

Wexford County Historical Society Museum

P.O. Box 124 • 127 Beech Street • Cadillac, MI 49601

(231) 775-1717

wexfordhistory@gmail.com

The Wexford County Historical Society Museum is a nonprofit organization committed to the preservation and presentation of the history and culture of Wexford County.

Newsletter - October 2018



WCHS BOARD MEMBERS

President	Amy Schmid
Vice President	Mark Mitchell
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Alternate (non-voting)	Kim Vranish
Docent (non-voting)	Gary Northrup
Docent (non-voting)	Richard Shults

The Annual Meeting to which members are all invited will be Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the museum.

Welcome to Destination Restoration!

We proudly present the restoration efforts on the only hexagonal Carnegie Library ever built in the nation! Cadillac's beautiful old 1906 Carnegie Library is getting a much-needed facelift. We hope you enjoy seeing the newly installed slate roof on the front of the building and look with great anticipation for restoration of the masonry and windows next season.

We are one third of our way through fundraising efforts that will not only complete these structural necessities but also add long yearned for ADA handicap accessibility. The last efforts to reclaim the aesthetic beauty of the building will follow with replacement of the original grand stairway outside the old front entrance and the crown cresting along the roofline.

Thank you so much for being part of Cadillac's history and future!

A Desk That Teaches You!



This desk was given to the historical society over the summer. As we looked closer at it, the state of Oklahoma is divided into two parts: Oklahoma and Indian Territory. When in high school, a lot of us learned that Oklahoma was once Indian Territory, so it

was interesting to see them both on the map together, which caused us to look deeper into this.

Of course, all of America could be considered Indian Territory at one point, but the US Government's policy of Indian Removal outlined in the Indian Removal Act of 1830 eventually led the remaining tribes east of the Mississippi River being forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands in the eastern US and put in land in the western United States in what we now know as Oklahoma. This tragic event included the infamous Trail of Tears when the Choctaw were removed in 1831.

In 1834, Congress established the Indian Territory (Oklahoma minus the panhandle, which was claimed by other states). Later, parts of Indian Territory were opened to white settlement as well.

In 1890, Congress passed the Oklahoma Organic Act, which turned Indian Territory into Oklahoma

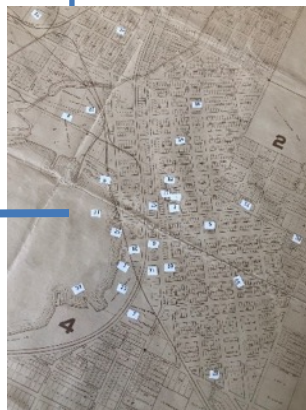
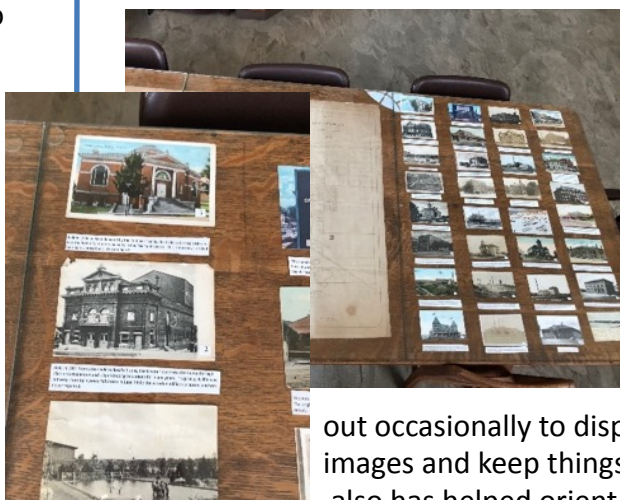
Territory in the west (now giving the panhandle to Oklahoma) and Indian Territory in the east.

Although ideas were floated about the two territories eventually becoming separate states, this status quo of two territories continued until 1907



when the two territories joined together, wrote a constitution, and entered the Union as the state of Oklahoma. This desk shows that history.

to line up postcards or images of Cadillac with where they appear on the map. It is our hope we can change it out occasionally to display new images and keep things fresh. It also has helped orient guests from outside of Cadillac or help explain where things used to be.



New projects at the WCHS

The WCHS was able to procure a large screen TV which we are using to show slide shows of scanned images. In addition, we have started a large scale digitization of images and local books/articles to help in searching these when guests come in with inquiries and making sure they last longer than the paper they are printed on. Here is the TV with a scanned postcard of the old High School.



