

NEWS OF CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC.

A non-profit, tax exempt organization dedicated to the preservation of the architectural and cultural farming heritage in the Centerville area.

Spring –Summer 2020

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Editors: Kathy Pearce, Chris Kuehnel & Janet Lutze

Rick's Ramblings... From CSI President-Richard Lutze:

Welcome 2020. I hope this message finds you well. What a way to start the year. Covid-19 has changed our lives, however it isn't the only epidemic that the Lutze Housebarn has survived since 1849, and we hope and pray that this will be the last.

Since our last newsletter we have added new signage near the front gate on South Union Road, including a weatherproof information box with the newest brochures.

We are still basking in the glow of the phenomenal 2019 German Heritage Day coordinated between LTC and the Lutze Housebarn all pulled together by Margaret Lutze and her dedicated committee.

Our "Brat Fry" fundraiser that was to be held at the Piggly Wiggly in Plymouth on Saturday May 2 2020, then cancelled due to the virus. Please watch the website for updates on this.

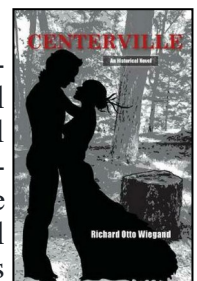
A special Arbor Day Event was planned with a tree planting in honor of the late Ed Heckmann, a very loyal and involved member of CSI since its inception. That planting, and an oak planned in recognition of Reno Kuehnel will be rescheduled for the public this fall. We did get 4 different kinds of heirloom apple trees planted in May.

We are currently formulating a symposium for 2021 on Germans in Wisconsin during and after World War II. We are also looking forward to an informal "Old Fashioned" night, that may include a Sheepshead Tournament.

CSI needs your help to make this year a success. We hope to see you many times throughout the summer. The workdays are the 2nd and 4th Saturdays every month from April to November. Please come help restore one of the rarest buildings in the US. Bring gloves and sturdy shoes. The workdays aren't really work if you like what you're doing.

Former President of CSI publishes long anticipated fictional book about the Centerville area!

Centerville: An Historical Novel by author Richard Otto Wiegand, is available on Amazon both as a hardcopy or e-book on E-bay. ISBN 978-1-7322171-7-1. It is an historical fiction based largely but not entirely on real places, characters and events. It is a personal venture into Wiegand's past. The book features a powerful love story. There is a time-travel to the mid-1800s and then to the year 2000. Considerable information from the 1800s is included on German culture, immigration stories, religious practices, political thought, clearing of forests, farming, early building construction, and various challenges and tragedies of the time. The book is both informative and entertaining.



Covid-19 Precautions

For the safety of our volunteers and visitors, CSI is practicing Covid-19 precautions for those attending Lutze Housebarn workdays. Masks must be worn inside the building. Six feet social distancing is expected and a bring your own lunch instead of our usual potluck lunch. A hand washing station is available for frequent hand washing.

All other CSI special events have been canceled until further notice.

Reminiscing about Olde German Recipes

Do you remember these recipes when you were growing up in Wisconsin?

Slippery Jacks: the large yellow cucumbers harvested after the first frost and cut into 1 ½" squares and pickled.

Panache: while boiling sausages during butchering, some of the sausages break open. The broth in which they were boiled, the meat from the broken sausages, fat renderings, and oatmeal were mixed together and shaped into a loaf. Slices were cut off, fried and served with maple syrup.

Crackling: made from hog lard, all the fat was cooked out, skimmed off and what was left was fried crisp. Could be eaten as a snack or with the meal.



From the Archives: Sept. 2004

The base beam in the south wall is in place! It is 39 feet, 4 inches long, about 1000 pounds, hand hewed, with 18 mortices and 3 complex lap dovetail joints, all of course 'hand shaped'. Getting to this point involved harvesting gigantic white oak trees last summer and bringing them to the Housebarn. Then hours and hours of hewing, shaping and creating the mortices (holes that the uprights fit into). It was put into position with man power. All of the upright timber posts were readied and aligned into the base beam. With lots of volunteers, we can, maybe, be ready for nogging this year!



