

HILLTOP GAZETTE



A DOG BEFORE A SOLDIER

Military Life in the
Old Northwest

PART II

HERITAGE HILL STATE HISTORICAL PARK | GREEN BAY, WI | FALL 2022



The lads of the 12th infantry during *Badgers for the Union: A Civil War Encampment*

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HERITAGE HILL
STATE HISTORICAL PARK

The mission of Heritage Hill State Historical Park is to enrich the lives of others by sharing Northeast Wisconsin's diverse cultural and historic ties that bind our communities together.

WWW.HERITAGEHILLGB.ORG



FROM THE DIRECTOR

In this issue of the *Gazette*, we continue our series on the life of the frontier soldier, and we turn our sights to our newly developed winter programming schedule. Traditionally, the Park has been largely inactive during the winter months. While it made sense in the past to essentially mothball our operations during the winter months, it is no longer a prudent strategy for success. This year we are going to try something different by offering regularly scheduled programming throughout the winter season. Claire Gwaltney's article provides her vision for what year-round programming looks like moving into 2023.

Along with the new winter programming, we recently resurrected the gift shop that many of you loved so well. We know from visitor comments that some sort of retail operation is expected at cultural tourism sites like ours. People, especially children, want to take home some reminder of their shared experience. To deny them that fundamental human inclination is unwise. You can expect to see some of the unique merchandise that made the gift shop a popular destination in the past, but with a few twists. Think less rabbits' feet and more hand-crafted items made here at Heritage Hill State Historical Park. We are excited to bring the shop back under a new model that keeps inventory down and concentrates on offering high-quality, mission-based merchandise.

In addition to the rebirth of the gift shop, we are establishing a small café service within the retail operation. We envision a self-serve operation featuring super ok coffee brewed fresh daily. While there are plenty of coffee shops around town, none of them have the stunning panoramic view from our veranda. Paid admission is not required to access the café. I invite you to check our social media sites for additional information.

On a larger scale, the Heritage Hill Corporation and Heritage Hill Foundation have entered into an agreement to transform the Foundation property at 2674 S. Van Buren Street into a rental home under the Airbnb model.

Affectionately known as the Weyers House, in honor of the Weyers family who donated the home to the Foundation, as well as much of the funding for current renovation, the structure will be made available for short term rental occupancy as early as late 2022. This action was included in our strategic plan last year as a method to ensure a year-round revenue stream for the Park. By the time you receive this issue, the renovation of the property may be completed.

Finally, as we enter the season of thanksgiving, I want to thank all of you for your continued support, and I ask that you consider an annual contribution commensurate with your level of capacity and comfort. Heritage Hill State Historical Park cannot do the important work of sharing the cultural and historic ties that bind our community together without your support. Remember, we are not a state-funded entity, and private support is critical to our ongoing success. When our annual appeal mailing arrives, please consider a gift to your Heritage Hill State Historical Park. Your support makes us stronger!

Michael E. Telzrow
Executive Director



THE HILL CAFE & GIFTS

featuring Heritage Hill made items and locally sourced coffee



DEAR MEMBERS,

With the end of the summer season we turn our attention to our fall programming and to the end of the year! It's the season of thanksgiving and we have a lot to be thankful for here at Heritage Hill. First and foremost, we are thankful for your steadfast support of our programs and mission. We know that you value history and want to preserve it for future generations. Your support makes us stronger!

Last year, our annual appeal raised over \$30,000 for Heritage Hill. This worked to fund not only our educational programs and critical operational costs, but it also went to several new projects that we have been working to bring to you

all - the addition of new interpretive signage and guardhouse exhibit redevelopment, the imminent installation of the Voyageurs statue, and the restoration of the Agricultural Migrant cabin, to name just a few!

With all of these new developments, in this first year of being open since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to serve over 6,500 students, and 125 schools. This would not have been possible without the support of our members, schools, and of course, our annual appeal donors.

Our goal for this year's annual appeal is to exceed last year's total by 10%. With these funds, we will be able to purchase new historic clothing for our historic



**Madeleine
Buchholz-Kneeland**
Director of Development

interpreters, continue to add signage throughout the park, and bring back more interpreters next season. We hope that with all of the exciting additions to the park this year, our members and annual donors see our immense capacity for growth, and help us reach our goal this year.

If you have any questions about our annual appeal or our goals, please don't hesitate to let me know. We're looking forward to seeing you all in the new year!

