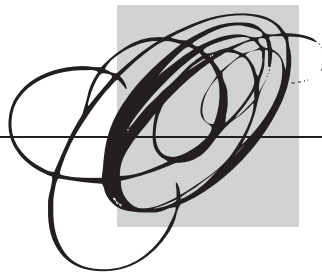


THE



CHRONICLES

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4 FALL 2011

103 W. JEFFERSON ST., P. O. BOX 969, OCONOMOWOC, WI 53066

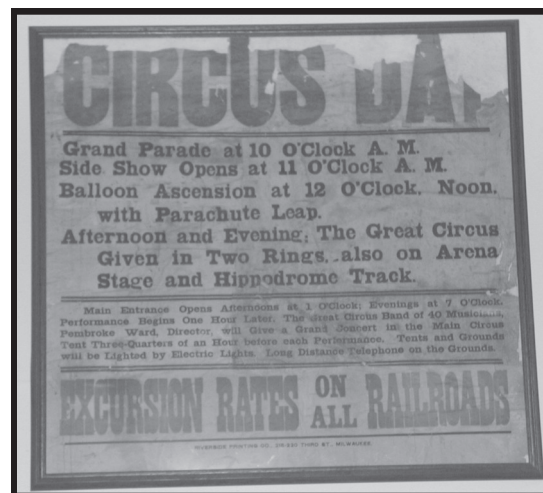
Quarterly Membership Meeting of the Oconomowoc Area Historical Society
Program to be held at the Museum.

Saturday, October 29, 2011

9:30 am Coffee & Conversation; 10:00 am Membership Meeting
with programs to follow.

A Special Presentation of the Restored Circus Posters

George Rosecky donated the restoration of the circus posters in honor of his wife Marguerite. An unveiling of the restored posters and a presentation of the restoration process will be given by the art conservators from *Conservators of Works of Art and Artifacts on Paper*.



Early Life in Dousman Speakers: Lisa & Ed Stephens

Lisa and Ed Stephens will share their knowledge of Dousman. They are longtime residents of the Dousman area who have a very large collection of memorabilia to share and will offer a view of what life was like living in Dousman. Ed and Lisa's collection of memorabilia is probably second only to that of Don and Pam Wiemer's. This is another program in the series of Life in the Oconomowoc Historical Society Area.

MUSEUM HOURS

Visiting hours are 1-4 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday through December 10th. December through April visitation may be arranged by appointment. Please be aware that schools, seniors, scouts, and other groups may schedule appointments throughout the winter months. Consider planning your event well in advance to secure the date you wish. The staff is limited, and several dates already have been scheduled.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I would like to take this time to thank you all for the opportunity of serving as the president of the Board of Directors for such an incredible community asset as the Oconomowoc Area Historical Society and Museum. It has been a true honor!

As I look back at what has transpired over the course of my term, I would say that the society and the museum have made some forward progress. This was my goal when accepting the position as head of the organization.

We developed a Strategic Plan and identified three objectives: Volunteer Growth, Visitor Growth, and Revenue Growth. The committees have been working on completing the goals that were set, and there have been very positive results thus far.

Our spring Gala was a great success and brought many community members together at the museum. Gathering at this very special venue allowed the board to highlight the exhibits and to show our guests what we are all about. Many compliments were heard and appreciated that evening.

The museum is working on updating its technology to provide a research and information area for visitors. This, coupled with the development of programs to be uploaded on our new iPod devices which will visually provide more information on our museum and its exhibits to those coming to visit, is very exciting. And, we have done some remodeling to update our interior space to improve its appeal and function, as well.

