

HILLTOP GAZETTE



New Voices At Heritage Hill

Hear the Walloon Language spoken in a new audio-visual exhibit!

HERITAGE HILL STATE HISTORICAL PARK | GREEN BAY, WI | FALL 2023



The Fort Howard Guard Fife & Drum Corps performing during the Inaugural Heritage Gala in September.

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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

By the time you read this missive, we will have wrapped up the 2023 summer season. One of the ways in which we gauged our success is by regular admission attendance numbers. This is exclusive of special and private events and is a direct reflection of our efforts to engage visitors with our history-based mission. I am pleased to share that our general admission figures are up well over 50 percent compared to 2022. This is evidence of the hard work that we have put in since we began our revitalization in 2021.

Under the capable leadership of our board of directors and dedicated staff, we have successfully navigated the challenging economic environment of the post Covid-era while strengthening our commitment to the Park’s mission. We could not have done it without your help, too. Our volunteers, members and benefactors make our success possible, and we thank you for your support.

There are still many challenges ahead, and although we have made remarkable strides in the last two years, we need your continued support more than ever. As we approach the season of giving,



The Fort Howard Guard Fife & Drum Corps performing daily calls in the Fort.

I hope that all of you may keep in mind the needs of the Park as you have done so generously in the past. As we move forward, remember that your support makes us stronger and ensures the Park’s long-term sustainability.

Moving on to this issue of the Gazette, guest author and longtime friend of Heritage Hill Tim Brumm provides a particularly insightful look of the history of a Fort Howard member who went on to greater fame, Major David Twiggs. However, Twiggs time in Green Bay was more infamous than famous. Brumm describes Twiggs as “a large man with a foul mouth who commanded Fort Howard...known for being cruel, and was generally disliked by his subordinate officers and enlisted men.”

Veteran interpreter and Belgian culture specialist Rebecca Derenne introduces the reader to the Walloon language in the context of a new interactive audio component at the Massart farmhouse. Visitors will

now be able to learn more about the dialect that many Belgians spoke when they arrived here in Northeastern Wisconsin over 150 years ago.

Finally, there is a photo essay detailing the revitalization of our gift shop: La Baye Coffee House & Gifts and the new focus on Heritage Hill made items.

Thank you for your continued support!

Michael E. Telzrow
Executive Director



TIS THE SEASON *of giving!*



Madeleine Buccholz-Kneeland
Director of Development

The end of 2023 is quickly approaching! How wonderful that we are nearing the end of our season, and approaching the long, Wisconsin winter.

As a member, hopefully you know that Heritage Hill State Historical Park is operated by an independent nonprofit organization- not the State of Wisconsin! What that means for us is that we do not share in any of the State's revenue or budgets, and rely largely on admissions, special events, memberships, and private donations to sustain Park operations.

A large part of our annual fundraising efforts for Park operations is our Annual Appeal, which comes right as we wind down our season! The best part about these contributions is that they are unrestricted. While we do have Foundation support, those funds are typically reserved for specific buildings or educational programming, and can't go towards keeping the lights on, paying staff wages, or putting on the events Green Bay loves so much!

Last year, our Annual Appeal raised over \$30,000, which was a huge help to our operational costs. This year, we're increasing our goal to \$50,000! If you want to keep history alive here in Green Bay, we hope that you'll consider making a contribution. If every one of our members contributes \$100 to this campaign, we'll reach that goal and then some.

We're looking forward to ending the year on a high note, and we can't wait to see you all at our upcoming events!



Families enjoy the interactive exhibits of the Cheese Factory!

Thank you for supporting our mission by making a contribution to Heritage Hill's annual appeal!

First Last Phone

Address Email

City State Zip

- Check Enclosed (made payable to "Heritage Hill")
- Please send an invoice to the information above
- Yes! We accept online donations! Scan the QR code or visit: heritagehillgb.org/donate



Heritage Hill is an exempt organization as laid out in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. EIN: 39-1262825

Donation Amount

- 100
- 250
- 500
- 1000
- 2000
- 5000
- Other Amount: \$ _____

UPCOMING



A Fort Howard Christmas

Friday - Saturday
December 8 - 9
5 - 9 pm

Immerse yourself in an 1800s Christmas with music, food, firelight, and our Olde World Santa!

experience the park as you never have before - by candlelight!

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



SEASONAL HOURS

NOV 1 - APRIL 31

Tuesday - Friday

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Buildings will be closed but the grounds will be open for walking, snowshoeing, sledding, etc.!