THE WEYER'S HOUSE PROJECT



Thank you to April Boucher (third from the left) and the crew from Sherwin Williams for their generous donation of time and resources in helping us repaint the former foundation offices. A special thank you as well to Dawn Piontek, owner and operator of Color My World. If you have an upcoming paint project, Sherwin Williams and Dawn could not come more highly recommended!

Color My World: www.cmwpainting.com

THANK YOU!



Claire E. Gwaltney
Director of Engagement
and Visitor Services

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FOR UPCOMING WINTER PROGRAMMING



Interpreter Olysea during
A Fort Howard Christmas

What happens at Heritage Hill over the winter? Does the entire park and staff go into hibernation?

Nope! While the park will shutter and winterize its historic buildings, the grounds will remain open and programming will continue. So, what can you expect this year when the regular season concludes on October 31?

A new bi-monthly **Lecture and Dinner Series** will kick-off on October 19 with a talk on Harley-Davidson's Early Years with guest speaker Bill Brewster, the chief curator for the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee. Guests will enjoy cocktails and a plated dinner along with the lecture. In the coming months we'll also feature lectures on The Archaeology of Privies (December 8), Belgian Roadside Chapels (February 16, 2023), and Green Bay and the Fox River Water Heritage (April 13, 2023). Visit our website for more information and to purchase tickets.

On October 28 and 29, we will present **The Poe Society Radio Hour**, a dramatic presentation of Edgar Allan Poe's 1841 short story *Murders in the Rue Morgue*. Come and join Poe's hero, Detective Dupin as he seeks to solve a series of brutal murders. But do it from the comfort and safety of Heritage Hill as you enjoy Halloween themed cocktails! Visit our website for more information and to purchase tickets.

In November we'll launch a new monthly program, **Second Saturdays**. These thematic programs will take a closer look at various aspects of Northeast Wisconsin's culture and history with the help of our community partners. It all starts on November 12 when we celebrate veterans. Visit Fort Howard to learn about the lives of soldiers and their families in the 1830s, do some hands-on history as you march and drill, compare past military life with today, and write letters to modern-day servicemembers. We'll also be rededicating our enhanced Fort Howard exhibit space and offering a staff-led Fort Howard tour. Regular admission rates apply (adults \$12, see website for full rates), members free.

Girl Scout Programming has returned with a variety of workshops targeted to different scout levels and badge requirements. Focusing on topics as varied as gardening, textiles, and historic games, the workshops are scheduled to coincide with Second Saturdays, giving you even more to explore because the scout workshop fee includes daily park admission! Visit our website for dates and topics and look for more scout workshops scheduled in the future!

A Fort Howard Christmas will return on December 9 and 10. Experience this holiday as many Wisconsinites did in the 1830s. Stroll the lantern-lit paths to Fort Howard and tour the buildings by candlelight. Enjoy period dancing and music and 19th century holiday decorations. Then warm up at the Education Center where we'll have more music, food, holiday beverages, and our new gift shop so you can pick up a holiday memory of your visit. Regular admission rates apply (adults \$12, see website for full rates), members free.

Finally, we'll be **open for walking** – or slipping, sliding, sledding, and snowshoeing as the weather dictates! Between November 1 and April 30, explore the park during the quiet winter and early spring months. It's a perfect activity for winter outdoor enthusiasts, photographers, and nature lovers. Open Tuesday – Friday. \$5 admission, members free.

So, mark your calendars and join us this winter! Whether your interests run to educational lectures, family outings, or spooky surprises, Heritage Hill will be open and ready to welcome you during the cold winter months. View all our upcoming special events on our website at heritagehillgb.org.

Heritage Hill State Historical Park Presents



THE POE SOCIETY RADIO HOUR

HURRY!
Limited
Seating

A **THEATRICAL READING** of the haunting stories of Edgar Allen Poe in the style of a **1930's RADIO DRAMA.**

FRI – SAT | OCT 28 – 29 | 7pm
Members \$20 | General Admission \$25

For tickets:
HeritageHillGB.org | 920.448.5150



HERITAGE·HILL
STATE HISTORICAL PARK

A DOG BEFORE A SOLDIER:

Military Life in the Old Northwest

PART II

By Michael E. Telzrow



Soon after mustering in, the recruit received a bounty of twelve dollars and was given his initial uniform issue. Then he began the long and sometimes hazardous journey to his assigned post. Travel was most often completed via the waterways since most of the fortifications were situated along navigable rivers. Many recruits died along the way or arrived in poor health. In June 1833, Army Surgeon Nathan Jarvis noted that only sixteen of thirty-seven New York recent recruits survived the journey from New Orleans; the rest had died from

Cholera. Surgeon's reports from Fort Howard and Fort Winnebago reported that many recruits were already in poor health when they joined, and that the arduous trip west from the eastern recruiting depots was sufficient to cause their deaths. The sad fact was that the primitive medical care of the period was largely ineffective in combatting viral and bacterial diseases. Surgeons could set bones and amputate with some proficiency but successful treatment methods for infectious diseases was nearly non-existent. As a result, death among recent recruits was common.

