

# Germantown Historical Society Newsletter



INCORPORATED – 1974

SPRING 2009

## SIGNAGE APPROVAL!

**A** Dheinsville Settlement Signage Plan for 2009 was submitted and approved by the Village of Germantown Tourism/Betterment Fund! This signage plan project will help identify the complete Pre-Civil War town center which was built here in Germantown in the 1850's and still remains here today!

The State's "Discover Wisconsin" TV promotions will include The Bast Bell Museum in their new Washington County television program to be aired in April 2009. This will be a big boost to our Historic Settlement and, from many complaints we have received and calls for directional improvements for travelers. Our mapping systems are inadequate with Holy Hill Road to the east side of Hwy 41/45 not even shown on many maps, and no street directions.

A detailed plan of street signage is essential to take advantage of this marketing opportunity:

1. Signs one mile out each direction from the six-way intersection.
2. Directional signs at Hwy 41/45 Exits.  
Holy Hill Road at exit - both sides of off ramps  
Pioneer Road (Hwy 145) exit - both sides of off ramps
3. Local signs at the entrance of "Dheinsville Historic Settlement":  
Philipp Wolf Log  
Dhein Hotel  
Germantown Insurance Co.  
Dhein Farm  
Bus entrance  
Bar parking lot

We are also working on a new Walking Tour sign next to the Wolf Haus near parking. We would like to utilize our existing posts and apply a brick planter with flowers at the base. This brochures will have a dotted line indicating the path of our historic buildings and signs located in front of the historic buildings for people to follow their own self-guided tour of history. We are excited to be implementing this for visitors who come on the days we are closed.

## NEW BOARD PRESIDENT TO BE SELECTED

Dear Members,

As you might have heard, I am planning to retire as President of the Board on my 80th birthday, which is July 2009. I will continue to be available for contributing information and assistance if requested and always support the goals of the society.

With the help of an assistant, the workload of operating three museums is now much more manageable and I am confident that we will continue to succeed.

**We need the support of all of you — our loyal membership and the recognition of community leaders of the importance of this valuable asset!!**

My deepest gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers who have contributed so much to this effort for the past 30+ years which we will celebrate in April at our Annual Open House Meeting at Christ Church Museum.

Sincerely,  
*Irene*

If you can help a few volunteer hours or know of anyone looking for an executive assistant position, please let us know. We are hiring for April 1s through Nov. 1. Our board members have been assigned events and are handling the tasks associated with them. Thank you!



# Open House / Annual Meeting



*You are invited to a special Open House / Thank You Party*

For all the Friends and Volunteers who have given so much to the 35 Years of Progress of our Society!

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009**

**CHRIST CHURCH MUSEUM**

**SOCIAL 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm**

**ANNUAL MEETING 7:30 pm**

Minutes

Presidents Report

Election of Board - 3 yr. terms

Kevin Nash - renewal 2009- 2012

Tiffany Navin - new member 2009-2012

Peggy Bast - new member 2009-2012

Present Members of the Board

2007 - 2011

Gordon Bast

Mary Brownell

Eileen Densow

2008 - 2011

Jeff Dhein

Olliver Schowalter

Bill Wettereau

ExOfficio - Irene Blau

**Please use our new collection envelope below to pay your 2009 annual member dues by April 30, 2009.**

Lifetime members do not have an envelope enclosed. Thank you!

**Germantown Historical Society, Inc.**

N128 W18780 Holy Hill Road, P.O. Box 31, Germantown, WI 53022 262-628-3170

Print your name and address clearly to ensure accurate record of your gift.

Please make your check or money order payable to: Germantown Historical Society, Inc.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I would like to be a member and receive your quarterly newsletter of current events! (include in envelope)

Single \$5

Family \$10

Business \$50

Lifetime \$100

We are a Non-Profit Educational Organization with 501C-3 status and 100% Value Donation. Our Federal ID Number is 23-7430221.

# Event Photos



## CHRISTMAS IN DHEINSVILLE!



We had a terrific turnout for our "Christmas in Dheinsville" at the Christ Church. Special thanks to Linda Wall, Germantown High School German Teacher for partnering with us in this event. We could have not have done it without her support and gathering all the wonderful students who participated in the program.