Second Saturdays

Every Second Saturday of the Month will have thematic programming with select buildings open

FREE for Members



SECOND SATURDAYS: CELEBRATING VETERANS Saturday, November 11 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

March and drill, compare past military life with today and write letters to modern-day servicemembers. Visit with members of the Daughters of the American Revolution who will help visitors discover their ancestor's military history. Join historian Tim Brumm for a tour of Fort Howard at 11am and 2pm

FREE for Members | General admission applies

LECTURE & DINNER: LOUIS ET JACQUES Thursday, November 16 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

It has been 350 years since Pere Marquette and Louis Jolliet traveled down the Mississippi River. Join Fr. James Heyd for a short time of reflection on the original journey of this Jesuit priest and explorer, subsequent commemorations over time, efforts to celebrate this in 2023, and what we might learn from this incredible story.

\$ 30 for members | \$45 for non-members



The Green Bay & De Pere Antiquarian Society 66th Annual Antique Show & Sale Friday - Saturday | November 17 - 18

The show will be held at the **Rock Garden Conference Center** located at 1951 Bond Street in Green Bay. A variety of quality dealers from across the Midwest will be featured. Special activities include free identification of an antique or collectible, a raffle, and holiday café and bakery. All proceeds from the event fund grants awarded to preserve and restore cultural artifacts pertinent to our community including projects at Heritage Hill!

<https://www.antiquariansocietygbdp.org>

\$7.00 which covers both days of the show



LECTURE & DINNER SERIES: CAMP SMITH Thursday, December 14 | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Camp Smith was a temporary military fortification located on the grounds of Heritage Hill State Park. Construction of the cantonment occurred between 1820 and 1822 by U.S. Army troops from Fort Howard. The ill-fated camp was intended to replace Fort Howard. However, work at the site on the ridge overlooking Fox River was terminated two years after it began.

\$ 30 for members | \$45 for non-members

SECOND SATURDAY: WINTER ENCAMPMENT Saturday, January 13 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Explore Northeast Wisconsin's culture and history all year round at Heritage Hill State Historical Park! Join us this winter and spring for Second Saturdays, a monthly program where we open the park for seasonal, thematic programming. Bundle up and come to Heritage Hill for our Second Saturday winter encampment, held at our Fur Trader's Cabin. Visit with our historical interpreters and learn about what it took to survive a Wisconsin winter in the 1700s.

FREE for Members | General admission applies





Rebecca Derenne

*Historic Interpreter &
Belgian Heritage expert*

This spring Heritage Hill was excited to debut a new permanent exhibit in our Agricultural Area's barn centering around the history of farming in 19th century Wisconsin. This fall another exhibit debuted in this area of the park, this time focusing on Walloon, the primary language of the Belgian immigrants who settled in Northeast Wisconsin. The most exciting part? Thanks to the help of the Belgian Walloon Heritage and Friends group, the exhibit features 4 audio clips by Walloon speakers sharing the history of Heritage Hill buildings!

BELGIANS IN WISCONSIN

In the 1850s around 15,000 Walloon and Flemish speaking Belgians left Europe and settled in Northeast Wisconsin. Lured by the promise of farmland priced at up to \$1.25 per acre, instead they found a wilderness that took years to clear. Despite these hardships, the settlers formed a tight-knit community by retaining important cultural elements from their homeland. For example, the first Kermis, a 3-day harvest celebration was held in Rosiere in 1858. Additionally, the Belgians are a people of great faith. One of the earliest Catholic chapels was built the following year in Robinsville on the site where a Belgian woman named Adele Brice had a vision of the Virgin Mary. Today it is the location of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help.

NEW VOICES AT HERITAGE HILL

Hear the native Belgian tongue of Walloon spoken in a new farm exhibit



Historic Interpreter Rebecca posing with the new Walloon audio signage in the Belgian Farm area.



Evidence of the Belgian community continues to be seen throughout Northeast Wisconsin today. After the 1871 Peshtigo Fire, Belgian architecture like that of the Massart Farmhouse rose in prominence. Evidence of similar buildings can be seen throughout the region along with roadside chapels like the one moved to Heritage Hill. In Namur, the Belgian Heritage Center has become the heart of research and support for the local Belgian community.