Centreville Settlement Goals: Sept. 2004

The goals of Centreville Settlement, Inc. are to preserve the historic and unique buildings that exist in the Centreville area and are in need of preservation, developing educational programming focused on ethnic arts and crafts. Further understanding German immigrant heritage and settler sufficiency skills, genealogy and local historical research, promoting and stimulating local economic development related to this immigrant history. In addition, recording an oral history of the Centreville families, insuring the serenity of the area that attracted the original settlers, and restoring the Lutze Housebarn.

Anticipated German Events

Margaret Lutze is looking into program planning for the future. She is on the CSI Board of Directors and coordinated the successful German Heritage Day in August 2019. Here are glimpses of the future programming:

- 1) German POWs were housed and worked in Wisconsin. This POW situation was very unusual in that the POWs and local German families got along very well and maintained friendly relations. A book that illustrates this well is Stalag, USA: The Remarkable Story of German POWs in America by Judith Gansberg.
- 2) Vernon Wernecke a CSI Member from 1985-2015 from Newton, was a code breaker and after not being allowed to talk about his experiences for many years, finally wrote many accounts of what he did during WWII later. We have all his diary postings on our "Google cloud account". Alois Liethen was a German translator for generals during WWII. We think that it would be wonderful to have someone involved in military history do some research on these German-Americans from Wisconsin and how the military targeted this area of Wisconsin to recruit language specialists.
We have information on German-Americans from Wisconsin who were brought into the military to do translating and code breaking because of their German language skills.
- 3) It is now common knowledge that several important German scientists were brought to the USA after WWII and some went to the Soviet Union. It is our understanding that some men from the German immigrant families in Wisconsin were "partnered" with these scientists. It would be very interesting to have someone do research on this and provide insight on how this happened. WWII is now history and it may be possible to explore this topic and make the information public.

Lutze Housebarn Building Report and plans for site projects for 2020

This season we will focus on things doable with very small groups or solo projects, and will be working on interpretive displays, organizing artifacts, and trying for ways to share our building progress and process virtually. Our perhaps lofty goals for this season in these COVID times include:

- Completing the northwest corner (addition) stone foundation
- Reconnecting our drainage line and verifying an effective outlet
- Backfilling that area inside and out with gravel, topsoil, seeding grass
- Ripping and hand hewing ash log into 7"x7"x13' timber to replace rotted joist in NW corner of addition
- Lifting interior walls to original level, preparing for next year's interior sill stabilization or replacement
- Finish up the hand split cedar roof on the outhouse
- Window and door trim restoration

We plan on doing this work on our scheduled Saturday 'workdays', as well as on some week days to suit the time schedules of staff and volunteers. If you'd like to be a part of these successes, learning or teaching, please contact Chris!

2020 Lutze Housebarn Progress Report

While the season has really just begun we have already been able to do both the early spring pruning of fruit trees, and a major tree trimming of big branches that had been extending over the Housebarn from the north.



Along the way we planted 4 heirloom apple trees with varieties going back to the early 1800's.



While 'up high' doing that work with a modern lift, we capped off the chimney with a treated wood box that will hopefully stabilize the exposed brickwork and keep out rain until 2021 when we hope to redo the chimney in the 'attic' and through the roof.



Lots of ground level work has been done with grounds maintenance, hops weeding, and the heritage garden is coming along very well, thanks to lots of helpers!

Next we went below ground level and have been continuing on the northwest addition's stone foundation, one or two more workdays and we should have that project wrapped up; concluding all stonework for the foreseeable future.

Greg Zahn donated a hay wagon that after some work and new tires, received an ash log donated by Tim Ebenreiter, and is being transported to the Housebarn for timbermaking as you read this.



Where can you find up-to-date information on Centreville Settlement activities?