Her third and fourth year German high school students along with some of her grade school students put on a terrific program for us. Linda participates in the grade schools teaching the German language and we are very happy to have her helping preserve our German heritage in our community.

## MEET THE PIONEERS TOUR – SPRING 2008

Walking the paths of our pioneers, students met them at their homes in the Dheinsville settlement in the Year 1862... The buildings that still exist along Maple Road which was MAIN STREET. Approximately 150 third and fourth grade students from St. Mary's and Rockfield schools attended this event held on May 15th and 16th, 2008 from 10 am - 3 pm. Cost was \$2. per student/Adult helpers free. This event will be held again Spring 2010. We offer it every other year, rotating with Kirsten's Birthday Party. If your group is interested in attending or you would like to volunteer to be a "Pioneer" let us know.





*Mark Your Calendars!*

## GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS



### APRIL

- **TUES. APRIL 1ST**  
BELL OF MONTH  
SEASON OPENS 1:00 pm  
OPEN Wed. thru Sun. 1 to 4 pm  
Wed. - Sun. Group Reservations  
Group Tour welcome all year by reservation.  
Call (262) 628-3170 or  
[www.bastbellmuseum.com](http://www.bastbellmuseum.com)
- **WED. APRIL 15TH** 6:00 TO 8:00 pm  
OPEN HOUSE & ANNUAL MEETING Christ Church
- **TUES. APRIL 22ND** 6 pm OKTOBERFEST  
Planning Meeting at Wolf Haus
- **WED. APRIL 22ND** 2 pm WINE TASTING  
Planning Meeting at Bell Museum

Find out more about the bell of the month presented by curator Eileen Densow from the Sila Bast collection on the **first Wednesday of the month at our 2:00 pm program** at the Bast Bell Museum. Koffee Haus held from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. will begin **OPEN TO ALL.**

### MAY

- **SAT. MAY 2ND** 4 - 5 pm  
4th Annual Wine & Cheese Hour BELL RINGING at Christ Church Museum, no charge.  
ADVANCED TICKETS ON SALE for the June 27th, Worldwide Wine-tasting Event at the Bell Museum for \$25.
- **WED. MAY 6TH** 1 pm  
BELL OF THE MONTH, Bast Bell Museum

### JUNE

- **MON. JUNE 1ST** 6:30 pm - Christ Church  
33rd ANNIVERSARY PARTY! Coffee and anniversary cake, no charge. Donations welcomed.

- **WED. JUNE 3RD** 1 pm  
WOLF HAUS GENEALOGY RESEARCH LIBRARY & CHRIST CHURCH MUSEUM SEASON OPENS  
OPEN Wed. and Sun. 1 to 4 pm
- **WED. JUNE 3RD** 11 am to 12:30 pm  
**WED. JUNE 10TH** 11 am to 12:30 pm  
**WED. JUNE 17TH** 11 am to 12:30 pm  
**WED. JUNE 24TH** 11 am to 12:30 pm  
GENEALOGY CLASS, Organizing and Searching Germantown Historical Society Research Center located in the Wolf Haus  
"Beginners" and those who need "Direction"  
\$10.00 - Total
- **WED. JUNE 3RD** 1 pm  
BELL OF THE MONTH, Bast Bell Museum
- **SUN. JUNE 14TH** 1 to 4 pm  
"KIRSTEN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY - American Girl Story comes to life c.1854" for girls and moms and grandmas. Crafts, Folk Art, Quilting, Cakes and FUN! Reservations required, \$8 for child, adults no charge, call 262-628-3170.
- **SAT. JUNE 27TH** 4 to 7 pm - WORLDWIDE WINE TASTING, Bast Bell Museum and Historic Park. Tickets will be sold at the Bell Museum and online at [www.bastbellmuseum.com](http://www.bastbellmuseum.com) starting May 2nd for \$25. Day of the event for \$30.

