

CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC. NEWS

Vol 35, Number 1
Editor: Janet Lutze

Spring 2021

Rick's Ramblings...

Hello CSI friends and family.

I'm writing this with a week left in 2020. I know that it was an interesting year for everyone. Even with the "Rona" goofing up our "family style" work day lunches, we were able to have some GREAT workdays.

We got the addition foundation done and backfilled both the interior and exterior of the foundation. We were able to do a "rough" landscaping of the area. The power lines were re-trenched. The garden again produced fruits and vegetables that were consumed by workers and wildlife alike. The new apple trees were winterized against deer. Trees were trimmed to prevent future damage to the housebarn.

2021 can only be more productive. We've got the windows and doors to trim out and siding to install. There is a planned German day coming in 2021. (barring governmental lockdown). Watch Facebook for our annual meeting. We've got decisions to be made, and would like all the input that we can get. Landscaping and fund-raising being the two priorities.

I look forward to hearing from you in FB and at the annual meeting. If you have anything that you would like to share that you think would be entertaining: let me know. I can share it on Facebook OR we can put it in our newsletter(s).

Thanks to all for a great year and please help us to make 2021 a great year also.

President

Richard Lutze.

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.



**Lutze Housebarn
before work was
started.**



Mission

Centreville Settlement, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the preservation of the architectural and cultural heritage of the German American farming community in the Centerville area.

In the 1840's and 50's, immigrants fled Germany to escape war and the economic hard times. Many Saxon Germans settled in Centerville Township. Their fifth and sixth generation children still remain on the original farms using original buildings for their original purposes. Centerville Township is a unique time capsule of architecture, culture and traditions of the early settlers.

Organizational Goals

Centreville Settlement, Inc. will meet it's mission by:

- Providing educational programs and classes in the Old World arts and crafts, restoration of historical heritage, as well as pioneer and self sufficiency skills.
- Promotion and organization of local cultural and preservation groups.
- Providing a detailed cultural and architectural survey of the local German-American ethnic community.
- Demonstration to future generation, the wise use of farm land, and preserve the quality of life and environment that brought the original settlers.
- Restoration of the Lutze Housebarn and other historic German-American buildings in the area.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events:

January 16, 2021	Centreville Settlement Annual Meeting. Date and time to be announced.
February 20, 2021	Board Meeting Centreville Settlement. Members invited. TBA Virtual
March 27, 2021	First workday of the season at the Lutze Housebarn
April 10 & 24	Work days at the Lutze Housebarn. Start 9:30 am
May 2, 2021	Brat Fry Fundraiser at the Piggly Wiggly in Plymouth
May 8 & 22, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
June 12 & 26, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
July 10 & 24, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
July 24, 2021	Board of Directors meeting. Members invited. TBA Virtual
August 14 & 28, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
Sept. 11 & 25, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
October 9 & 23, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
October 23, 2021	Centreville Settlement Board meeting. Members invited. TBA Virtual?
November 6, 2021	Workday at the Lutze Housebarn. Start at 9:30 am
December 5, 2021	Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner TBA

Annual Meeting January 16, 2021

The Annual meeting will be held virtually. You will be sent an e-mail with the time and directions for logging on. All members are invited to attend but let Chris Kuehnel know so he can include you in the e-mail. cqnel@clevelandwi.net.

Bill Heckman (920-693-3236) bheckmann@tds.net

Reick Biersdorf (920-693-8000) briec7@hotmail.com

Cindy Kraemer (920-693-8935) bck76@tds.net

Janet Lutze (414-828-4942) janetlutze@ameritech.net

Margaret Lutze (312-823-9940) mlutze777@gmail.com

Travis Gross (920-946-5357) tgross1971@charter.net

Accepting other nominations.

Facts About the Saxon Cemetery

Caretakers

Hahn's in the 1960 - 1965

Wiegand's began as caretakers in 1965 till 1973

Arno Huhn 1973- 1982

Wiegand 1982 to present

Grave Diggers

Originally graves were dug by hand by neighbors, friends or relatives.

John Lutze dug until the 1950's

Lester Fielder in 1950-60's

1970, hired professional grave diggers from St. Nazianz. John Wiegand marks out the plot, the diggers come in to open and close the grave and John finishes the landscaping.

Plot Map

There is no map of the old section. The Wiegand's have the map of the new ones.

Originally, graves were dug in a row west to east, one behind the other, then restarting in the front again.

1915, family plots began.

Sign & Flag

There was no sign until 1980's at which time a wood one was erected.

1988 the present sign was erected with money from an estate gift of Alfred Fisher

The flag pole was erected in 2003 with money from the estate of Myrtle Fisher

Water system

Was donated by the Reick family \$300 from the Carl Rieck family in 1936 and another \$300 from the daughter.

Grave Stones

Original stones were of limestone

Later stones were granite and marble, some coming from Merrill, WI

Donald Sixel's stone was from Africa.

