



Centreville Settlement

Volume 37 Number 1 Summer 2023

The purpose of Centreville Settlement, Inc. shall be to promote appreciation and preservation of the unique traditions and the cultural heritage of the German-American farming community, and the native and ethnic communities in the Township of Centerville area.

President's Message

A big thank you to John and Lindy Kastendiek for their donation last fall of a really nice John Deere ride-on mower, it has worked really well for keeping the grounds looking the best in many years!

A large cash donation from Greg Zahn is much appreciated, and with his encouragement has led to stepped up progress on windows and siding. Thank you Greg!!!

Spring's Plans made for the Housebarn for 2023-

Lutze Housebarn Building: Progress on the restoration remains primarily a function of the number and caliber of volunteers. Goals and projects include: replace ceiling timber in west addition lower storage area, replace vertical timber on second floor south side of chicken area, repair/replace south door second floor "haymow" addition. Review west addition's vertical siding condition, renail or replace? Proceed with interior sill lifting and blocking to engage 3rd floor components fully.

Big news on siding and windows at the Lutze Housebarn!

In July we contracted with Tim Edelis for his experienced carpentry and window building capabilities. Tim is already installing 'place holder' frames and window trim for 3 incomplete first floor windows, as well as 3 completely missing first floor windows; all as a precursor to installing the long-awaited siding.

Some may remember the 2nd and 3rd floor east end windows and siding we did long ago.... that was actually in the previous century! And the beautiful timber work done on the east end has been covered by tarps for almost 5 years... what a great surprise to see it all again!!

Board member Randy Kober is coming from Germany via Canada to review some structural parts of the Housebarn the first weekend of August, we will be inviting members via email to join in on an "insiders" tour with him, let Chris K know if you're interested.



Work Days Schedule

The official LHB workdays will be the second and the fourth Saturdays of each month beginning in April and continuing through the first Saturday in November. Please wear sturdy shoes, dress for the weather and bring a sack lunch. Standard hours for volunteer workers are 10:00 AM -3:00 PM. The location of the Lutze Housebarn is: 13630 South Union Road, Newton, WI 53063...actually Newton is pretty far away, we are only a ½ west of the I-42 Cleveland exit, at South Union Road go north approximately 1 mile and look for the sign on the west side of the road. All are welcome to participate in a variety of projects. Our Google calendar will have highlights of things we plan to do each workday, updated frequently. If you're not getting workday or other calendar event notices, and would like to; or if you have questions regarding a particular day, reach out to Chris Kuehnel at 920 918-2405.



Brat Fry Event Sunday May 7

With many folks turning out to help, and many folks donating home-baked goods, the Brat Fry at the Plymouth Piggly Wiggly was a big success!

Volunteers helped at the serving/selling table and bakers provided cookies, bread, bars and more. Richard Lutze headed up the fry action while Ryan Kautzer, Kathy Pearce, and John Losiniecki provided live German music. Glenn and Ruth Lutze, Sally Niehaus, and Sarah Lutze along with Amber and Matt Lutze all pitched in to make it happen, thank you!!

Many new contacts were made for Centreville Settlement, it was good PR, and raised a nice sum for our treasury.

Thanks again to all that volunteered and baked; and thanks to all those that bought sandwiches and made donations!!

Accomplishments in 2022 by CSI:

- Attendance at State Historical Society Day training workshop- Basics of Archival Arrangement and Description
- Membership in AASLH American Association of State and Local History
- Connection/Membership with Saxonia House
- Tour of Pomeranian Historical Group Greg coordinated in August 2022



Special German Festival

Saturday April 22nd was a workday at the Housebarn and also a special day of celebration at St. Dominic's church in Sheboygan.

Attendees really enjoyed the German & Bavarian Folk Dancing with live music by Ryan Kautzer Band. There was great German style food, tortes, beverages and much Gemuetlichkeit!

Centreville Settlement members displayed poster boards and talked of the Lutze Housebarn, made many new contacts. Watch for a similar fun event in spring '24!

Tour coming-

The Chevrolet Vintage Car Club is coming for a tour August 5th in the middle of their lakeshore drive-through.

If you have a group or know a group that would be interested in group tours, let us know, we'd love to show the Lutze Housebarn with a focus on topic(s) of the group's interest.

Condolences to members Greg Zahn and Richard Wiegand who both lost their mothers in the past few weeks. Each were grand 'farm ladies' that made it into their mid-90's.

Annual Meeting '23

A time of German fellowship was had at Laack's Hall in Johnsonville on Saturday February 18th. After our brief business meeting, we had a great remote presentation by Randy Kober about 15th to 20th century timber framing in Germany. Randy is originally from Sheboygan now with advanced degrees in architecture, specializing in timber-framing, teaching in Canada, and living part year with his German wife Andi in the old walled city of Dinkelsbühl. After the streamed presentation many members attended "Fasching" in the big hall. Fasching is a German pre-lent festival involving the tapping of the keg, hearty German buffet and lively polka music and singing.

