

# Germantown Historical Society Newsletter



INCORPORATED – 1974

[www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org)

SPRING 2010

## HERITAGE/TOURISM WEEK SPRING KICKOFF

**M**ay 1 thru 14 will combine both preservation and Tourism weeks with a flurry of activity at the “Dheinsville Settlement” in Germantown:

Beginning with the first **Saturday, May 1, 2010** the traditional Sabbath Bell – Ringing in the Christ Church will continue for a favorite beginning of the day of rest for farmers in the fields surrounding the historic church. Elmore Kraemer donated a CD to the newly organized society in 1975, which is used to hire a Bell-ringer each year to continue the tradition. A wine and cheese hour from 4 to 5 pm precedes the ringing.

The following **Wednesday, May 5, 2010** the Bast Bell Museum will open their “Koffee Haus” to all visitors from 1 to 4 pm – including a 2 pm presentation of a special bell from the 5000+ colluctation. Special bakery and gourmet coffee are included in your admission to the museum. Adults \$6, Seniors \$5, Children 5-12 \$2.

On **Thursday and Friday, May 6 and 7, 2010**, a one-hour re-enactment walking tour of ten of the pre-civil war buildings in Dheinsville will feature the year 1862. When the Limestone Church was built. Students will “follow the footsteps of the early settlers who tell their stories at the old buildings which still stand in the hamlet. Hours are 9 am to 12 or 1 to 3 pm. Reservations were taken for school tours. If adults would like to attend, please call 262-251-6378 or 262-628-3170.

## WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!

We are very much in need of photos to COPY from the 1930's onward for our **SECOND HISTORY OF GERMANTOWN BOOK**. You have taken and saved photos of your family in Germantown as it has grown to the village it is now. You have stories to tell of the rich history of our community.

We need you to share these for future generations.



*William Gay & Irene Blau*

Irene Blau and William Gay continue working once a week on a historical timeline of Germantown which will coincide with the second book.

Please think of what you might contribute to such a book, and search those photos which document how life has changed the last 70 years and stop in or call 262-628-3170 to have them copied.

## CHURCH IS CLEAN & MUSEUMS ORGANIZED!

THANKS TO HELP FROM  
LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



*Nick Dhein, Nate Dunn, Nicole Nash, Alyson Stadler, Jake Schwefel, Hanah Bowe. Not pictured: Jennifer Niggemeier, Abby Nash, Emily Heimenz*

These awesome high schoolers helped clean the Germantown Historical Society three museums for 6 hours last Saturday!

Donuts and pizza was just a small thank you for all their time. They were running items between the three museums and the summer kitchen, up and down the stairs to help reorganize where items were going to be kept to run more efficiently. They helped the adult volunteers immensely!

We are excited to utilize the balcony of the Bell Museum in a more effective way and we are looking forward to bringing high speed internet to the Germantown Historical Society which we desperately need in order to get event and museum information to the public.



# Annual Update

## ANNUAL UPDATE OF THE SOCIETY

The 2010 annual open house and meeting was on Saturday, April 17, 2010 at the Christ Church Museum. The board of directors and several other people including our resident genealogist were in attendance. Kevin Nash, has been acting president since Bill Wetterau resigned from the board of directors in 2009. Tiffany Navin has resigned from the board of directors recently due to business and personal commitments. Though not board members, Bill and Tiffany will continue to be members, volunteer and support the society in many ways.

If you are interested in becoming a board member, please call 262-628-3170 we would like to replace those who are no longer board members.

### Current 2010 Board of Directors

President	Kevin Nash	2009 - 2012
Vice President	Jeff Dhein	2008 - 2011
Treasurer & Interim Secretary	Peggy Bast	2009 - 2012

### Board Members

Gordon Bast	2010 - 2013
Mary Brownell	2010 - 2013
Eileen Densow	2010 - 2013
Sandi Dhein	2010 - 2013
Oliver Schowalter	2008 - 2011

**ExOfficio** Irene Blau

*Looking ahead!* Our 2011 Annual Meeting will be a dinner & speaker open to the public. If you or someone you know would be interested in being a speaker and share some historic information at our meeting, please call & share your ideas!