Activities are happening every day at our museum, and I have just emphasized a few of the recent accomplishments and events. We have many projects in the works, and I hope you will stop in to see our beautiful museum. The Board of Directors and all the other volunteers are a truly dedicated group of local citizens. The community is very fortunate to have so many willing to give of their time and talents to make the museum thrive. Indeed, Oconomowoc has one of the finest of all facilities capable of preserving, protecting, storing, and displaying its area's history and thus providing a picture of what life was like in earlier times.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

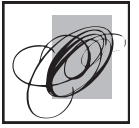
Susan M. Bickler
OAH&M President

FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT

Summer started out to be very cool, but happily the July and August weather made up for it! And now we move into the cooler and colorful Wisconsin fall with the satisfaction that summer was most successful, with a number of great events occurring! The museum enjoyed visitors from many states and from abroad. Changing our visiting day from Saturday to Thursday was very advantageous, too. Visitors and travelers who were looking for activities during the week appreciated Thursday as an option. Also, out-of-towners staying at hotels often come in late on Friday and check out the following Friday, leaving little opportunity to take in a trip to the museum. Several of our visitors were pleased to learn that the museum was not just open on weekends.

We hosted the Wisconsin Historical Society's SE WI Historical Society Conference on July 29th. Once again OAH&M was complimented on our impressive museum. Thirty-five historians attended, and those who had not been to the museum before were very surprised at its size, content, and presentation of the exhibits. Rick Bernstein, Field Services Representative of SE WI for WHS discussed *Considerations and Construction for Exhibits on a Small Budget* in his talk. Bill Marris gave his well-researched presentation on *The Lake Country in the Civil War*, which, of course, was excellent and was enthusiastically received. There was also a special exhibit of replica Civil War quilts which were set up and on display by another member of OAH&M. Lunch, served by the Oconomowoc Lake Club, was delicious. The conference was well worth the effort since it offered great exposure for the society, an opportunity to network and share ideas and issues with members from other museums, and to gain helpful information on exhibit presentations. I suggest OAH&M consider hosting similar conferences again in the future.

Continued on the next page



The July 30th Quarterly Membership meeting with Roger Johnson's presentation of "An 1844 Emigrant Experience" in the guise of his great-great grandfather, John Engelbretson Saga, was very interesting. Some of Roger's ancestors traveled from Norway to Wisconsin in the mid nineteenth century, which clearly took great courage to not only leave one's homeland but to take an arduous sea voyage to the unknown!. However, resources in Norway were very stark, and, on the verge of ultimate starvation, John and his wife and other companions set sail for better opportunities in America. Through a collection of letters, it was learned that it was not a trip for the weak, and the surprises they found in the "new land" were more than anyone would have expected. Just the fact that these Scandinavians spoke an unfamiliar language and saw Native Americans for the first time might have been enough. Yet obviously there was even more to endure and conquer such as finding food and building shelters with few tools. How they succeeded made for a thrilling story of survival!

We also begin to anticipate the end of our fiscal year and beginning of a new year. Our October meeting is our society's scheduled annual one. We will be electing members of the OAHS&M Board as needed. If you are interested, or know of someone who you think may be interested, please contact the nominations chairperson, Kurt Schrang, at 569-9300. We have many exciting and new activities coming up this year and need to have a full and involved Board of Directors to plan and execute them!

The Historical Society is always looking for new people and more current members to participate in our various projects. Please do not hesitate to let us know that you are interested. At our membership meeting in October several interesting events and programs will be revealed. I look forward to seeing you there.

Nancy Lins, *Administrative Consultant*

EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

Sometimes a break from the traditionally expected scheduling of monthly meetings can result in inspired renewal of the planning process. This was certainly true for the Oconomowoc Area Historical Society and Museum's Exhibits Committee, which had been on hiatus during July and August this year. Our meeting in September produced ideas for the upcoming 2012 season which will establish an exciting new presentation in the gazebo, a small tribute to a familiar old Oconomowoc landmark somewhere on the main floor, and an overdue but up-to-date added audio and visual "listen, look, and learn" device to the *Portal of History Room*. No, our museum is not "going to 'I' in a handbag", for, while it is always celebrating the history of the 19th and 20th Century in Oconomowoc, it is simply moving energetically and irrevocably into the 21st Century!

Hopefully, the above has aroused OAHS&M members' curiosity. Satisfying it, however, may have to wait until next spring's museum re-opening, although portions of these enthusiastic projects may come to fruition before Christmas. So visit the museum as often as you can possibly do so this fall to check on what the Exhibits Committee has completed since you were last there. "Half a loaf", as everyone has been told, "is better than none at all", but it could be a promise of "better" things to come!