### JULY

- **WED. JULY 1ST** 1 pm  
BELL OF THE MONTH, Bast Bell Museum
- **SAT. JULY 4TH** 3 pm and 5 pm  
PARADE / BUS TOURS OF HISTORY  
Leaves the Senior Center at Fireman's Park at 3 and 5 pm - 1 1/2 hour motorcoach.
- **WED. JULY 15th** 6 pm Quarterly Board Meeting, Wolf Haus
- **WED. JULY 21ST** 6 pm Washington County Historical Society Meeting, Christ Church

# Project Updates



## EXHIBIT RENOVATION PROGRESS REPORT

Irene Blau has been busy working on a historic timeline for our museum exhibit renovation. Board members have continued meetings with Cynthia Arbiture of Museum Professional Services in Sullivan, Wisconsin to create a plan and budget to renovate the exhibits in the Christ Church Museum.

We are investigating grants available for this type of renovation along with any business contributions. If you would like to help in this search and application process let us know.

We have discussed how the wood cases would best be designed along with fabric panels, color and placement for best showcasing our historic treasures! We will need help moving some of our larger items from the back room over the Blacksmith's shop this spring. Call us if you are willing to help. Many hands make for light work.



**WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!** If you or a friend have any wedding photos that show the inside the Christ Church or any recollection of the colors or look of the interior, would you call us 628-3170 or stop in with your photos.

## HISTORY BOOK CELEBRATES 1ST YEAR!

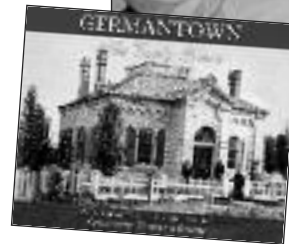
**We are now collecting photos for "20th century book".  
Whether you have 1 or 100 we would love to scan them!**

Just one year ago (on a "frozen tundra Sunday") in January, we celebrated the enthusiastic reception of the first pre-sale orders of "Germantown - The Early Years" *Almost 400 of the limited edition of 500 have been sold!* We do not plan a second edition until after the "Book II - The 20th Century" is completed.

Bill Gay recently gave a short presentation at photo night at the Germantown library. We had a few attendees who purchased history books and we were able to scan a few photos. We will be doing more photo nights in the future so start gathering your photos.

Because of the success of the first volume of Germantown history, we plan to explore the 20th century (1900 - 1999 Germantown) with similar categories. Our plan is to take the story from the early 1900's, which the last volume barely touched, to the present, decade by decade. The Germantown area has significantly changed, still retaining much of its rural appeal, but emerging as a vibrant suburban community. It is that sense of community we hope to capture in this volume.

**Proposed 20th century categories:** families, churches, schools, commerce, transportation, hospitality, military, clubs/organizations, construction, fun times





# Bell Museum Season!

**W**e have many exciting events happening this Spring! Our Dheinsville Settlement will be featured on Discover Wisconsin program in April! Watch for it!

April 1st our 2009 season of the BAST BELL MUSEUM will begin with bells from around the world presented by curator Eileen Densow. Our walking tour of the Dheinsville Settlement is available and bus tours are being scheduled. Planning for our events are developing.



## LOCAL ARTIST PAINTING ON DISPLAY

Carol Bennett has donated her painting which was part of a contest at the Germantown library. It will be displayed in the Bell Museum.



## NEW BELL ADDITION

We have added a separate, small display of Dorothy Naab's personal bell collection at the Bast Bell Museum in her honor.



Join Us for Bell of the Month the first Wednesday of each month and in addition will couple with the development of a "Koffee Haus" setting on the same day from 1:00 - 4:00 PM. European pastries from Germantown's new Truffles Bakery and Specialty Koffee from the Village's Latitudes coffee house will be served with regular admission to the museum. The Bell program will take place at 2:00 PM for all attending.

## WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP TO KEEP OUR MUSEUMS OPEN!

The following list of activities of our society have been outlined on "TASK SHEETS" to assist volunteers with the needs of various committees. They include the Events for the public and Programs for individuals and the day-to-day operation of the three museums.

**TO VOLUNTEER for any of these below, please call Irene at 262-628-3170.**



### EVENTS

- E-1 Motor Coach Marketing
- E-2 Tour Information Requests
- E-3 Small Group Marketing
- E-4 Bell of the Month Program
- E-5 Meet the Pioneers Tours
- E-6 Spring Wine & Cheese Hour – May
- E-7 Anniversary Party – June 1st
- E-8 Kirsten's Birthday Party – June 10th
- E-9 Wolf Haus Tour Guide
- E-10 Christ Church Tour Guide
- E-11 OKTOBERFEST COMMITTEE
- E-12 Christmas in Dheinsville – Dec. 6th
- E-13 Leadership Germantown Day – Sept.