This gorgeous map of Cadillac, printed in 1917, is used almost daily by the two docents when interacting with guests. We placed it underneath the glass on the table in an attempt to help preserve it, and then had the idea

The Steve Fowler Brick Collection

Another fascinating collection of items came to us from the late Steve Fowler's family. Steve would go around to businesses that were being torn down and get a brick from the site. This unique collection includes old Cadillac buildings like the YMCA, the Footlites Theatre, and the old High School among many more. What a fascinating way to remember these buildings!



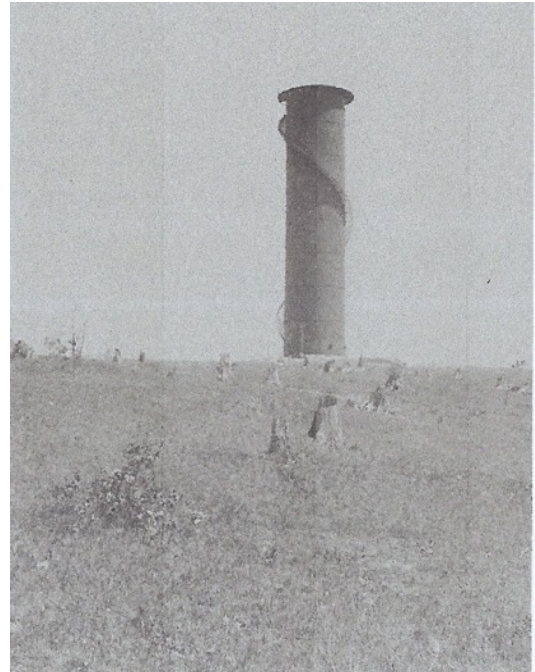
Visitors from Far and Abroad!

Our little historical society was very pleased to be the hosts of some guests from Sweden recently.

As you probably know, Cadillac's development was hugely influenced by a large population of Swedish workers and entrepreneurs. Anyone going through old city directories will see many Andersons, Johnsons, etc. So much so, that most were known by nicknames. For example, the Johnson who owned Johnson's Hardware was known as "Honest" Johnson.



These far-traveled guests were given a tour by the best of the best, Top Sjogren, and Amy Schmid. We hope they enjoyed their visit!



water daily until households were charged per cubic meter in 1970. The daily usage dropped to 2 million gallons per day the next year!

Diggins Hill Water Tower

The 60-foot water tower in the hose drying tower located behind the fire station was too short to provide water pressure for homes built up on the hills. Cadillac drilled a well and built this water tower in 1882 atop Diggins Hill beside where today's 1963 water tower was later constructed.

A steam pump lifted the water to keep the 14 foot diameter silo filled. This steam whistle was blown hourly during daylight with the steam from this pump.

Cadillac eventually drilled seven wells to keep its big water tower filled, and residents used up to 5 million gallons of

**We wanted to take the opportunity
say thank you to the volunteers,
guests, and just all-around great
people who made this 2018 season so
great!**

Thank you!

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Amy Schmid

Wow....what a year! I am so amazed at the outpouring of support our museum has had. In February, we launched the "Destination Restoration" Campaign and year-to-date between pledges, grants and donations received we have \$238,000

toward our goal of \$602,250. When you drive by the museum, you will see that the work on the roof, gutters and associated masonry has begun. It is our plan that the work on the lower window lintels will begin in the spring. We are only \$50,000 away from our next phase of repairing the window sashes on the large upper windows. Once those are repaired, that will complete the current structural needs of the building...then it is on to barrier-free access and handicapped accessible restrooms!! So, thank you for your continued support...I know we'll meet our goal, have the building in shape and truly be "Open to All"!

We have had three successful fundraisers this year as well. We kicked the year off with our Lumberjack Dance which raises money for the operating expenses of the museum. This event is held in the spring at the Elk's club and is always a great time! We also had a food booth at the Cadillac Arts Festival which was so popular, we ran out of food! Our most recent fundraiser was the Venetian Masquerade Gala. The Gala had been absent for four years and by the response we had, it was time to bring it back!! All the profits from that event will go into our "Destination Restoration" fund. I would like to thank

everyone who has chaired and helped on those events, with a special thank you to Susan Meyer, Doug & Jill Brown and John and Shaina Iehl for your extra efforts on those events!

You may notice some new faces at the museum as well. Our docent, Richard Kraemer, retired and moved to Wisconsin so we were fortunate enough to hire two docents, Gary Northrup and Richard Shults. They have done such a fantastic job this season, so please be sure to say hello and thank you to these gentlemen when you stop by. We will be hiring another docent as Gary will be relocating out of the area. So, if you know someone that would be a good fit, please let us know!

To wrap it up, I would like to say thank you again. Without your continued partnership with our museum, we would not be able to continue to protect our historic gem and to be an asset to our community.

We would love to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to reach out with suggestions or if you would like to volunteer!

See you next season!

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