Shirley Hinds
Exhibits Committee Chairperson

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

We received a cobbler's kit with seven different-sized iron shoe lasts and the stand from the Herro family.

Ken Schulte donated a pair of ice skates from the 30s, a corporate seal press from *Oconomowoc Dairy Products*, and a coal-heated clothes iron with a rooster latch to add to our fabulous collection of irons.

Duane Hoffmann donated a laundry stand used for the placing of both the wash and the rinse tubs. This is a nice addition to the laundry presentation that the Education Committee offers to the fourth grade students each year.

From Jeff Ruhnke came a donation of a circa 1941 Philco console radio which is in very nice condition.

The Hoben family donated a beautiful wicker bassinette and basket, complete with hand-sewn bedding and a stand. This bassinette was used by most of the Moorhouse/Schuyler infants from 1876 – 1976!

Three rooms of playhouse furniture were donated by Mary Pollock. The furniture was used in the family children's outside playhouse.

We also have a diverse collection of hats, mostly from the 1920s to the 1950s. Doral has unearthed over sixty hats, and more are still in storage. Hats off to Doral! Surely, Shirley, this calls for an exhibit for your committee to "head" up in the near future.



PORTAL TO THE PAST

The “Early Beginnings” room, which has been transformed into a multi-purpose room, now has a new name: Portal to the Past! Members of the Strategic Plan’s Visitor Growth Committee voted on a name which will fit well with the new purpose of the room. The computer/kiosk will have the early history of the area and will share many memories from current and past residents. The artifacts in the room are representative of items and activities of the very early Oconomowoc area. Also, there is a bookstore now included to offer historical books, DVDs, etc.

The computer will allow visitors to research many of the documents that are in storage as well as family histories that have been traced. Eventually, the collection of photos will be completely available on the computer, as well.



CIRCUS POSTERS

If you have visited the main gallery in the museum recently, you would have noticed that the circus posters are missing. OAHS&M has received a generous offer from George Rosecky who had contacted us in search of a significant project that could be done at the museum in honor of his wife Marguerite (Peggy) Wood Rosecky who passed recently. Peggy greatly loved Oconomowoc, and George felt that restoring the posters to a more stable state was a fitting way to remember her. The job of restoring the three circus posters, which were in great need of stabilizing and repair, were offered to James DeYoung and Leslie Davis, conservators of *Works of Art and Artifacts on Paper*. They are working out of their private studio in Milwaukee on this project and work as regular conservators for the Milwaukee Art Museum. A brief ceremony celebrating the return of the restored posters and acknowledgement of the donor, George Rosecky, will be held at the October membership meeting. There will also be a presentation to accept the gift in memory of his wife, Marguerite Wood Rosecky, who always supported our Historical Society and who dearly enjoyed coming to its museum. Mr. DeYoung and Ms. Davis will be present to give a detailed explanation on how the restoration work was done. Also, several members of the Wood and Rosecky Families will be present at the meeting to enjoy the presentations and the viewing of the posters.

BOOK STORE – PRICES REDUCED!

Don’t forget we have discounted the “Kings & Queens” DVD, along with many of our other items. The holidays are just around the corner. Consider sharing a little bit of Oconomowoc Area History!

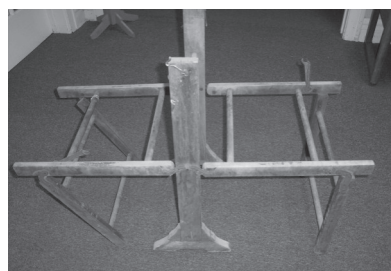
OUR WISH LIST

In need of restoration:

- ✓ Mary Newnham Oil Painting “Cattails” has several small holes and needs cleaning
- ✓ Broadwood Piano in the school room needs leg repair and keys repaired
- ✓ Frame for the Summit School Mural in the school room – “Peter Pumpkin Eater”
- ✓ Civil War snare drum needs a skin

Other Items Desired:

- ✓ Liquid hand soap & Hand Sanitizer
- ✓ Xerox Copy Paper
- ✓ Treats for Programs and Events – bake for meetings or an event
- ✓ Historic Photos of family members, places, and events – please identify people, etc.
- ✓ Candlestick Telephone with a dial
- ✓ Old-time toys and games
- ✓ Seasonal decorations (i.e., spring, fall, winter, etc)
- ✓ Vintage (pre 1940) fabrics and articles for exhibits



What is it?

