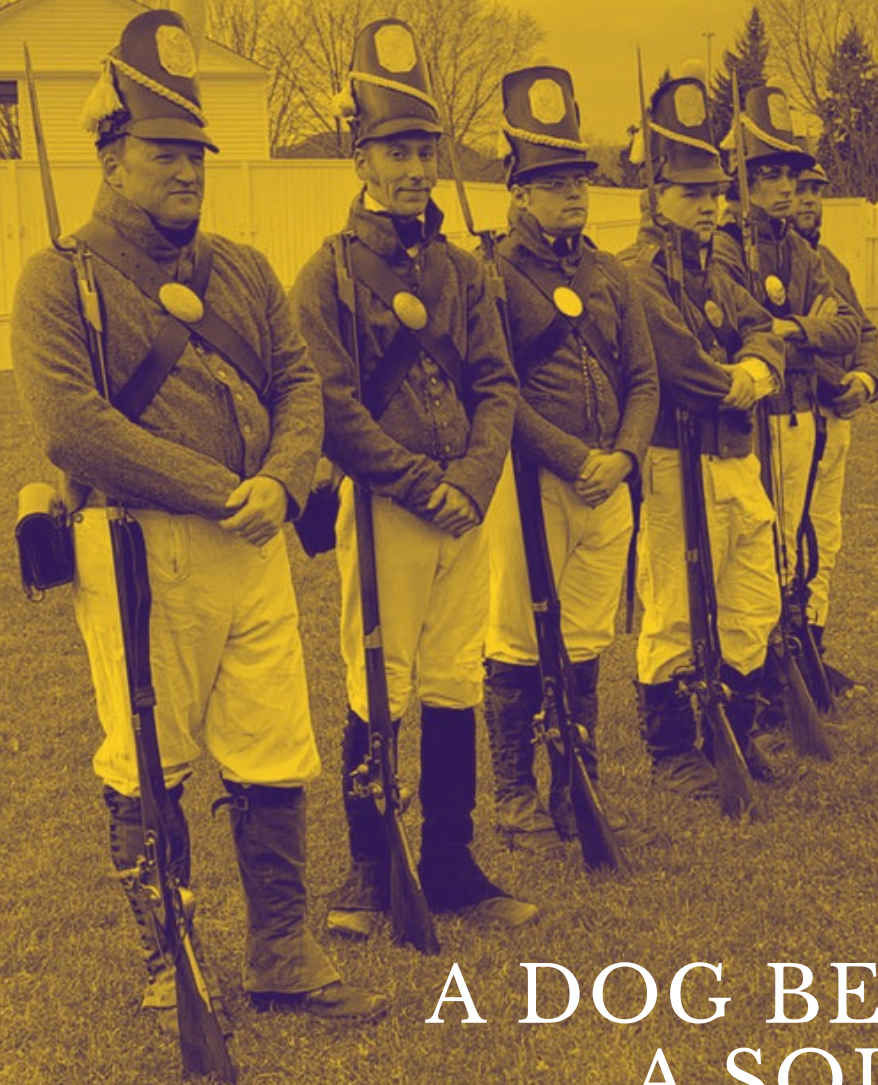


HILLTOP GAZETTE



A DOG BEFORE A SOLDIER

Military Life in the Old Northwest

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



Lula, a historic interpreter, wishing everyone a happy 4th of July from the Print Shop

CONTENTS



A dancing couple enjoys *Music on the Green*

4
From the Executive Director
Michael E. Telzrow

5
Calendar of Summer Events

6
A Dog Before a Soldier
Military Life in the Old Northwest
Michael E. Telzrow

8
A Lady's Life at Fort Howard
Claire E. Gwaltney

9
The Fort Howard Elm
Nick Backhaus

10
Members Listing



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



Michael E. Telzrow
Executive Director



A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

After a bit of a delay, we were able to get the first issue of the *Hilltop Gazette* into your hands. I hope that you like the format and content. Please feel free to share your comments with me directly. We are always looking to improve our product.