From left, Margaret Rueckl, Sue Havel, Tim Jeanquart, and Cletus Fontaine (along with other, non-Walloon speaking members) of the Belgian Walloon Heritage and Friends group in the Heritage Hill farmhouse kitchen.

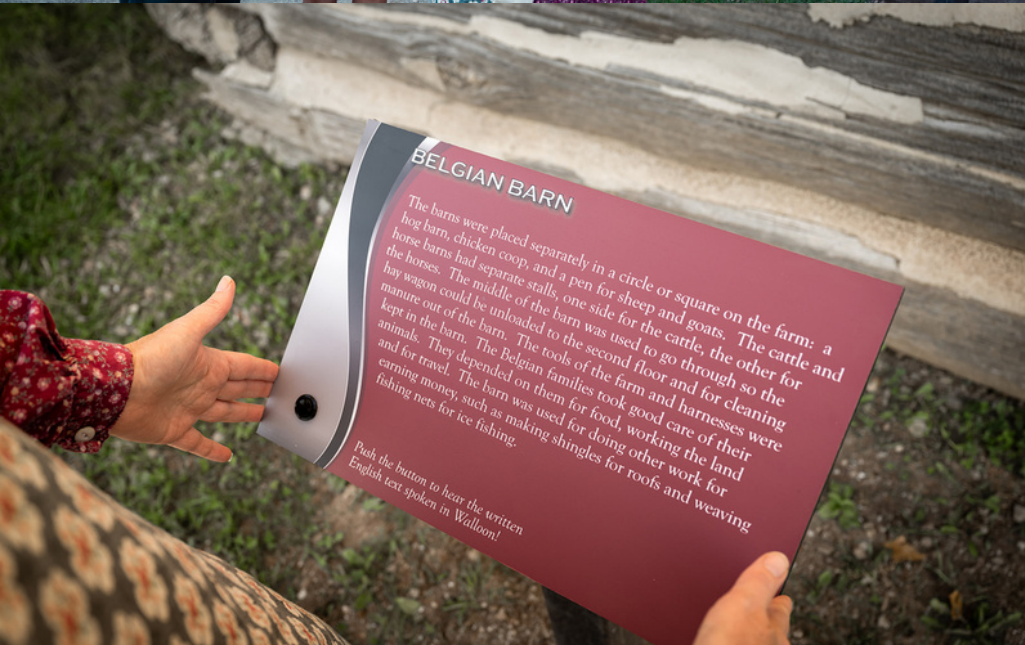


AN ENDANGERED LANGUAGE

Most of the Belgians who immigrated to Northeast Wisconsin in the 1850s were from the Southern region of Belgium and they spoke Walloon, a language closely related to French. Gradually the immigrants and their descendants shifted to speaking primarily English because they were forced to speak English in public settings. They continued to speak Walloon at home but today there are probably less than 50 Walloon speakers in Wisconsin.

Originally Walloon was an oral language with no written form. Its use in Belgium underwent a revival in the late 19th century when it was written down for the first time. Since Wisconsin's Walloon speakers came here prior to that, other attempts at writing down the language have been made.

Today, the Belgian Walloon Heritage and Friends group continues to work on creating a written version of the language that is phonetically based for primarily English speaking audiences. Their recordings of native Walloon speakers – including the ones heard here at Heritage Hill – help preserve the language so it can be heard by future generations. We look forward to helping preserve and share a small portion of that language here for many years to come.



A DISTURBING INJUSTICE AT FORT HOWARD

The tale of Major David Twiggs

There are no limits to the unusual tales surrounding the history of Fort Howard. While officers and soldiers stationed at the Green Bay military post often complained of monotony, occasionally events were so startling they stunned both soldiers and citizens. Some of these stories are so appalling they provoke a desire for justice even today, though the events occurred almost two centuries ago.

Such is the case of Major David Twiggs and his actions toward a soldier under his command. Twiggs was a large man with a foul mouth who commanded Fort Howard from May to September of 1828. He was often intemperate, which substantially affected his leadership ability. Twiggs was known for being cruel, and was generally disliked by his subordinate officers and enlisted men. Green Bay civilians also looked at Twiggs with contempt. Leading citizen and prominent attorney Morgan L. Martin wrote that Twiggs “bore a bad character.”