Should he survive his transit to his new post, the new recruit began the transition to citizen-soldier. Military instruction was supposed to commence from the moment of enlistment, but typically the raw recruit received little if any instruction until arriving at his assigned post. New recruits received instruction twice per day from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Once he became proficient in the *School of the Soldier* contained within the most current edition of *Infantry Tactics*, the recruit became part of the regular garrison.

Infantry drill consumed a significant part of the soldier's daily routine but at various times the frequency of drill was sporadic. Officers at Fort Snelling complained the soldiers spent so much time planting crops and maintaining the garrison that their drill proficiency suffered greatly.

Fatigue duty did in fact occupy a large part of the soldier's day. At 9:00 every morning, drummers sounded the fatigue drum – the signal for those detailed for labor to assemble. These non-military duties included everything from chopping wood to performing building maintenance, road construction, and other public works projects. Frequently, soldiers found themselves away from the garrison for weeks at a time. Labor of a non-military nature consumed the better part of a soldier's existence. Lamenting his lot, one anonymous soldier wrote to the *Army and Navy Chronicle* that he had joined the Army "to avoid work," and had he known the true nature of soldiering he would have stayed home. As compensation for the extra hardship, and before the abolition of "ardent spirits" in 1832, regulations allowed for the daily issuance of one gill of whiskey and a small daily stipend for those noncommissioned officers and privates employed in fatigue duty.

The small stipend and extra whiskey ration were small compensation for what was oftentimes very hazardous duty. Between 1835 and 1836, wounds received on fatigue duty far outnumbered the cases of disease. Only during an outbreak of cholera in September 1835, and during the winter season, did the rate of injury drop below that of disease. Fatigue duty may have provided the soldier a break from the drudgery of military drill but often it was at the expense of his health.

"The uniformity of garrison life is like clockwork."

• NATHAN JARVIS, 1833

TURNING SOLDIERS INTO FARMERS AND DEBTORS

Food quality varied from post to post, and as expected, officers ate better than their men. Pork from the barrel, beans, potatoes, and an occasional beef ration were the standard fare for the enlisted man. Government contracts for the summer of 1837 called for 240 barrels of pork at each of the four forts on the upper Mississippi. Gustavus Otto, a private with the 6th Infantry at Fort Snelling described a dreary diet in a letter to his wife consisting of pork at every meal except on Saturday and Sunday. Like many soldiers, he was compelled to augment his meals with privately purchased goods to stave off the threat of scurvy.

To promote the health through a more varied diet, the War Department issued a general order directing troops at all permanent garrisons to cultivate vegetable gardens. Usually a private from each company was detailed for such duty. These gardens provided an abundant variety at Fort Howard, but soldiers were still obliged to augment their diets by privately purchasing items from the post sutler.

In 1821, the War Department promulgated regulations that established a system whereby an approved sutler enjoyed the privilege of selling provisions as the post's official merchant. Prices were fixed by a council composed of three officers, and sutlers required to contribute a sum to the post fund. For the price of this nominal fee, the merchant enjoyed something of a monopoly. At rates as high as fifty-eight percent above invoice, the soldier could supplement his diet with such delicacies as currants, cheeses, and apples. Unfortunately, the schedule of military pay was so irregular that the sutler was forced to extend credit. As a result, many soldiers found themselves deeply in debt. When pay did arrive, the sutler was the third person to be paid from the soldier's account right after the government and post laundress. The harmful effects of unlimited credit were not constricted to the ranks. Officers also suffered from profligate spending encouraged by the sutler system.