## Please use our the collection envelope below to pay your 2010 Annual Membership Dues by May 30, 2010.

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

**Germantown Historical Society, Inc.** [www.germantownhsitoricalsociety.org](http://www.germantownhsitoricalsociety.org)  
 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

Germantown Historical Society  
**MUSEUM**



*A Stop from Santa!*



*Linda Wall and Irene Blau*

## CHRISTMAS IN DHEINSVILLE

We had an incredible turnout for our "Christmas in Dheinsville" at the Christ Church. Special thanks to Linda Wall, Germantown High School German Teacher for partnering with us again this year. Her third and fourth year German students along with grade school children participated. Linda had gone to the grade schools and taught the children a few songs in German. We could have not have done it without her support.

### MAIFEST - MAY 14, 15 & 16

Friday, 5:00 pm-12:00am  
Saturday, 11:00 am-10:30pm  
Sunday, 12:00 noon - 8:00pm

Mai Fest an annual German Spring Festival featuring German cuisine, beverages and entertainment located at corner of Mequon Rd and Squire Drive, Germantown, WI.

**NEW THIS YEAR!** Friday night music  
by Chasin' Mason and a fish fry.

Sponsored by the Deutschstadt Heritage Foundation. Call 262-251-2853 or e-mail: chrisyatchak@yahoo.com for more information.

## ANNUAL WINE TASTING FUNDRAISER!



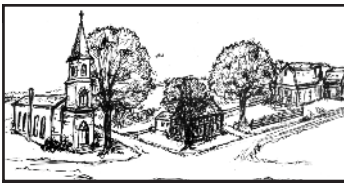
### MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! WINE TASTING EVENT SATURDAY, JUNE 26th

Saturday, June 26th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM in the Bell Museum and Fire Hall as well as the outside patio and gazebo. A large wine selection 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) or at the 5th Wine & Cheese Hour Bell Ringing at Christ Church Museum on **SAT. MAY 1st 4 - 5 pm**

**PRE-SALE TICKETS ARE \$25.00  
\$30.00 at the door**

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



# Mark Your Calendar!

## TOUR SEASON NOW OPENS MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

Group Tours of 10 or more always welcome all year by reservation. Call (262) 628-3170 or [www.bastbellmuseum.com](http://www.bastbellmuseum.com)

### 2010 Admission:

Adults: \$6 - Bell Museum  
Seniors: \$5  
Children 5-12: \$2  
\$8 - Complete Settlement Tour



### BAST BELL MUSEUM

Visit May 1-Oct 31, Wednesday - Sunday 1 - 4 pm

### CHRIST CHURCH MUSEUM & WOLF HAUS / JEFFRIS GENEALOGY RESEARCH LIBRARY

Visit June 1-Sept 26, Wednesday & Sunday 1 - 4 pm  
Bob Kohls, Genealogist on-site Wednesdays.

## MAY

- **SAT. MAY 1st 1 - 4 pm**  
BAST BELL MUSEUM OPEN FOR SEASON!  
Wed. - Sun. 1-4 pm until Oct. 31
- **SAT. MAY 1st 4 - 5 pm**  
5th Annual Wine & Cheese Hour BELL RINGING  
at Christ Church Museum, no charge.

The summer program of the ringing of the three beautiful Christ Church Bells will begin with a wine and cheese hour. The tradition began 1976 with a special donation from Elmore Kraemer who grew up just north on the farm on Maple Road. He remembered the bells ringing at 5 pm as the time to stop work in the fields for the Sabbath. His generous help began this tradition each year and continues with the help of the Bell-ringers in the Schowalter family.

ADVANCED TICKETS ON SALE for June 26th, Worldwide Wine Tasting Event for \$25. (\$30 at the door).

- **WED. MAY 5TH 2 pm Program**  
BELL OF THE MONTH, Bast Bell Museum  
1- 4 pm, Koffee Haus, regular Bell admission

Eileen Densow, Museum Curator, features the history of a Bell from a different country each first Wed. of the month. Join Us!