An election of officers resulted in the entire slate continuing as previously:

President: Chris Kuehnel
Vice President: Richard Lutze
Treasurer: Richard Weigand
Secretary: Kathy Pearce
Greg Zahn was re-appointed as bookkeeper

Thanks to Laack's Hall for the meeting space...they are open for business at the Hub Coffee Shop, Bar and for celebrations; the renowned historic hall is available for event rentals as in the last hundred years.

The officers thank Gerry Jost for serving on the board for decades and his contribution to roof repairs in the previous century (the 20th that is!).

Projects for the years were discussed and there were several new Board of Directors welcomed including:

- Renee Tuzee- daughter of John Tuzee who was a longtime Hika resident, both now in California. Professional background in marketing. (she self-introduced on the virtual technology).
- Rolf Johnson- cousin to Klessigs, long professional history with non-profits, ecology, archaeology, paleontology, First People and European Settlement interests, lives in Cleveland.
- Heather Freckmann Steinberger- cousin of Renee Tuzee, now living in South Carolina. Granddaughter of Gus Garske who long ago ran the brewery in the Hika neighborhood.

The board has a two-year term and there are two groups of board members, alternating the two year terms, resulting in a crossover each year. Group A is even year election, Group B is odd year election.

Group A term board members include:

Travis Gross
Brian Kraemer
Janet Lutze
Glenn Lutze
Sarah Lutze
Greg Zahn

Group B term (2022-2024) board members include:

Rieck Beiersdorf
Bill Heckmann
Eldi Brizuela
and all 4 Officers

Did you know there is a shortage of hops around the country? The popularity of craft-brews has many small breweries trying to find suppliers. One of the things that put Milwaukee on the map for beer making in the 19th and 20th centuries was the Wisconsin hops supply, at the time a popular cash crop! We enjoy growing it on the LHB grounds, and continue to have it available at the LHB, who do you know wants to make a CSI branded beer using some of our hops???

At the Feb 18th Board meeting we looked at New areas for *consideration* by CSI for 2023:

- Exploration and archaeology related to the early Lutze log cabin on CSI property
- Interpreting First Peoples connection with what the first settlers in the area may have encountered. Conversations with Fries family and other neighbors where encampments may have been, review of reported mounds on state property.
- Regular activities on the LHB grounds for wider community involvement-horseshoes, family trail hikes with naturalist
- Hika Bay Tavern building. Possible restoration, interpretive actions, museum/library, explore options by Centreville Settlement.
- Working with Friends of Saxonia House and/or other historic "small sites" in our area for publicity and shared expertise with community involvement, possible tour exchanges.
- A group from Mishicot is interested in building a sweat lodge on the property for their group use. (note in June this idea was declined).

One of our projects in the neighborhood has been the Hika Bay Tavern and re-opening of our 1990's ideas of an Historic District in the Hika neighborhood. Lots of things seem to still be up in the air, but thought you might like this clip found in the building after the fire. Date of publishing unknown.

Did you know we are linked up with several Wisconsin and national organizations?

We recently joined Saxonia House, and have been long time members of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, as well ALHFAM (Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums) and AASLH (American Association of State and Local History).



Watch for some member exchange type events with Saxonia House and Manitowoc County Historical Society in '23 and '24.

Anyone interested in a group trip or meetup at Old World Wisconsin this fall?

Renewing Members

Kind thanks to all who have renewed their membership for 2023. Your support keeps the organization thriving and able to work on vital projects to further the mission.

If you've not renewed yet, you still can! You will find our membership/renewal form near the end of this newsletter, or book it on our website page [here](#) or here with a QR code:



Hika Bay built in 1851

CLEVELAND — Hika Bay tavern and Union House is located just two blocks west of Lake Michigan's Hika Bay. The establishment was built in 1851 and bought by Hugo Schurrer in 1899.

At that time, a meal could be purchased at Schurrer's Tavern for 50 cents, a barrel of beer cost 5 cents and a gallon of whiskey sold for \$1.50. It was also during the Schurrer days that business included not only the tavern, but a 9-room boarding house, a dance hall, and a barber shop.

In 1944, Hugo was forced to discontinue the rooming house and meals because food was becoming scarce. It was then that the dance hall was closed and the barbershop moved to

a new location.

The Centerville Dam was built behind Schurrer's Tavern in 1936. The dam powered a waterwheel for Ruhn's Milling House and created a pond behind the tavern that was and still is used for fishing in the summer and ice skating in the winter.