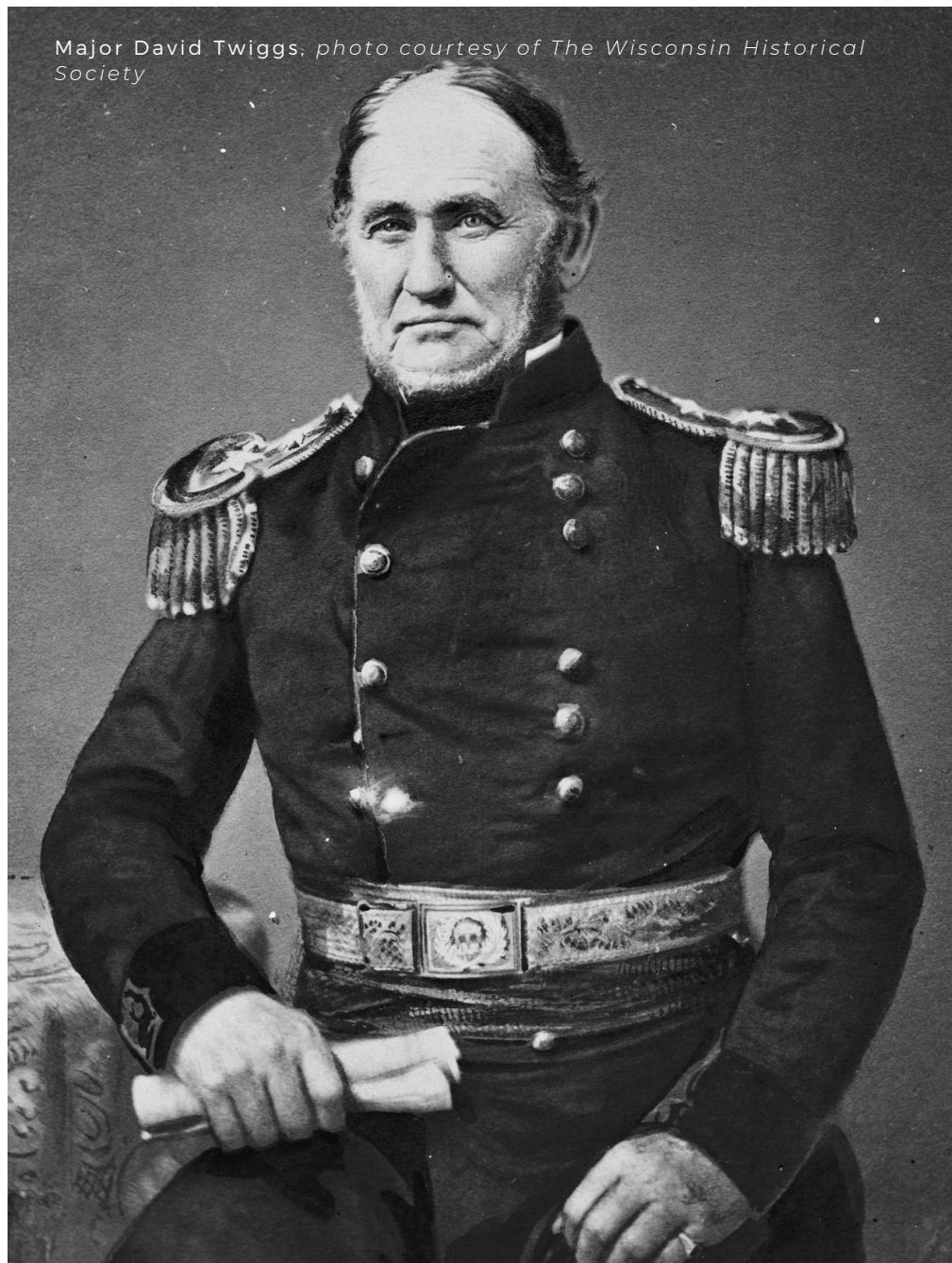
Twiggs originally came from Georgia and had served in the U.S. Army during the War of 1812. When the military was reorganized in 1815, he was retained as captain in the Seventh Infantry Regiment. A decade later, he was promoted to major in the First Infantry. Twiggs arrived at Fort Howard in May of 1828, taking command from Major William Whistler. There, Twiggs oversaw three companies of his First Infantry Regiment and several companies of Whistler’s Second Infantry.

The most notorious story of Twiggs’ behavior began in the summer of 1828. Twiggs’ brutality was well-known among the ranks, and one of his soldiers decided to do something about it. Private William Prestige only had six months left in his enlistment, but became so disturbed by Twiggs’ cruelty that he vowed to kill him.