For the answer...
See page 7



Community services that our local museum provides include docent-led museum tours to groups of children and adults, as well as furnishing speakers to outside groups.

Since we're coming to the close of another fiscal year for the museum, we take this opportunity to share with our members the groups who visited the museum from September 2010 through September 2011. Museum volunteers welcomed the following: guests from Dietzenbach, Germany (Oconomowoc's sister city), University Lake School Tiger Pack 747, Divine Redeemer Grade 1 Tiger Cubs, Summit Elem. Girl Scouts Troop 2041, Greenland Elem. Tiger Cubs Troop 212, Ixonia Elem. Grade 2 Brownies Troop 2209, 30+30 Group-Watertown, Meadow View Elem. Grade 1 Tiger Cubs, St. Paul's Lutheran Grade 2, Stone Bank Scouts Pack 96, Stone Bank Brownies, Grade 2 Cub Scouts, Park Lawn Elem. Girl Scouts, Summit Elem. Grade 4, Park Lawn Elem. Grade 3, St. Matthew's Grade 5, Ixonia Elem. Grade 4, Martin Luther Senior Luncheon, Oconomowoc High School class, First Congregation of Christ

Church Faith Circle, Golden Kiwanis, Lutheran Homes of Oconomowoc Health Center and Tower, St. Matthew's 4 yr-old Kindergarten.

These tour opportunities involved 415 children and 260 adults, the majority of whom had never visited our museum before.

None of this, however, would have been possible without the support of so many volunteers who are willing to give of time and energy to help with our tours, which are always "hands-on" activity-based when children are involved. We can't thank these "tour guides" enough. Special thanks go to Barb Elwood-Goetsch who plans the student tours. The boys and girls not only learn something about Oconomowoc's past but also have fun doing it! Thanks, too, to Marilyn Clark, Carol Ann Aiken, Doral Young, and Jolayne Lindberg, who have stepped in many times to help despite other commitments. Applause, applause to Dorothy St. Thomas, Pat Bouton, Pam Thomas, Lois Bozilov, Ginny Gallauer, Durelle Chopp, Sue Rattle, Liz Bednar, Gert Wilkinson, Jan Tweeden, Carol Potratz, Fran Durkin, Marilyn Henes, Ann Sullivan, Nancy Hoffmann, Marilyn Brown, Marilyn Largent, Connie Holzmilller, and Donna Wojcik for their help and support. None of this would be possible without our volunteers.

Anyone interested in helping with student tours in the future is encouraged to call (262-966-2883) or email Barb Hirsch (bhirsch1@wi.rr.com) for additional information.

Barb Hirsch,
Education Committee Chairperson

OAHS&M AND OCONOMOWOC AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

Danni Herro, OASD's Administrator of Instructional Technology, and OAHS&M have submitted a joint application for a MacArthur Grant to fund a Learning Lab for the school library. This would facilitate research by teachers and students on projects such as our proposed Ipod project. Recipients of the grant will be announced in November. Hopefully, by January we will be in full production of the podcasts to load onto the IPods. Podcast subjects will relate to the current permanent exhibits in the museum and the early history of the Oconomowoc area. Note that even if the grant is not awarded to the OAHS&M, this project will still be a targeted plan for the society to do. There are other sources for grants that will be pursued.

Assistance is needed from volunteers. We must supply all of the photos and script for the podcast. Please offer to assist us with research or writing short paragraphs to report the history of artifacts, exhibits, and photos. The project will generate better interest if many different views are represented. We also need voice talent to read the information. The students will focus only on technical arrangements and production of podcasts.