- **THURS. & FRI. MAY 6TH & 7TH**  
MEET THE PIONEERS of 1862, for School Age Children. One hour re-enactment tour of 10 buildings in Dheinsville Historic Park & the New Christ Church of 1862.  
Schools call for reservations between 9-12 or 1-3. \$2 students, \$3 adults, teachers no charge.
- **TUES. MAY 18TH 6 pm Monthly Board Meeting**

## JUNE

- **TUES. JUNE 1ST 6:30 pm** - Christ Church 34th ANNIVERSARY PARTY! Enjoy visiting with society members, volunteers and view the local history. Coffee and anniversary cake. Donations welcomed.
- **WED. JUNE 2ND 1 pm**  
WOLF HAUS JEFFRIS GENEALOGY RESEARCH LIBRARY & CHRIST CHURCH MUSEUM OF LOCAL HISTORY SEASON OPENS!  
Wed. and Sun. 1 to 4 pm until Sept. 26
- **WED. JUNE 2ND 2 pm Program**  
BELL OF THE MONTH, Bast Bell Museum  
1- 4 pm, Koffee Haus, regular Bell admission
- **WED. JUNE 2, 9, 16 & 23 11 am to 12:30 pm**  
GENEALOGY CLASS by Genealogist Bob Kohls, Call in advance to register. "Beginners" and those who need "Direction". Price \$12.00 Adults and Students for 4 week class.
- **TUES. JUNE 15TH 6 pm Monthly Board Meeting**
- **SAT. JUNE 26TH 4 to 7 pm** - WORLDWIDE WINE TASTING, Bast Bell Museum & Historic Fire Hall/Park. Tickets sold at Bell Museum and online at [www.bastbellmuseum.com](http://www.bastbellmuseum.com) starting May 2nd for \$25. At the door \$30.

See complete calendar at  
[www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org)

# Project Updates

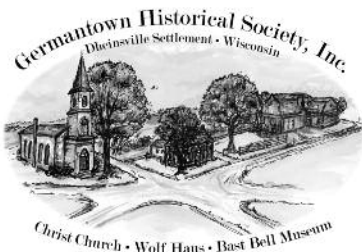


## EXHIBIT RENOVATION PROGRESS REPORT

### CURRENT PROGRESS:

We are looking for suggestions and assistance of ongoing plans for restoration of the church.