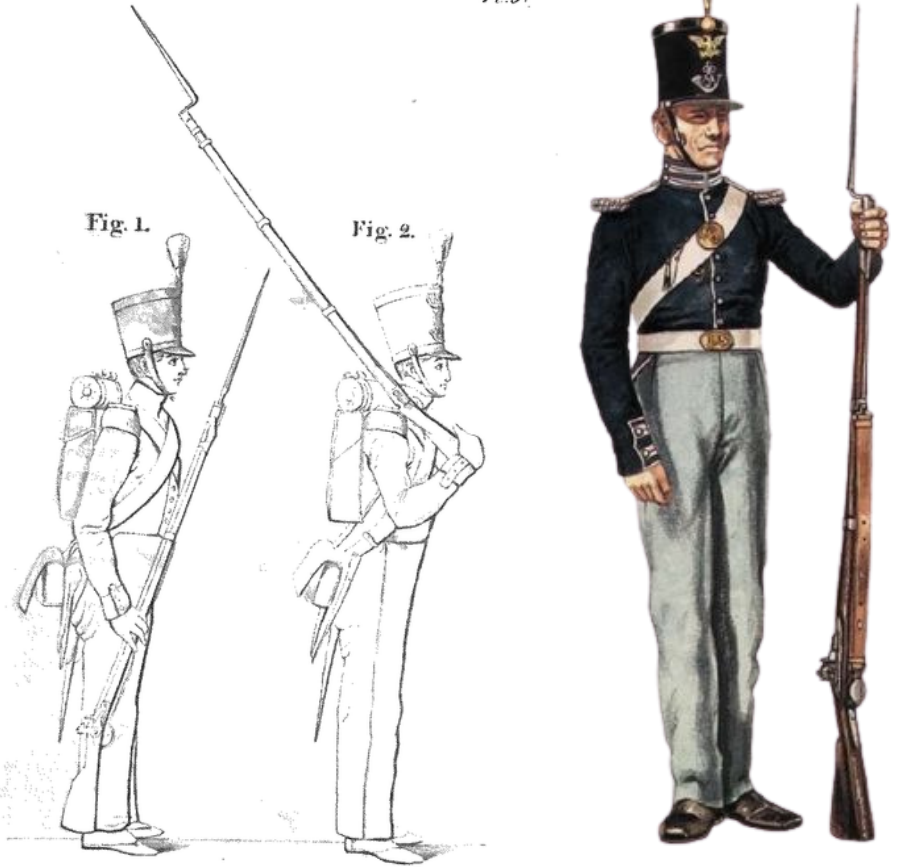
The high rates charged by sutlers must be viewed in light of the high desertion rates. When the time came to collect his debt, he often found to his dismay that the debtor had absconded from the ranks. For a merchant to remain solvent in the face of twenty to fifty percent desertion rates he was obliged to charge an exorbitant interest rate.

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UNIFORMS

Next to food, shelter and pay, clothing was the most important thing to a soldier. The United States Army Clothing Bureau did a good job in supplying the troops considering the economic constraints of the time. Clothing was distributed semiannually either in May and September or April and October. Upon delivery to a post, a board of officers inspected the goods for defects and rejected those items which failed to meet current standards. This did not however stop the troops from complaining about the uniforms. The 1825 regulations prescribed a single-breasted coat with a standing 4-inch collar, hardly the type of uniform designed with frontier duty in mind. The uniform changed in the 1830s and again in the 1840s but neither change represented a shift to a more utilitarian uniform. Furthermore, the heavy fatigue duty performed by the men resulted in excessive wear and tear on the regular issue, forcing them to draw extra clothing at their own expense. In 1831, Colonel George Croghan, Inspector General of the U. S. Army, remarked that a soldier should not be required to do severe duty and to pay for it too in the loss of his clothes. Croghan hated the new uniform found it expensive unserviceable and wished for a return to the old 1812 pattern. Furthermore, the quality of the regular issue was not always what it should have been. Croghan's assessment of the uniforms at Fort Crawford in 1842 revealed "ill looking uniforms made of bad materials"

SCHOOL OF THE SOLDIER. Pl. 9.



Furthermore, the heavy fatigue duty performed by the men resulted in excessive wear and tear on the regular issue, forcing them to draw extra clothing at their own expense. In 1831, Colonel George Croghan, Inspector General of the U. S. Army, remarked that a soldier should not be required to do severe duty and to pay for it too in the loss of his clothes. Croghan hated the new uniform found it expensive unserviceable and wished for a return to the old 1812 pattern. Furthermore, the quality of the regular issue was not always what it should have been. Croghan's assessment of the uniforms at Fort Crawford in 1842 revealed "ill looking uniforms made of bad materials"

that were of such inferior quality as to be unserviceable after a few days.

Croghan's dislike of the uniform was shared by the men. An anonymous contributor to the Army and Navy Chronicle implored the Clothing Bureau to have the clothing "cut in a manner a little more suitable to the different sizes and figures of soldiers."