Before Hugo Schurrer passed away at age 94, he was the oldest resident in the village and the oldest tavern license holder in the state. During his ownership of Schurrer's Tavern, Hugo was issued most of his 68 tavern licenses, served as town constable, a substitute rural mail carrier and town treasurer.

The establishment remained in the Schurrer family after

Hugo's death in 1961. It was then run by Hugo's son and daughter' Art Schurrer and Anna Schurrer Singleton.

In 1972 they sold the business to John Tuzee, who changed the name to Hika Bay Tavern and Union House. He sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore Miller in 1975, who converted the nine boarding rooms into a six-room, upstairs living quarters. In 1981, Hika Bay Tavern and Union House was sold to Matthew and Sue Schneider, who are the present owners.

Today, Hika Bay Tavern is decorated with antique game tables and historical pictures of the town and of the establishment from the days of Hugo Schurrer.

Laack's Hall Johnsonville

Alive and Well after 167 Years



First built in 1856 as a general store, saloon and stable by Heinrich Wolfe, the original ballroom had a stable below with a manual elevator to bring patrons up to the ballroom. The town at that time was known as Schnappsville or Whiskeyville. With the application for a post office, the US Postal Service rejected both Schnappsville and Whiskeyville. The town was renamed Johnsonville after the current president at the time, Andrew Johnson (circa 1868). The famous sausage company founded in 1945 is named after the town.

After various owners, the general store and ballroom was sold to Carl and Ida Laack in 1912. Under the Laack family the ballroom became famous for its music. Musical groups such as Bobby Art, Romy Gosz, Gene Heier, Harold Loffelmacher, Bob Mlada, Don Peachy, Dick Rogers, Russ Zimmerman, and Carl Laack's Polka Band drew patrons from miles around.

Laack's has been closed for business only one time in its 167 year history, after a fire on July 14, 1939 which destroyed the tavern and ballroom. There was a close-call in spring 1959 when an ice jam on the Sheboygan River blocked the river and flooded the village. Troops from Camp Haven were brought in to dynamite the river using a World War II amphibious "duck"

Laack's Tavern and dance hall in Johnsonville has been a place for community gatherings, celebrations, music and entertainment in Sheboygan County for more than a century. As of January 2022 the complex is under new ownership. Susan Radke of The HUB Studio Café in

Plymouth has taken over the reins to lead Laack's Hall into its next century. The HUB Studio Café was founded as a local food community café operating in conjunction with Seranya Studios Art Boutique, something of an artist's co-op. Hence the "Studio" in HUB Studio Café. Both HUB and Seranya will join Laack's Hall activities, current and expanding.

The Laack's staples of Sausagefest, Pretzel Bender, Fasching, Country Christmas, Sunday Polkas and Banquets will continue. Updates and improvements have been made to the menu, furnishings and décor as well as additional landscaping of the 3 acre park and waterfall along the Sheboygan River.

Activities and Programs (may be seasonal check schedule)

First Fridays art and cocktails
Cornhole league/Taco Tuesdays.
Darts League /Baseball team.
Community dinners
Art parties /Team building
Concerts and Dances
Wedding Receptions/Anniversary parties

Currently a series of specialty gourmet dinners are scheduled with beverage pairings of wine, beer and spirits. Reservations required. Call HUB/Laack's at 920-893-9000

Moonshine Mayhem, Aug 2, 2023

Partnering an American classic with foodie delights.

Another unique and new culinary and cocktail adventure exclusively by Laack's and the HUB at Laack's. We'll be featuring 5 Ole Smokey Moonshines with flavor profiles carefully selected to partner with a delectable 5 course meal created exclusively for this event.

Wine and Wild Boar, Aug 24, 2023

Dining on the wild side couldn't be more delicious than when paired with the perfect and proper wines. Wine connoisseurs and food adventurers will savor this unique experience during a carefully and wonderfully prepared 5 course meal.

Gourmet Tailgating with Beer Pairing, Sept 21, 2023

Details to follow

Bring your own pool party, Aug 19, 2023

With live music by the Bal2 Blues Group from Milwaukee. Food & drink specials. Enjoy lawn games and even fishing! (Pools optional but, heck - why not?)



www.laacksballroom.com www.thehubcoffee.com

**IS IT TIME TO RENEW OR START YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP?
FOR CENTREVILLE SETTLEMENT, INC.**

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

Please fill out and send in the info below, or join online at our membership page at this QR page:



Please print:

Name _____ 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/or prefer postal mailing for the additional

fee of \$5. Individual (\$35) _____ 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, those received after Nov 1 will be applied to the following year. Renewals can also be made at our [website](#) via PayPal or credit card.