The CSI **Facebook** page is coordinated by Nathan Chisholm and features up-to-date information about workdays, activities and events related to history and Centreville Settlement. Lots of great pictures! Check it out (and Like us!) at www.facebook.com/centrevillesettlement

Our **website** is managed by Christopher Kuehnel, running since 1999 to showcase photos, links to videos, activities, news, and our continuously updated Google connected calendar- find it at www.centrevillesettlement.com

For a little extra fun, Google Lutze Housebarn or Centreville Settlement and see what you find, there's lots of fun stuff out there awaiting your view!

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the backbone of Centreville Settlement, with so many opportunities for you to help. Here are a few:

- Lutze Housebarn interior housekeeping
- Assisting with archiving and filing
- Someone to mow the grass weekly
- Orchardist
- Assisting with displays
- Work on stonework on NW corner foundation.
- Heritage Gardening
- Finish carpentry, windows and doors
- Maintaining safety and hand washing stations
- Filing of CSI materials
- Grant writing
- Fundraising



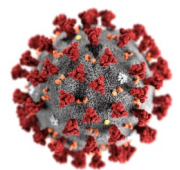
Please consider offering to help.

Covid-19 and 2020 Events

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all 2020 special events have been cancelled except the December 6, 2020 Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner.

Masked tours for groups of 4 or less available by appointment.

Look for evolving details of workdays, tours, and the Christmas Dinner event on Facebook or our Centrevillesettlement.com website.



Help Centreville Settlement if you purchase from Amazon.

Go to *smile.Amazon.com* to create your account and choose the organization in which you wish to donate. For every purchase you make, Amazon will donate a small percent to Centreville Settlement.



Hey Honey!

Did you know buckets of honey and comb were extracted from the HouseBarn wall? It's a great story. As the timbers in the structure are replaced, the wall is covered with a tarp to protect it from the weather until siding can be put on. The entire lower portion of the north wall of the building is covered with tarps.

One day in the summer of 2012, volunteers heard loud buzzing and traced it to behind the tarps. Honey bees had been working diligently, apparently for a couple of seasons! Chris and his bee keeper friend Little John, retrieved 40 pounds of honey and 20 pounds of bees from the wall.

The honey was processed and bottled and called "Buzzing Wall Honey". "It is the best honey I have ever tasted", said Janet Lutze.

The bees with their queen were vacuumed into a hive box with a cool contraption, and Little John moved them to one of his own hive boxes.

Since the bees were so busy the last years making honey, a bee keeper installed a bee hive at the Lutze Housebarn and at the north edge of our CSI property. Hopefully, we will have more Buzzing Wall Honey this year. Yum!



Did we say bees? Check out Explore.org.

This web site has over 40 live web cams of animals all over the world. There is one site for a large colony that is thriving as thousands of bees contribute to the organic growth of this hive in Bavaria Germany. There are 2 cameras, one for the landing area and one inside the hive. Quite fascinating!

Silliness

Q: Why were the early days of history called the dark ages?

A: Because there were so many knights!

Q: How did the Vikings send secret messages?

A: By Norse code!

Q: Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?

A: At the bottom!

Q: What is the fruitiest subject at school?

A: History, because it's full of dates!

Board of Directors

President: Richard Lutze (693-3454) lutze@tds.net

Vice President: Chris Kuehnel (693-3141) cqnel@clevelandwi.net

Secretary: Kathy Pearce (946-1036) kpear2002@yahoo.com

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Gerry Jost (726-4474) gdjost@hotmail.com

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Travis Gross

Margaret Lutze

Reick Beiersdorf (693-8000) briec7@hotmail.com Richard Wiegand (715-416-0513)

(all phone #'s are in the 920 area unless otherwise indicated)

Advisory Board

Alan Pape

Mark Knipping

Robert Fay

Greg Zahn

If you have any questions or need more info; maybe schedule a special tour or corporate workday? Please don't hesitate to contact us:

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TIME TO RENEW OR START YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC.

Help support our historic mission, a key part of our budget comes from memberships, and yours is appreciated! Please print:

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Centreville Settlement, Inc.

Attn: Greg Zahn

13630 South Union Road

Newton, WI 53063

Membership expires December 31 of each year.