This digital project is an extremely time-consuming one. It will offer a significant library of the museum's collection and will have great future potential to enhance our website. It will also be on the kiosk in our "Portal to the Past" room for researchers.



A CENTURY AND A QUARTER OF PRESTIGIOUS PRESENCE



The Oconomowoc City Hall has anchored the downtown for 125 years! It was originally constructed in 1886, after the city council accepted plans drawn up by the well-known Milwaukee architect, George Bowman Ferry, who also designed Milwaukee's Frederick Pabst mansion and the Public Library, as well as the Wisconsin Historical Society headquarters in Madison. Some of the specific features of Oconomowoc's governing edifice which makes it an illustrious architectural "gem" are its Gothic-revival style with identifying recessed arches and gabled roof, the second floor's proscenium arch, and the eighteen uniquely crafted orange and turquoise stained glass windows (now framed and hanging on the council chamber's walls), along with the pragmatic limestone foundation and its famed Cream City brick exterior. Appreciated by all local citizens and out-of-towners, too, is the building's steeple-shaped clock tower, albeit that the time registered on its four cubed faces is not always reliable!

Yet is this a just reason to tear down such an important, long-standing historic landmark before it has even reached its one-hundredth birthday? In the early 1980s, the Concerned Citizens of Oconomowoc, CCOO, a bona fide, legitimately registered organization, thought not and began a long, arduous fight with City Hall to save City Hall! Against all odds, this small group of local city residents took on that powerful governmental body in a dedicated effort to prevent this esteemed "Grand Old Lady" from being reduced to a insignificant pile of rubble and dust.

First, the tiny troop of stalwart "resolutes" carefully researched the interesting background of the famous Ferry 1800s' structure. Within its time-tested walls, many civic activities and public gatherings, besides the council meetings, had taken place throughout the years, since it was the only one in the area large enough for a good-sized auditorium. This varied usage qualified the building to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places for both its architectural and its historical significance. CCOO members traveled to Madison and successfully saw to it that this was accomplished.

Then, after many "Letters to the Editor" were written and published, public addresses in front of the council on behalf of not letting the wrecking ball swing to do its awful destruction, and even the CCOO's scheduling of a representative from the National Trust for Historic Places to speak at a public forum on preservation and restoration advantages, it was time for bare-knuckled politics! The voice of the people must somehow be heard!

The CCOO soon found how difficult it is to get a referendum printed on an election ballot. Following the timing process was essential, securing the number of signatures needed on petitions was explicit, determining the document's wording had to be concise but comprehensive, yet the CCOO learned and succeeded. Not only was its referendum passed overwhelmingly, but so did another, not of the CCOO's instigation, but one that stated it would be cheaper to build brand new, also side with the first emphatic message from the majority of Oconomowoc voters to "save our City Hall"! And thus, today, 125 years later, it still stands, majestic as ever, welcoming one and all to our fair city!

TRICKS & TREATS

Saturday October 29th from 6 pm to 8 pm, OAHS&M is planning another *not so frightful* but oh so fun night at the museum. Enjoy treats and a cup of coffee or hot chocolate while viewing exhibits. Then take a treat for your bag, but watch out, you may have to do a trick!



JOIN OUR LEGACY HONOR ROLL

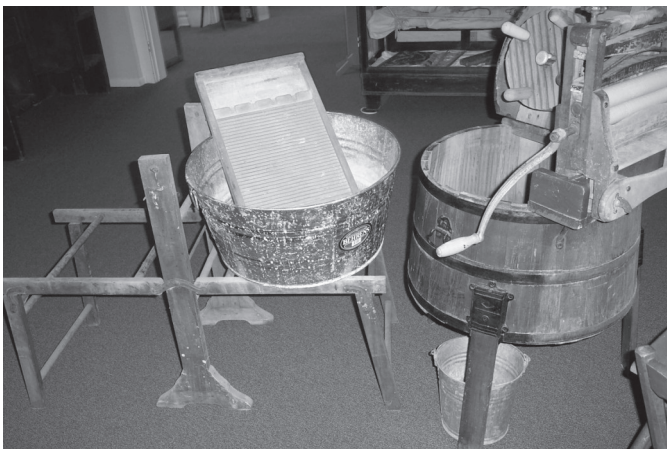
Enclosed in this newsletter is a very important brochure about our new Legacy Honor Roll. We invite you to designate estate funds after your passing to help the Oconomowoc Area Historical Society and Museum. This may be a fabulous opportunity, with minimal effort, to ensure a legacy in support of the OAHS&M, an organization we know you believe in. Leave a legacy in your name. Let us help you, or contact your estate planner or attorney. Please contact us with questions. Together we can make a lasting difference for the Oconomowoc area and its rich ever-growing history.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS WELCOME

