.

**Artist Marion Kassing:1878-1967**

Please visit the Spies Public Library, children's room, and enjoy three large pieces of art beautifully rendered by long-time Menominee artist Marion Kassing (Supervisor of Art, Menominee High School, 1915-1943). Marion, born in 1878, came to Menominee in 1915. Marion is a native of New York State. Her mother died at the time of her birth and she spent her childhood in Central America residing with her grandparents in Punta Gorda, British Honduras. There her grandfather and several uncles operated banana and sugar plantations. In succeeding years Miss Kassing studied at the University of New York, the University of Chicago and the Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago. She received her teacher training at Winona Teachers College, Winona, Minnesota. More of Marion's works may be seen at the Museum.

Photographing the permanent art collection at the Museum will begin this year. This DVD format will be available for purchase at the Museum Gift shop later in the season.

**Baroness May Dugas**

The gorgeous gown once owned by Menominee's own Baroness May Dugas will be placed on display in the Community Room. May's life story is an on-going one even though she passed away in 1937. Janet Callow has continued her research and has discovered enough new information to fill a second book. This project may take a few years until it is completed.

Each year we try to improve your Museum experience. Bring your family and spend some time enjoying the stories, photographs, paintings and artifacts from our past.

Admission is by donation.

Hours – Memorial Day through Labor Day 10-4

Closed – July 4<sup>th</sup>

Special Thank You: Lithocrafters of Marinette, WI have donated \$500 to the M.C. Historical Society from the sales of their Historical Calendar.

Thank you, Roger and Kirsty

## NEWS FROM THE M.J. ANUTA RESEARCH CENTER

When the Menominee Historical Society opens their museum and the Anuta Research Center on Memorial Day, visitors will find **new technology** has been added to aid in the storage and display of historical photographs.

The Historical Society received a grant in August from the M & M Community Foundation to purchase a digital camera, photo scanner and printer, software, and a DVD player that will play photo images.



Amber Allard

The **scanning process** has started and will be an **ongoing project** at the Research Center. There are file cabinets full of photos and another cabinet full of negatives that need to be scanned, cataloged and saved to a computer file. If you would like to help on this project contact Amber.

Some of the photos from the historical society collection have been featured in the Eagle-Herald's "From the Past" page which is featured in Monday's edition.

If you **have historical photographs** that you would be willing to share, you can e-mail Amber at [amberra39@new.rr.com](mailto:amberra39@new.rr.com). You can either donate a copy of the photograph or allow the staff at the Research Center to scan the photo and return your original.

If you are **unable to visit** the Research Center, some research can be done for you. Donations are welcomed for hours needed to answer your questions. Requests can be mailed to P.O. Box 151, Menominee MI 49858 or e-mailed to [amber39@new.rr.com](mailto:amber39@new.rr.com) or [jcallow1@new.rr.com](mailto:jcallow1@new.rr.com).

The Anuta Research Center will be open after Memorial Day  
Wednesday afternoon from 1-5 and on Saturday mornings from 8-Noon.  
The phone number for both the museum and Research Center is 906-863-9000.

## ORIENTATION DAY 2009

Norma Armstrong

With this out of the ordinary cold, snowy winter behind us, we can look forward to the sunny days, beautiful flowers and the opening of our Heritage Museum.

Most of our greeters will be back as well as being joined by new volunteers. We can always use more help as subs or regulars. It is once a week for 3 hours in the morning or afternoon- Monday-Saturday. If you would like to experience the joy of meeting people from all over the world and enjoy the displays of our own Menominee History, please call me, Norma - 863-3251.

Orientation Day is May 20, 2009 from 1:00-3:00P.M. at the Heritage Museum

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US**

## GIFT SHOP AT HERITAGE MUSEUM

Rose Barker, Gift Shop Manager

Soon the museum will be open and so will the Gift Shop. There will be many interesting items for sale. Many of them are books, pamphlets, maps especially about Menominee County. The Upper Michigan Weather Stories "So Cold a Sky" written by Karl Bohnak is also available.