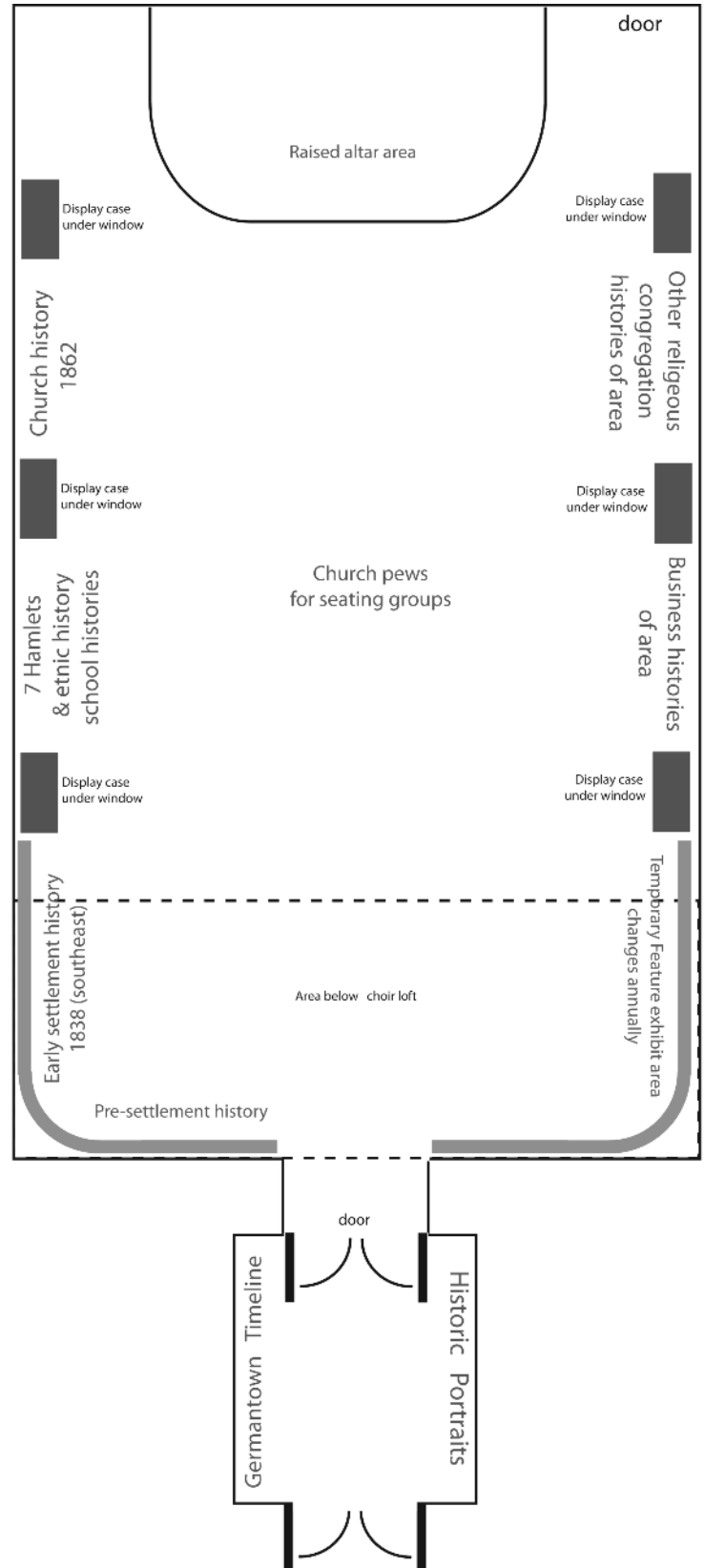
- The historic items and photos currently in the church will be labeled with the proper historic information before rearranging.
- Irene's biography and honor is being written and materials investigated.
- Quotes are being collected on the wood display cases. Specific drawings have been designed to accommodate wheel chair accessible visibility of items and air circulation.



## Christ Church of Local History

### Exhibit Renovation Project Preliminary Plan

Germantown Historical Society



## IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

### MEET OUR PART TIME MUSEUM DIRECTOR & PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST - Jane Riley Best

Kevin Nash, Jeff Dhein & Peggy Bast have been busy sorting through the 35+ resumes we received for this position! They have interviewed and hired a part-time museum director for the season, who will report to the board of directors. Irene, Eileen, Gordon & Judy will be involved in her training of our local history! Stop by after May 1st and meet her! Share any historic information about our area so they can better assist our visitors!

We also have two German students, Jaymee Dhein and Nikki Hug who will be working in the Christ Church of Local History or Wolf Haus Genealogy on Sundays! Irene will still be stopping by too. If you are available to volunteer a few hours Wed, Sundays or anytime, please call. Genealogy and the Church Museum could use volunteers.

We have moved the society office and meeting area from the Wolf Haus to the upstairs of the Bast Bell Museum to more efficiently coordinate tours and weekly office tasks.

The Wolf Haus will continue to host the Jeffris Genealogy Research Center.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 31  
Germantown, WI 53022  
[www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org)  
262-628-3170

**E-NEWSLETTERS!**  
Submit your email at [info@bastbellmuseum.com](mailto:info@bastbellmuseum.com)  
today & you will be entered in a drawing  
for a **FREE DVD** of the "History of Germantown!"

A Special Offer for Members of Affiliated Historical Societies

### Wisconsin Historic Sites

20% off Regular Admission with this Coupon

Offer good at:

Reed School	First Capitol
Circus World	HH Bennett Studio
Pendarvis	Madeline Island Museum
Stonefiled	Old World Wisconsin
Villa Louis	Wade House

Offer valid between June 1 and June 30, 2010.

Limit one person per coupon. Not valid with other promotional offers or for special programs requiring advance reservations.

During the month of June 2010, members of affiliated historical organizations are invited to visit any of the Wisconsin Historical Society sites, and receive 20% off the price of a regular adult admission.



**Become a Germantown Historical Society FAN on Facebook!**

For Event & Volunteer information Visit  
[www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org)

