

# STONE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 39 Stone Lake, WI 54876

## 2015-2016 OFFICERS:

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VICE PRES.: Connie Schield (715) 865-4940  
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SECRETARY: Betty Helwig (715) 865-5500  
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Stone Lake Area Historical Society Website:  
[www.stonelakeareahistoricalsociety.com](http://www.stonelakeareahistoricalsociety.com)

Stone Lake Area Historical Society Digitization  
Project Website: <http://recollectionwisconsin.org>



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## NEWSLETTER VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1 APRIL, 2016

### ANDREA MARPLE WITTMER PASTOR, AUTHOR, AND EDUCATOR

On Wednesday, July 13, 2016, at 7:00 PM, the entire community will be treated to an exciting presentation by the daughter of famous historian Eldon Marple, Andrea Marple Wittmer. Ms. Wittmer will be presenting her first book, “Let the Secrets Die”, a historical mystery based on rural Wisconsin, a perfect place to hide out. Low population density, swamps, deep woods, and back roads were great hiding places for escapees, political dissidents, criminals, and gangsters who had worn out their welcome at the big cities. Northern Wisconsinites knew great poverty so accepting a little bribe, selling goods and services, or working for mobsters was accepted as fairly normal. Many lived by the “don’t ask, don’t tell” philosophy.

In “Let the Secrets Die”, Andi Wittmer is using time as a media to dig up some of those secrets that underlie our communities in northern Wisconsin. In the “Jewell Johnson Mysteries” you will be a kind of historical archaeologist, digging up layers of secrets that include gangsters, politicians, the FBI, and others to uncover “why did Sig die”? Please come and bring your friends to enjoy this exciting program. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.



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## AN EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND INTRODUCTION TO ANCESTRY.COM

On Wednesday, August 17, 2016, an easy-to-understand introduction to ANCESTRY.COM will be presented by Connie Schield.

Most of us have a shoebox with old family pictures, clippings of obituaries, and other memories of our family. For the sake of our children, we need to make these memories into a meaningful family story. The on-line genealogy program Ancestry.Com contains most of the Mormon genealogy documents which have been collected from all over the world. Connie Schield's family tree, the Hellerich-Schild Tree, has almost 18,000 people, 4,743 photos and 8,261 documents saved on it. Ms Schield hopes to conclude her work and publish copies for family members by the end of 2016.

Ancestry.com is a user-friendly program which enables you to build your family tree from both documents and other public family trees. It is also possible to scan your old photos so they will be properly identified with the people on your tree. This digitization process will preserve them forever.

Whether you are serious about starting this process or just curious and wondering if it is within your capabilities, this program is for you. It will be held on Wednesday, August 17, 2016, at 7:00 PM, at the Stone Lake Town Hall. We promise you will be pleasantly surprised! Bring your friends and enjoy a very special learning experience. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.



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## HAM & SCALLOPED POTATO DINNER

The entire community is invited to the historical society's yearly spring fund-raiser, the Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner. It will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, at the Stone Lake Fire Hall. There will be a silent auction, with many wonderful donated items. The price is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. It is hoped that everyone in the community will come out and enjoy the get together, while giving their support to the many activities of the historical society.

## DAVE THORSON “DOWN TO EARTH TOURS” TO VISIT MUSEUM

This summer a special museum tour bus will bring visitors to our museum as part of a “South Loop Tour” along with Hayward, Spooner, and Shell Lake museums. We will welcome these visitors and do our best to make their visit an interesting one.

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## “FINDING PIONEER PEOPLE AND PLACES IN EARLY STONE LAKE” SELLS OUT!

The newest publication of the historical society, “Finding Pioneer People and Places in Early Stone Lake” has sold out already with just a few copies remaining in the second printing. Stone Lake Home & Hardware has been providing a place to purchase the book all winter and we want to thank them for that. If you would like to purchase a copy, cost is \$15 if you are able to pick it up yourself at the hardware store, or \$17.50 if it must be mailed to you. Copies will be available at the museum when it opens for the season on May 27, 2016. Contact Connie Schield at 715-865-4940 to make arrangements for mailing.

## MARIE LANGHAM MEMORIAL

To those of you who gave a memorial gift to the historical society in Marie’s honor, we want to thank you and tell you the new display unit we have purchased in her memory will be ready to view on or about June 15, 2016. She was a much-loved charter member of the historical society and it is fitting that she be remembered in this way. Again, thank you very much!

## JIM BRAKKEN PROGRAM ENTERTAINING & WELL ATTENDED

Jim Brakken, local historian and author of Chief Namakagon Trilogy, presented a very interesting program on June 10, 2015, which was well-attended by the community.



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## JULY PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Lots of choices for everyone at the Pie & Ice Cream Social. Plain pie, plain ice cream, and root beer floats round out the menu. Don't miss this enjoyable event!



Sunday, July 10, 2016, is the date set aside for the annual Pie & Ice Cream Social at the Stone Lake Lion's Park on Highway 70. Between 1:00 PM and 3:00 PM, more than a hundred dishes of pie and ice cream are sold along with root beer floats and other beverages while attendees enjoy the live music of Carol Sheehan and her band, Good Medicine. This mid-summer fund-raiser helps support the many activities of the historical society. 29 pies are needed. Please use the coupon in this newsletter if you would be willing to bake one!

**STONE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES \$700 MINI-GRANT**

The Stone Lake Area Historical Society received a mini-grant of \$700 in 2015 as a result of a written presentation by a member of the historical society on the importance of LED lighting to the museum. The museum now has 86 new LED lights that are very low cost to operate, give off little heat, have an estimated 20 year life span, and provide no ultra violet light. This new lighting will give added protection to our valuable displays. We thank the Wisconsin Historical Society for making this grant possible.