Many Menominee High School yearbooks are for sale, but unfortunately not all years are available. These are added as they are donated to the Historical Society

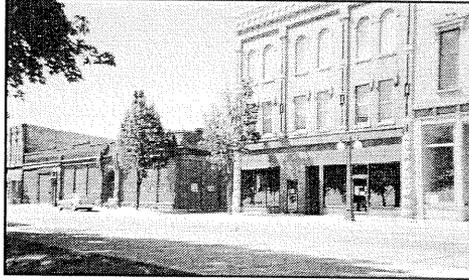
A large thank you goes to Bonnie Paulsen for the added items for sale such as collectible bottles, Christmas in July items and many other things of interest. She has made the Gift Shop an attractive place to shop and hope you find items of interest. See you this summer.

**HOPE YOU COME AND VISIT US**

(we are to the left when you enter the Museum)

## Annual Meeting of the Menominee County Historical Society

The Annual meeting was held November 9th, 2008 at the VFW Hall in Menominee. Registration for attendees started at 5:00 pm with dinner being served at 6:00. President Pat Krah welcomed the members and Reports were presented by Administrative Director, Mike Kaufman and Treasurer Marlene Monson. Election was held. See page 2 for the current elected Officers and Board of Directors. Barbara Pesola, Heritage Museum Curator, and Amber Allard, Anuta Research Center Director remain as our Staff.

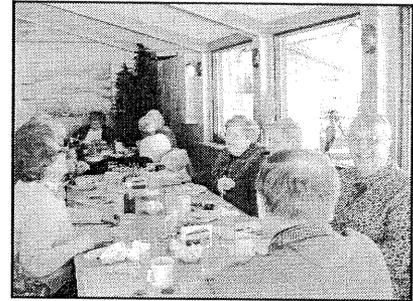


Program for the evening was Patricia Johnson, Co-chairman of the Menominee Historic District Commission, who titled her presentation "How will we know it's us without our past" a quote from John Steinbeck. She outlined the establishment and purpose of the commission and said that we need in the future to preserve our city history for the benefit of our Youth.

## First Quarterly Meeting

Feb 28, 2009 some 30 members attended the first quarterly meeting at Schloegel's Garden Room for a noon luncheon.

Speaker for the meeting was Lloyd Matthes, Executive director of CUPPAD- Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission - who have offices in Escanaba. He works with federal, state and local organizations to strengthen local programs and promote the central UP.



Germaine Vincent visits with Lloyd Matthes

He was here to share information about the "UP Hidden Coast— a Recreation Heritage Trail" that would extend from Menominee to Gladstone.

Early planning had been done under a different Director of CUPPAD but seems to come to a halt.

A lively discussion followed with Eileen Behrend, who was a member of the committee planning the trail, sharing what had been accomplished. Many questions were raised as to how to get this project moving again.

## This years Annual Upper Peninsula History Conference will be held June 26-28, 2009 in Newberry, Michigan.

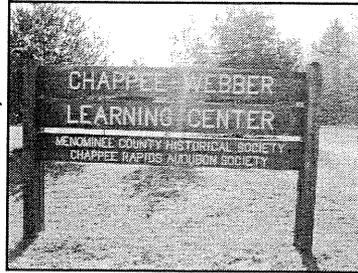
The 60th Annual U P Conference of the Michigan Historical Society features workshops and tours, an outdoor BBQ with musical entertainment, the annual Upper Peninsula History Awards Banquet and much more. If you are interested in attending Pat Krah will have the details.

**The Menominee Historical Society will be hosting the 2010 Conference.  
If you would like to be on the planning committee call Pat 863-5411**

## CHAPPEE-WEBER LEARNING CENTER

JOHN HELFERT

The Chappee-Weber Learning Center is 11 acre tract of land located a few miles north of Menominee on the Menominee-River on the Michigan side.