One afternoon while Twiggs lay napping in his quarters, Prestige cautiously crept in and put his musket muzzle to the sleeping officer’s head. He pulled the trigger, but the gun misfired. The click of the gunlock awoke Twiggs.



Timothy Brumm
*Historic Interpreter
& Fort Howard expert*



Major David Twiggs; photo courtesy of The Wisconsin Historical Society

Springing to his feet, he grabbed the musket from Prestige and hit the soldier with the butt of the gun so hard that it fractured his skull and laid him senseless on the floor.

The Fort Howard doctor treated Prestige for a fractured skull. Likely he endured a grisly procedure called trepanning, in which a hole is drilled into the skull to reduce swelling caused by a head injury. Surgeon Lyman Foot oversaw Prestige's convalescence.

Upon being released from the doctor's care, Prestige was neither issued a court martial nor handed over to civil authorities, as protocol dictated. Instead, Twiggs chose to detain the soldier as a prisoner under his own control and subjected him to the most brutal of treatments. Prestige was locked in a guardhouse jail cell. Twiggs visited daily to taunt and insult him. He was beaten almost every day with a cowhide whip, usually by Twiggs himself. And he was often fed uncooked food. On at least one occasion, Twiggs allegedly had hungry wolves turned loose in Prestige's jail cell, where he was forced to fight for his life until the animals were removed.

On September 22, 1828, Major David Twiggs left Fort Howard with his three companies of the First Infantry Regiment. The troops traveled to Portage, where Twiggs was tasked with overseeing the

construction of Fort Winnebago. William Prestige was also forced to make the trip, now frail from abuse and neglect. When traveling on foot he was marched under guard, his body laden with chains.

Along the journey, Morgan L. Martin met Twiggs and his soldiers on the Fox River, witnessing them traveling in boats on Lake Buttes des Morts. Within the group of soldiers, Martin observed the feeble Prestige, shackled in chains and fettered to the boat.

While Fort Winnebago was being built, William Prestige's merciless torture continued. Twiggs kept him tethered to a tree in near-naked condition. Throughout the fall and winter of 1828-1829, Prestige suffered through the harsh Wisconsin weather. Compassionate soldiers ended up giving him a blanket and building a simple structure to help protect him.

Twiggs's brutality and desire for vengeance never seemed to abate. It was said he never passed Prestige without uttering a curse, while hitting or kicking the defenseless man. Twiggs also issued severe consequences for any officer or soldier who attempted to aid Prestige.

In the spring of 1829, William Prestige's military term of service expired. He was "drummed out" of the army with his head shaved, as

orders decreed. Prestige likely thought he was now free of Twiggs. But the commander sent him under guard to the sheriff of Brown County. In Green Bay, where the original crime had been committed, Prestige was arrested and tried in criminal court.

In September of 1829, Prestige was tried in the court of Judge James D. Doty. He was charged with assault with the intent to kill. Convicted, he was sentenced to five years in solitary confinement. However, Morgan L. Martin and other concerned citizens believed Prestige had suffered enough. Martin presented Prestige's case to U.S. President John Quincy Adams, who immediately pardoned him. After this pardon, little is known of William Prestige's life.

As for David Twiggs, he continued rising through the army's ranks and became a brigadier general. During the Mexican War, he was commended for gallantry in the capture of Monterrey. In 1857, Twiggs was given command of the Army's Department of Texas. At the start of the Civil War in 1861, he surrendered his entire Texas command to the Confederacy. Twiggs then accepted the rank of major general in the Confederate States Army. Soon after, illness forced him to retire and he died near Augusta, Georgia, in 1862.

Bella French, *The American Sketchbook: A Collection of Historical Incidents with Descriptions of Corresponding Localities, Volume III* (Green Bay: The American Sketch Book Company, 1876), 51.

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Deborah Beaumont Martin, *History of Brown County Past and Present, Volume 1* (Chicago, S. J. Clarke Publishing, 1913), 143.