The engraving "Rue Sanft" on many stones means "Rest in Peace".

The earliest stone that can be read is 1861.

Some stones are missing.

Before the cemetery and even after, many immigrants buried family members on their land.

Wiegand's have 2 people, Ferdinand Mavis Wiegand and her son, Johannes.

Author: Richard Wiegand: Richard is a founding member of Centreville Settlement and he has been busy, busy writing. His first book, Centreville: an historical novel, was published last year and is available on Amazon. He has since published Jackson's Kenya on his experiences in the Peace Corp in Kenya and other areas. He is also working on a book of his large extended family and an autobiography. You can find out more at www.safari-shamba-books.com.

German Language in Wisconsin.

Debunking the idea that immigrants quickly learned English when they came to America, historians explored the German language in Wisconsin. German newspapers were published in German into the 1940's. 15-30% of 2nd and even 3rd generation German immigrants were monolingual. In 1932, Milwaukee, German was the common language. Other nationalities quickly learned German to conduct day to day business. In Ozaukee county, the Irish were proficient in German.

We know that German was the primary language through the 3rd generation in Centerville Township with a goodly number in the 4th generation conversant. There are even 5th generation semi-proficient in German. German language classes in High School are the most popular after Spanish and many 6th generation children continue to learn German.

St John, St. Peter Ev. Lutheran Church in Cleveland held German services into the 1960's. Public, one room schools taught in German into the 1930's.

Whether the German learned and spoken in families today, resembles the German spoken in Germany is another questions. Often what we hear now-a-days, is "Sheboygan German" or a modified German/English blend.

Centerville Township is still unique in it's maintaining remnants of the German language for 160 years.



Lutze Houseborn Sleep-over. First Time Anyone Slept over night in Houseborn in 100 years. 1996, 15 people slept over on a workday evening with potluck and stories before bedtime. Richard Wiegand, Kathy Pearce, Marie Pfiefer.

Marie Pfiefer
Making Soap,
6-21-03



Board of Directors

President: Richard Lutze (920-693-3454) lutze@tds.net
Vice President: Chris Kuehnel (920-693-3141) cqnel@clevelandwi.net
Secretary: Kathy Pearce (920-946-1036) kpear2002@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Nathan Chisholm (920-946-8897) nathanchizam@frontier.com

Board:

Brian Kraemer (920-693-8935) bck76@tds.net Ruth Lutze (920-583-42800) bslutze@prodigy
Cindy Kraemer (920-693-8935) bck76@tds.net Glen Lutze (920--583-42800) bslutze@prodigy
Gerry Jost (920-726-4474) nickyj192hotmail.com Kathy Sixel (920-693-8525) ksixel@tds.net
Sarah Lutze (920-693-3454) lutze@tds.net Margaret Lutze (920-823-9940) mlutze777@gmail.com
Travis Gross (920-946-5357) tgross1971@charter.net
Reick Biersdorf (920-693-8000) briec7@hotmail.com
Janet Lutze (414-828-4942) janetlutze@ameritech.net
Richard Wiegand (715-416-0513) rowiegand@wisc.edu

Accountant: Greg Zahn (920-973-5872) gregzahn@zahndesign.net (not on Board)



Preparing log for hewing. Jim Kielpikowski



Hand Hewing timbers with broad ax found in a hidey hole in the Lutze Housebarn.



Boring machine for drilling holes in timbers. Original tool.
Lynn Kalista



Hewing timbers with adz
Chris Kuehnel

The reason volunteers receive no pay is not because they are worthless but because they are PRICELESS.

When's It Going to be Done?

To quote an article from a 1900 edition of Ladies Home Journal: "when engaging in building/restoration efforts one must 'take out an unlimited line of credit in the Bank of Patience'."



Upstairs bedroom. Bed, feather mattress and linens from Kathy Sixel. Original crutched belonging to August Lutze after he broke his leg. Gilbert Arends reading German Bible. Porcelain was bowl and pitcher from Gilbert Arends.



Upstairs bedroom with baby crib, original Wernecke immigrant chest and chair. Silk slip & dresser scarf from Kathy Sixel.
Elise Lindeman



Jack Stinson, His father put the tin roof on the Lutze Housebarn. Resilvers roof. 5-7-03

Cobblestone yard on south side of Lutze Housebarn in front of barn door. Currently covered with dirt so as not to damage it.



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

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

Please print:

Name _____ Main Phone _____

Email _____ Do you text at phone # above? _____

Street Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Newsletters will be sent to the email address unless otherwise indicated:

_____ I do not have an email address and prefer postal mailing for the additional fee of \$5.

Individual (\$30) _____

Family (\$45) _____

Contributing (\$125) _____

Supporting (\$1000 & over) _____

Benefactor (\$5000 & over) _____

Donation _____

Please complete and mail with check to:

Centreville Settlement, Inc.

Attn: Greg Zahn

9304 S Lake Drive

Manitowoc WI 54220.

Membership expires December 31 of each year.