As it were, the clothing was issued in four sizes dependent on height. If a man was heavier or lighter than was usual for his stature the result was an ill-fitting uniform. He was then obliged to have the uniform altered at his own expense. The net result was that the soldier was once again forced to spend is already meager earnings.

NEXT TIME

In the final installment of this series on frontier military life, we will conclude with a look at crime and punishment, medical care, and the social activities that characterized military life on the frontier.

PROGRESS CONTINUES IN THE RESTORATION OF THE MIGRANT HOME

Restoration of the wall and gable panels have been completed during the months of January through September. Volunteers Marty Hockers and Lyle LaLuzerne logged many hours to accomplish the restoration of these components. During this process, siding and studs determined to be unrepairable were replaced with replicated pieces paying close attention to detail. The majority of the siding and wall framing was saved, however all the panels required complete disassembly with careful attention to labeling the pieces so they could be installed back into the original locations. This includes the cleaning and reuse of the original nails.

Old pine barn joists were re-cut to replicate, splice and replace several of the wall framing 2x6' studs that

were beyond repair. The siding required a custom ground shaper cutter to cut the same exterior profiles as the original siding. Tongue and groove cuts to the upper and lower edges of the siding were also replicated from the original style siding. In the areas of the siding that could not be repaired the replicated siding was spliced into the pieces of original siding using 45-degree miter cuts and glue for a strong bond and smooth transition for the eye. Most of the home's siding was saved and to aid in reducing future maintenance against rot and decay, all the wood framing components and siding were treated with a nontoxic invisible wood preservative treatment prior to reassembly and primers coats.



Nick Backhaus
*Director of Operations
and Restoration Manager*

In the coming months the roofing sections and the original flooring for the home are next to be restored. This includes over one hundred pieces of flooring comprised of two-inch-wide tongue and groove pieces in varying lengths. Each piece was carefully labeled upon the disassembly of the structure and will be reinstalled back to their original location using most of the original nails. The site work and reassembly of the home is anticipated to begin May 2023 with its completion and opening to the public in July 2023.



THE GUARD- HOUSE EXHIBIT

David Haack, Restoration Carpenter and Maintenance Technician installs the new exhibit cases highlighting artifacts in the refurbished Guardhouse Exhibit.

*There will be a rededication on
November 12*

UPCOMING EVENTS



LECTURE & DINNER SERIES: HARLEY-DAVIDSON'S EARLY YEARS

Wednesday, October 19 | 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Enjoy a dinner by Parker John's BBQ as you listen to Bill Brewster, Chief Curator for the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee, speak about this marketing legend.

\$30 for members

THE POE SOCIETY RADIO HOUR

Friday & Saturday, October 28 & 29 | 7 - 9 pm

A live theatrical presentation of the haunting short stories of Edgar Allan Poe in the style of a 1930's radio drama. The performance will take place in the Town Hall. Trams will be available as well as a heated tent next to the venue with Poe cocktails and popcorn for purchase.

\$20 for members



YANKEE PEAS: A COLONIAL ENCAMPMENT

Saturday, October 29 | 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 30 | Noon - 4:30 p.m.

Learn about authentic American Revolutionary era people, including civilian and militia units between the years 1774-1783. Enjoy cooking, tent sewing, tailoring, musket drills, marching and more!

FREE for members



GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM: BROWNIE ADVENTURE

Saturday, November 12 | 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Learn about and play historic games played by children in the 17th- 20th centuries and make a historic toy to take home!

\$15 / scout or chaperone



LECTURE & DINNER SERIES: DIGGING UP THE PAST: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PRIVIES

Thursday, December 8 | 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Dinner by Not By Bread Alone. Speaker Ann Koski, an accomplished museum professional who's credits include Director of the Neville Public Museum, and of the Wisconsin Historical Museum.

\$30 for members

A FORT HOWARD CHRISTMAS

Friday & Saturday, December 9 & 10 | 5 - 9 pm

Our popular holiday event is back! Experience evening festivities at the Fort including historic dancing, cooking, our Olde World Santa, and more. Food and beverage will be available for purchase to enjoy as you stroll the lantern lit park. Come prepared to take lots of family holiday photos!!

FREE for members



To purchase tickets or learn more about any of our events,
please visit www.heritagehillgb.org

FUTURE LECTURE & DINNER SERIES

\$30 for members



Join an expert in their field for cocktails, dinner and a lecture in the upper level of the Education Center of Heritage Hill. Ticket includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dessert and the lecture. Seating is limited.