Many of us struggle with how to recognize the passing of someone dear to us. Why not direct a memorial gift in their memory to the OAHS&M? Sometimes we also struggle with an appropriate way to thank or recognize someone. Again, an honorary gift in someone's name is a fitting tribute. Several things are accomplished with these types of gifts — remembering or recognizing someone while supporting the good works of the OAHS&M. Gifts are tax-deductible. Donors are thanked and next-of-kin or honorees are notified. Income received helps us continue to keep our museum open and operating (plus all the other valuable services provided).

What is it?

From page 4. It's a wash bench! It's made of wood and folds to a compact size to store when not in use.



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



Membership fees for the society's new fiscal year will be due on **November 1, 2011**. Since Norma and John and Ruth have just enrolled with us, their membership will not come due until next year in November, but everyone else will need to send in their dues to keep their membership active. The forms are on the back of this newsletter, and we hope to hear from all of you soon...thanks!

Since our last newsletter in July, the following people have joined our ranks as members:

Norma Jeseritz

John and Ruth Gresley (Inn at Pine Terrace)

Welcome! We look forward to working with you in our society's activities. We are always in need of new people willing to invest time and energy in our organization, so don't hesitate to talk up our society and its museum's function to friends and family.

Our membership rolls show a total of 264 memberships with a breakdown of 96 single memberships, 82 (164) couples' memberships, and 4 student memberships. There are also 11 organization/business/municipality memberships and 27 free memberships.

Birthdays and Special Days

Have you thought of giving an Historical Society membership or purchasing one of our historical books for that special day of celebration? Either would be a great gift which will last the entire year and give hours of entertainment.

Barb Elwood-Goetsch,
Membership Chairperson

RAFFLE

The winners of the Raffle are: Karen Evans, who won the Trek bike, Ed Johnson, whose ticket awarded him the drill set, and Carol Lamm and Sandy Schick, each winners of the Oconomowoc Montage Posters. Congratulations to all!

CORRECTION

The previous newsletter published the sponsors for the May 11th Gala. Unfortunately we missed listing Accounting Unlimited as one of the sponsors.



OCONOMOWOC AREA
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY &
MUSEUM

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P. O. BOX 969, OCONOMOWOC, WI 53066

MUSEUM: 103 West Jefferson St.
262-569-0740 / oahs-m@sbcglobal.net
oconomowochistoricalociety.com

HOURS: Friday and Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 PM
The Museum is open May 1 through Dec. 10th.
Other hours and tours through appointment.

2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 1, 2011.
OCONOMOWOC AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

REGULAR

\$15 Individual
 \$30 Couple

SENIOR (65+)

\$12 Individual
 \$24 Couple

ORGANIZATIONAL

\$50 Non-voting
 \$150 Voting

STUDENT

\$2 each

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ New Membership Renewal

I am interested in helping in the following areas:

Please contact me with more information _____

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Entry | <input type="checkbox"/> Education Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Construction/Remodeling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Docent | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Range Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Greeter | <input type="checkbox"/> Artifacts Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments Comm. | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local History Comm. | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising Comm. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please make check payable to: **Oconomowoc Area Historical Society, Inc.**
Attn: Barb Elwood-Goetsch, P. O. Box 969, Oconomowoc, WI 53066

It is the mission of the Oconomowoc Area Historical Society and Museum to serve our many constituencies as a community resource and learning center, committed to historic preservation and research; and to inspire and encourage curiosity and passion for our historic treasures.