Donated many years ago by Peter Weber to the Menominee County Historical Society, it is the site of fur trader, Stanislaus Chaput's Trading Post.

In Michigan and Wisconsin students are required to learn the history of their state. What better place to start than in their own back yard. In September some 400 to 450 students come from Peshtigo, Marinette, Menominee, Stephenson and the Hannaville Reservation to visit the Learning Center. They come from public, private, catholic, reservation schools plus homeschoolers.. Upon their arrival at the Center they are divided into four groups to meet with four instructors. They are at each site about 30 minutes.

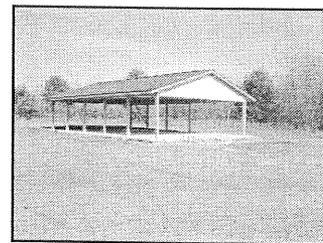
Instructors at the Center in their 11th year, members of the Chappee Rapids Audubon Society and the Menominee County Historical Society, are Randall Smith, Bob & Karen Brisson, Denise and Bill Taylor, and John Helfert. The students travel from one site to another through wooded trails guided by their teachers and volunteer guides. Helping as guides and timekeepers each year are Joan Campbell, Marlene Nelson, Nicole Brisson and Debra Smith.

Down by the river dressed in his fur trader's outfit, Randall Smith explains the history of the fur trade, showing furs traded for many items such as beads, knives, pots, pans, blankets and even a rifle.

In a wooded area, Bob Brisson, longtime county forester for Marinette Wisconsin, explains the use of his many forestry and logging tools. He has hands-on with the students making cedar shakes and using a two-man saw. He talks of the logging camps and mills which supplied lumber to Chicago and other cities in the 1800s.

In a more open area under an old ash tree, Denise Taylor tells of the formation and ecology of our area. She talks of plants of today and of yesteryear. She walks with students through open fields, explaining the use of plants and the need to protect the environment.

Dressed in native dress, John Helfert talks on the life of the Menominee Indians. Under the canopy of a 150 year old white oak tree, he tells of their customs, their food and dress and exhibits many Indian artifacts. He also shares a drink he makes each fall from the sumac, kakakiminuka.



A Pavilion was built in 2008 on the site as a shelter. In case of foul weather, Instructors can continue their presentations under cover. It can also be used by Society members as a picnic area. Plans are being made to build a long table to be placed in the Pavilion

Hope you can join us for the the Menominee County Historical Society 3rd quarterly Meeting in August — a picnic at the Learning Center

## THE WAY IT WAS — LOUIS CHAPPEE, WHO HE WAS

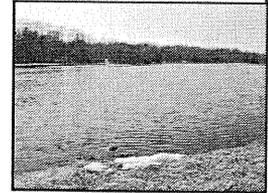
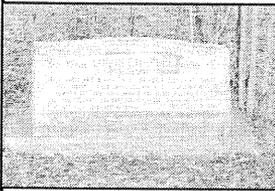
From our files.

Peter Weber, Menominee Historian, owner of the Chappee Trading Post property, placed a stone on the grave of Louis Chappee, known as the first white settler on the Menominee River which reads:

1766 LOUIS CHAPPEE 1856

S Chaput

A noble Frenchman and Soldier, Noel Francois  
Ft. Soldat \* Explorer \* Trader and Trapper \* First  
Trader on the Menominee River. He sleeps here  
among his Red Brothers on the bank of the  
Beautiful Menominee River.