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**DOCENTS, DUES, & MEMBERSHIPS**

The museum had a record-setting season in 2015! We had more than 1,000 visitors tour the museum! We are very excited about this and very lucky that we have the terrific team of docents we have. These docents make it possible for us to handle this number of visitors. Did you know that each year we have over 200 visitors at the museum on ONE day...the Saturday of our Cranberry Festival in early October. Our Docent & Volunteer Appreciation Evening is Thursday, September 8, 2016, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the museum.

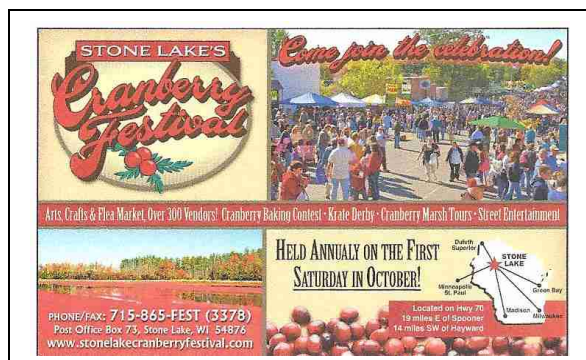


ABOVE & BELOW: Docents and volunteers are seen enjoying refreshments and conversation with other docents and volunteers at their special Appreciation Event



Our many visitors are very generous with their donations and we appreciate this very much. We want to keep our museum a free admission destination so everyone can enjoy it. Our membership list is growing every year, with 181 regular members and 96 lifetime members at this time. These figures are quite large for a community of our size and we are proud of this. If you haven't become a member yet we hope that you will use the mailer at the back of this newsletter to join the Stone Lake Area Historical Society at whichever level suits you best.

**MEMBERS:** your ballots to vote for historical society officers will arrive in a separate mailing. Please return them no later than May 10, 2016.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP

The historical society is always seeking old photographs and historical documents to add to displays in the museum. If you are willing to share your family's history with us we will make copies of these items and return the originals to you. Your photos and documents will then become part of the area's history!

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2016

**Saturday, May 7, 2016:** Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner to be held at the Stone Lake Fire Hall from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

**Friday, May 27, 2016:** Stone Lake Museum Complex opens at noon for the season. Hours are noon to 4:00 PM each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday through October 1, 2016, when the museum complex closes for the season.

**Sunday, July 10, 2016:** Pie & Ice Cream Social at the Stone Lake Lion's Park from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Live music and a good time for all ages!

**Wednesday, July 13, 2016:** Andrea Marple Wittwer's presentation "Let the Secrets Die" will be held at 7:00 PM at the Stone Lake Town Hall. Everyone is invited and refreshments will be served. Don't miss this exciting and eye-opening free event!

**Saturday, August 6, 2016:** Stone Lake Museum Complex OPEN HOUSE from noon to 4:00 PM. Refreshments will be served.

**Wednesday, August 17, 2016:** Connie Schield, Vice President of our historical society, will introduce Ancestry.com, the online genealogy program to all who are interested in working on their family tree. Everyone is invited and refreshments will be served! Don't miss this special, in depth free presentation at 7:00 PM in the Stone Lake Town Hall.

**Thursday, September 8, 2016:** Docent and Volunteer Appreciation Evening. Event will be from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the museum.

**Saturday, September 10, 2016:** The fourth Cemetery Walk at Stone Lake Evergreen Cemetery from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Music, refreshments, and activities for all ages.

**Saturday, October 1, 2016:** Visit the historical society's "Wine By The Glass" booth during the exciting Cranberry Festival in Stone Lake. The booth is located at the top of the hill on Main Street, near the Lion's Hall. This is our biggest fund raiser of the year, and lots of help is always needed and appreciated! Later that same day, at 5:00 PM, the museum complex closes for the season.

**WASHBURN COUNTY**  
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**INFORMATION**

As Connie Schield was being interviewed recently for the Spooner Advocate's March Historical Supplement, she mentioned that the Washburn County Historical Collections Series had been invaluable help as the Stone Lake Area Historical Society book "Finding Pioneer People and Places in Early Stone Lake" was being written. The interviewer, Julie Hustvet, told her that Marilyn Gahm had been working for the past five years to create an index for these wonderful books, which was quite a surprise. What a help these indexes would have been!

Connie has since made a copy of all of the indexes and placed them in a binder at our museum for all to use when searching for family history in these volumes. The binder itself is nearly five inches thick so you can imagine the wealth of information these pages can lead to. Please stop at the museum this summer and let Connie or one of the docents show you this amazing collection of Washburn County historical information.



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<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$ 10.00/year
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$ 5.00/year
Mail to: Stone Lake Area Historical Society PO Box 39, Stone Lake, WI 54876	
(Membership is from April 1 to April 1 each year)	
To receive future newsletters by email, here is my email address _____	

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I would like to purchase a copy of the book "Pioneer People and Places in Early Stone Lake" at a cost of \$15 plus \$2.50 postage, if applicable.	
NAME: _____	
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Send check to: Stone Lake Area Historical Society, PO Box 35, Stone Lake, WI 54876	
Please call Connie Schield, 715-865-4940 to arrange for special mailing.	



I would like to purchase an Evergreen Cemetery Walk Book :

[ ] for the year 2015 at a cost of \$8.00

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NOTE: Add \$1.25 per book postage cost, if applicable

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**WE GIVE OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE LOCAL ADVERTISERS WHO HAVE PLACED ADS IN THIS NEWSLETTER TO COVER THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING. THANK YOU SO MUCH!**



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