In this issue of the *Gazette*, we begin a series that examines Army presence on the frontier, and at Fort Howard in particular. There is much we may learn from the military experience of the early Republic. Most notable is the relatively small size of the early standing army in comparison to today's massively funded armed services. Two-hundred years ago, the United States was an inward-looking nation. She was not a nation looking to introduce "democracy" to sovereign nations around the world. There was no need for a large standing army. In 1821, John Quincy Adams, then Secretary of State for the Monroe administration, declared what was then conventional wisdom regarding military involvement overseas:

"But she (the United States) goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own. She will commend the general cause by the countenance of her voice, and the benignant sympathy of her example. She well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy, and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom. The fundamental maxims of her policy would insensibly change from liberty to force.... She might become the dictatress of the world. She would be no longer the ruler of her own spirit...."

“ But she (the United States) goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own. ”

The attendant Monroe Doctrine further cemented America's sole interest in the western hemisphere. It would remain so until the rise of American Imperialism in the late 19th century. Today, U.S. military intervention in foreign affairs has reach a level that would have astonished Adams and the founders of the Republic, but that is another story.

During the early 19th century, the United States was chiefly concerned with securing and expanding its borders on the North American Continent. To do so, it needed a military presence to facilitate communications, establish settlements and provide for defense. Fort Howard was one of the key forts along the upper Mississippi Valley and its tributaries. The officers and men were a microcosm of the early republic. Drawn from native born and recent immigrants, they served their country during a period of national expansion and cultural development. It was the soldier who built the frontier roads, and the infrastructure that facilitated the establishment of towns – often without thanks from his countrymen and women. In the next few issues, you will get to know them a little better.

We hope that you enjoy this issue that also looks at the role of women on the military frontier. As always, thank you for your continued support!

Michael E. Telzrow
Executive Director



WINTER LECTURE & DINNER SERIES

\$30 for members

HARLEY DAVIDSON'S EARLY YEARS WITH BILL BREWSTER

October 19 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Bill Brewster is the Chief Curator for the Harley-Davidson Museum in Milwaukee. During a 30-year career he has served as collections registrar for the Wisconsin Historical Society, Curator for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and most recently as Chief Curator for the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park in Wheaton, IL. Bill's primary focus is American military history and material culture. He specializes in object collection development, management, and exhibits.

DIGGING UP THE PAST: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF PRIVIES WITH ANN KOSKI

December 8 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE!

Belgian Roadside Chapels
February 16 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Green Bay & Fox River
Water Heritage
April 13 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM

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

BADGERS FOR THE UNION: A CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT

Sat, August 13 | 9 am - 4:30 pm
Sun, August 14 | Noon - 4 pm

Step back in time to Fort Howard as it stood in the mid 1800's. Learn about soldier and civilian life, hear and witness musket demonstrations, and generally immerse yourself in Fort life. Each day will begin with a raising of the colors and end with a retiring of the colors.

Free for Members!

HYSTERICAL HISTORICAL: THE LIFE OF EBENEZER CHILDS

Sun, August 14 | 1 - 3 pm

Ebenezer Childs was one of the forefathers of La Baye, or Green Bay. He loved to tell everyone of his many accomplishments even if they weren't true, but most were! All original songs from Frank Hermans.