### PROGRAMS

- P-1 Indexing of Genealogies
- P-2 Family / Name Search
- P-3 Baptism, Marriage, Obit Records
- P-4 Photo File Collection
- P-5 Photocopies
- P-6 Assessions Collection
- P-7 Periodical Files
- P-8 Archives Files
- P-9 Exhibit Development
- P-10 Website / Email / Phone Messages

# Upcoming Events



## MAIFEST ETHNIC GERMAN SPRING FESTIVAL MAY 16 & 17

Located at Squire Dr. & Mequon Rd, Germantown.  
This is under new direction this year and bound to  
be an exciting event!

Bob Kohls, our volunteer Genealogy Chairman, has  
offered to conduct this class again this year.

### GENEALOGY CLASS

Organizing and Searching

Germantown Historical Society Research Center  
Intersection of Holy Hill Rd., Maple and Hwy. 145

**JUNE 3, 10, 17 and 24**

11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

"Beginners" and those who need "Direction"

\$10.00 - Total

Payable To: Germantown Historical Society  
Pay in advance between May 20th and May 28th  
Include: Your Name and Phone Number

Robert L. Kohls  
W316 N8628 Palomino Circle  
Hartland, Wisconsin 53029  
1-262-966-9615

Bob Kohls

Limited (Be sure to sign up in advance)

## KIRSTEN BIRTHDAY PARTY "AMERICAN GIRL DOLL" JUNE 14th

1-4 pm - Sunday -  
KIRSTEN'S BIRTHDAY  
PARTY Church and Haus  
c.1854. "AMERICAN GIRL

Doll Story comes to life" for girls, their moms and  
grandmas.



Girls will have a variety of activities: crafts, folk art,  
and quilting. We will have small cakes and FUN!  
Reservations Required call 262-628-3170.

## TELL YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS & CO-WORKERS!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! WINE TASTING EVENT JUNE 27th

Saturday, June 27th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the Bell  
Museum and Fire Hall as well as the outside patio and  
gazebo. Over 30 wine selections will be available for  
sampling along with appetizers. Ask questions and  
find your favorites. Email your friends and  
make it a night out. Any ideas are welcome, call  
262-628-3170.

You can purchase your tickets online at  
[www.bastbellmuseum.com](http://www.bastbellmuseum.com)!

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
AT OUR ANNUAL  
WINE & CHEESE HOUR ON MAY 2ND  
from 4-5 pm at Christ Church.  
PRE-SALE AT \$25.00

## IMPORTANT!

### WE ARE IN NEED OF AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

PART-TIME APRIL 1 to NOV 1

1-4 pm Wed to Sun, closed Mon & Tues  
20 hours per week + 5 hours as needed

**Do you know anyone experienced administrative professional who is energetic and a history buff?**

Requirements include proficiency in Microsoft Office and the ability to conduct marketing and development for our three local museums in Germantown. Work includes communication (mail pick up, daily phone messages, calls/replies, email respond/distribution, news releases, marketing, tours schedule, brochure distribution, management tasks. We offer attractive compensation for this part-time position.

Send resume to P.O. Box 31,  
Germantown, WI 53022 by March 31st  
or email [info@bastbellmuseum.com](mailto:info@bastbellmuseum.com)

## MEMORIALS

### *DOROTHY NAAB*

The Society bade farewell to a good friend and loyal volunteer with the passing of Dorothy Naab. As long as she was able to — even with her walter after a hip fracture and surgery — Dorothy was calling for donations for our Silent Auction and baking cakes & breads for the Bake Sale on Sunday of Oktoberfest.



She was a special docent in the Christ Church for Motorcoach Tours, relating many memories of her 80+ years in Dheinsville/Rockfield. We are grateful to all who sent donations in her memory. She will be missed.

### *HARVEY & LOUISE DHEIN*

Thank you to the family of Harvey and Louise Dhein for the donation in their loving memory and in memory of Dorothy Naab.

Watch website for up-to-date Event & Volunteer Information.

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GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 31  
Germantown, WI 53022  
262-628-3170