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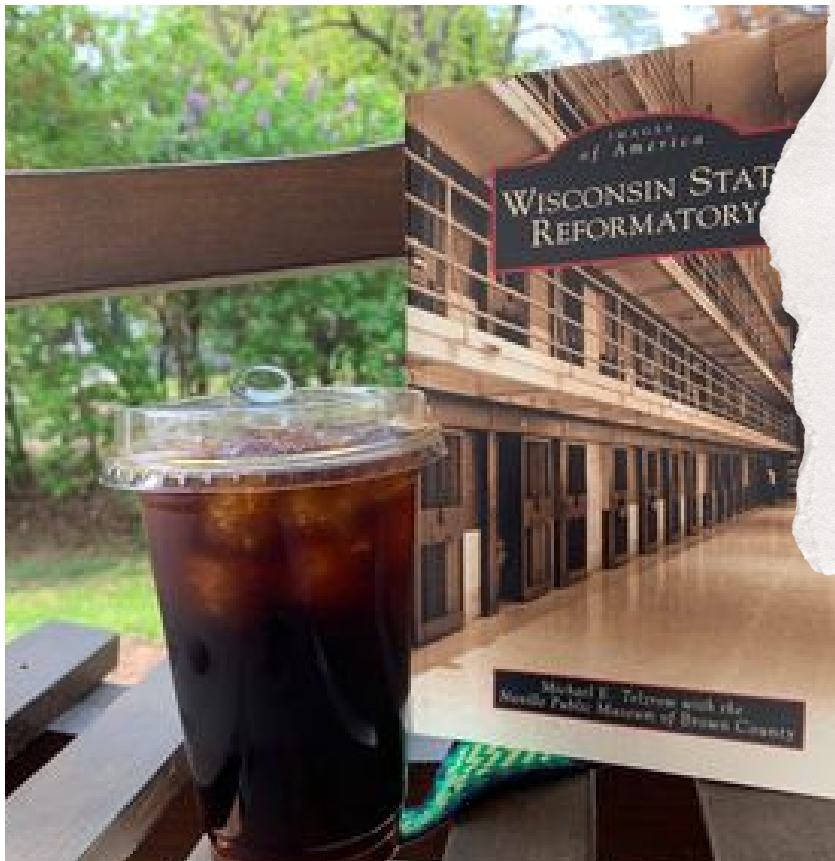
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Russell K Brown, "Twiggs Family Roots Run Deep," *The Augusta Chronicle* (http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/1999/10/14/met_273002.shtml) accessed October 1, 2012.

Thomas W. Cutrer and David Paul Smith, "TWIGGS, DAVID EMANUEL," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ftw03>), accessed January 26, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Want to see Tim Brumm here in action?
Join us for his lecture on Camp Smith on
Dec 14 or take a tour of the Fort with him
for Second Saturday: Celebrating
Veterans on Nov. 11!

HERITAGE MADE: LA BAYE COFFEE HOUSE & GIFTS



When revitalizing the gift store, we really wanted to focus on things unique to the area and representative of Northeastern Wisconsin. Naturally, we turned to our extensive database of historic interpreters and volunteers. They brought forth items that are not only beautiful and functional but things that you can see being made when you visit Heritage Hill! In the following pages - learn about some of these fantastic items!

Our Executive Director is more than just an executive director! He also wrote this book on the history of our neighbor: The Wisconsin Reformatory. Peeking out of the book you can see another Heritage Hill Made item: woven bookmarks!



Down the prairie trail in front of Cotton House, you will come upon some white boxes - home to Heritage Hill's very own honey bees! Sample the fruits of their labor in comb or liquid only form!

Emily is her name, printing is her game! This historic interpreter has been hard at work all summer. Besides the actual printing, she also hand carves many of the blocks for her booklets, journals, and more. Her next project is a pack of playing cards!



Randy is our blacksmith come jewelry maker. Learn the process of his forged in fire designs and then take one of them home!





Remember that bookmark from above? It was woven on an inkle loom! Tabletop looms like this one have been used for centuries. The word inkle means “ribbon” or “tape” and these looms were designed to weave several yards of narrow fabric for items such as belts, sashes, ties, guitar straps, bookmarks, and in the case of Heritage Hill, earrings too!



All of these items make great gifts but the best gift of all is...

MEMBERSHIP!

Family Membership \$65
Individual (plus guest) \$50

Scan this code to purchase or stop by the front desk!



Although not Heritage Hill made, old fashioned candy is always a favorite!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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



Thank you to our new Members!

New members as of 7-1-2023

FAMILY

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Amanda Banker
Gregory Beatty
Claire Berken
Jessica Blavat
Jessica Bower
Erika Budtke
Werner Burkat
Nicole Campuzano
David Champaign
Peter Chen
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Greg Immel
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Cheryl Kehler
Kat Kelly
Stephanie Konkol
Jennifer Kotzsteiner
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