BELGIAN ROADSIDE CHAPELS WITH FR. LOONEY

February 16 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Learn about the history of these small but mighty religious structures.

GREEN BAY & FOX RIVER WATER HERITAGE WITH BRIE KRUPSKY, WI DNR

April 13 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Water has played an integral part of our past. Hear Wisconsin DNR expert talk about the history and future plans for our waterways.

WINTER HOURS

NOV 1 - APRIL 31

Tuesday - Friday | 10 am - 4 pm
for walking, sledding, snowshoeing

FREE for Members!

SECOND SATURDAYS



FREE for Members!

Every, you guessed it, second Saturday of the month during our "off" season, we will host a themed day with select buildings open and historic interpreters in the park.

10 AM - 4 PM on the days below

November 12	CELEBRATING VETERANS
December 10	A FORT HOWARD CHRISTMAS
January 14	SNOW DAY!
February 11	PLAYFUL PASSTIMES
March 11	MAKE-IT MARCH
April 8	SPRING FLING





Michael E. Telzrow
Executive Director

FROM THE COLLECTION

On May 23, 1864, Clifford Outhwaite of Oconto Falls enlisted in Company I, 39th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. The 39th was a "100 Day Regiment" drafted in the last months of the war as a force multiplier for troops in the field. The 39th spent time in Tennessee before being mustered out of service in September 1864.

As a company musician, Outhwaite carried this drum during his short time in service. The drum, made by the Horstmann Brothers Company in Philadelphia conforms to regulations in size and appearance. An inscription inside the shell reads, "Clifford Outhwaite/Drummer Co. I 39th Wis. Vols/Tullahoma. Tenn." Sometime after the war, the drum's shell was cut down two inches from its original 16-inch size – a common practice in the post-war years.



IS MUSIC AND HISTORY YOUR PASSION?

Want to be part of a new program at Heritage Hill that will transform the visitor experience, and give young musicians the chance to perform in public? Adopt a military drum or fife and become a founding sponsor of the Fort Howard Fife & Drum Corps! The sounds of fifes and drums were part of the daily routine at Fort Howard as a means of communication. Heritage Hill is pleased to be able to bring back the tradition of martial music in an authentic way that not only offers visitors a thrilling sensory experience but also provides young musicians the opportunity to be a part of a unique endeavor. This participatory program is certain to add to the overall interpretive experience at Heritage Hill and we want you to be part of it.

The names of all drum adoptees will be engraved on a small brass plaque to be affixed to the shell of an American-made, period-accurate drum, as well as special recognition as a founding member of Fort Howard Fife & Drum Corps. The cost to sponsor a drum is \$1,790. Fife sponsorships are also available at \$200.00. Smaller sponsorships are available for the purchase of music and accessories. Be a part of something new! Join us in bringing the unparalleled experience of fifes and drums to Heritage Hill. Please contact Madeleine Buchholz-Kneeland, Director of Development, madeleine@heritagehillgb.org or (920) 448-5150 ext.402 with any questions or to become a founding member!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HERITAGE HILL

STATE HISTORICAL PARK

Where History Moves Us!



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Visit us on social media:

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platforms below.

Sign up for our e-blasts by visiting
www.heritagehillgb.org



COMMENTS & SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your comments and
editorial submissions concerning *The
Hilltop Gazette*. Please send any to
Elizabeth Jolly, Senior Marketing
Specialist at liz@heritagehillgb.org





Heritage Hill State Historical Park
 2640 S Webster Ave
 Green Bay, WI 54301



Our youngest gazette fan!

Thank you to our new Members!

New members as of 7/15/22

CORPORATE

Hurckman Mechanical
 Industries Inc.

AMBASSADOR

Alyce Dahlin

EXPLORER

Melissa Chambers
 Virginia Erdmann
 Judy Zeitlert-Muniz

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 Jennelle Anderson
 Abby Barringer
 Ricky Berlin
 Lucas Brunmeier
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 Beth Dunphy
 Michael Everage
 Melissa Gavin

Melissa Gavin
 Mimi Gerner
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 Heidi Grissom
 Erick Jensen
 Robert Johnson
 James Joyce
 Amanda Kabat
 Crystal Krawchuck
 Keith Lambie
 Tara Linssen
 Yaquelin Maldonado
 Jennifer May
 Daniel McHenry
 Linn Murray
 Jay Oestreich
 Erin Pleuss
 Jennifer Preis
 Andrew Raddatz
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