Beverly Johnson, local historian and author of "Queen Marinette" has just completed a four generation genealogy- study of the Chaput family. Stanislaus Chaput was also known as Louis Chappee. (A full copy of her work can be seen at the Anuta Research Center)

Stanislaus Chaput was the last of fifteen children born to his parents. Only seven of these reached adulthood. Chaput left L'Assomption County in Quebec at a young age to work in the Great Lakes fur trade. About 1796, he was hired by the LaFromboise family of Mackinac to trade with the Winnebagos at Milwaukee and on nearby Rock River. Around 1805 he wintered a few years "on his own hook" among the Winnebagos and in 1810 tried his luck in the Lake Superior region. During the War of 1812, he fought with British troops to defend Mackinac Island against the Americans. Later, the Americans pressed him into service to help guide their ships carrying troops through uncharted waters from Mackinac to Green Bay to establish Fort Howard. After the war, his services were sought by the Messrs. Grignon and John Lawe of the Green Bay Trading Company. This company soon came under the jurisdiction of the American Fur Company, and during the ensuing years, Lawe and Grignon (representing the AFC) sent Chaput, with several men under him, to man and provision the company's winter posts through-out the region. In the summer of 1824, Marinette Chevalier, (who had French, Ojibway and Menominee blood), moved into the company's Menominee River post. When Chaput returned that fall, the Menominees made it clear they wanted Marinette to become their trader. At the time, this post was located on Menominee tribal land, and Chaput had no choice but to give in and paddle away on his rounds. The following spring, 1825, he returned to the Menominee and established a new trading post about seven miles up the river at a place known today as Chappee Rapids. From the 1830s on, he lived there and was supplied by John Lawe with American Fur Company trade goods. He traded primarily with the Ojibways who brought furs down river by canoe from the vast northern reaches of the Menominee River watershed.

- Stanilaus's great, great grandmother Nicole Philippeau was one of the young women who were given a dowry of fifty pounds from the King of France and sent across the ocean to Quebec to provide pioneer Frenchmen with wives.
- Three sons (of seven) of his great-grandparents became voyageurs.
- At least two sons ( of six sons) of his grandparents worked as voyageurs.
- Stanilaus Chaput married first by Indian contract to Ke-now-ny-ka , a Menominee Indian. Married second by Indian contract to Terese, Menominee Indian and later an official marriage in 1846 in Green Bay. Of Indian Parentage she was raised in the household of fur-trader, Abraham Place in Peshtigo.
- Chaput and his Menominee wife and their children ( two boys and two girls) lived at the Menominee River Trading Post until Chaput's death in 1854. His family then moved to rural Peshtigo where they lived near John and Abraham Place.

Menominee County Historical Society Invites You  
To the

## Ethnic Heritage Ball

*( Dress in the style of your ethnic heritage if you wish )*

Sunday , May 3, 2009

VFW Hall

3937 10th Street, Menominee MI

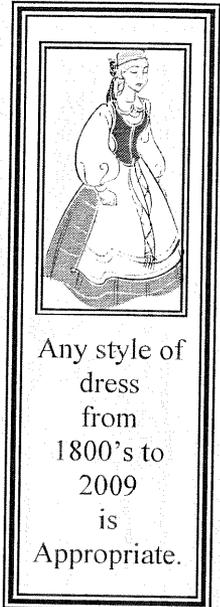
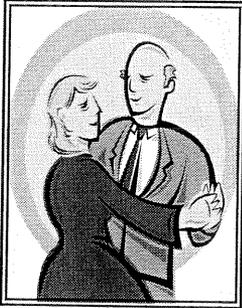
Social Hour at 5:00 PM – Dinner at 6:00 PM

Dancing to the Music of the "Diplomats"

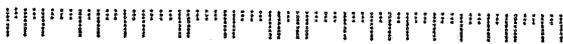
\$16.00 per person

Make Reservation by April 25 with  
Germaine Vincent      Norma Armstrong  
863-3890                      863-3251

Non-canceled Reservations must be paid  
**THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND**



Any style of  
dress  
from  
1800's to  
2009  
is  
Appropriate.



Menominee County Historical Society Inc.  
P.O. Box 151  
Menominee Michigan 49858 -0151

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