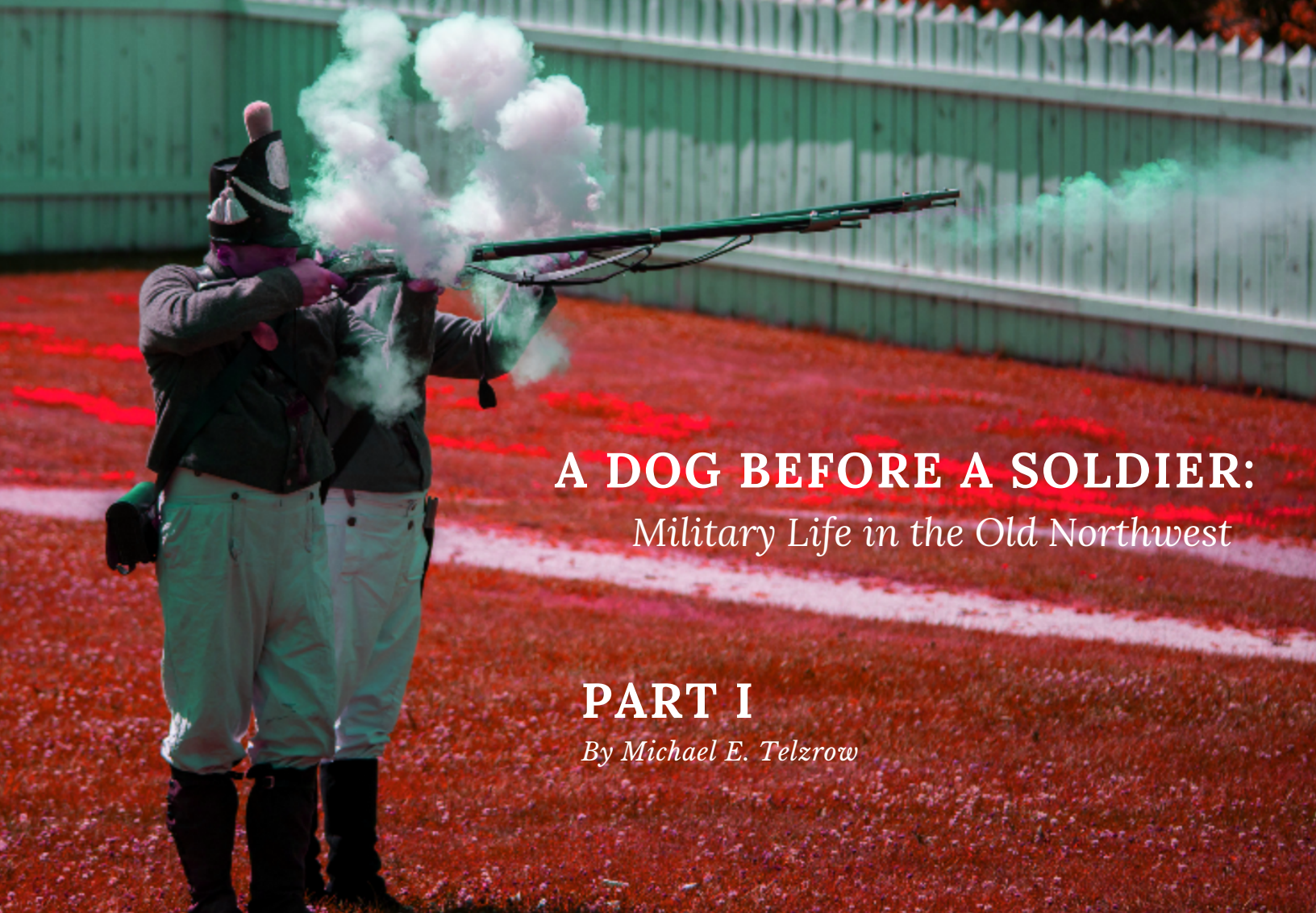
\$20 for members

MUSIC ON THE GREEN: BIG MOUTH

Mon, August 22 | 5 - 8 pm

Big Mouth was originally formed by Jay Whitney in 1980 in and around Flint, MI. The band's focus at that time was to play an eclectic mix of blues, jazz, and original music. The band flourished for a number of years playing club dates and festivals throughout Michigan. The band stopped when a few of its members went on the road with other touring bands.

\$5 for members



A DOG BEFORE A SOLDIER:

Military Life in the Old Northwest

PART I

By Michael E. Telzrow

FORT HOWARD

After the War of 1812, the United States, determined not to lose its tenuous grip on the region, began construction of a line of forts along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. By 1830, the War Department had succeeded in establishing five forts in the upper Midwest that functioned as strategic administration centers between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi. These forts were characteristically small, and rarely garrisoned by large numbers of troops. Despite their modest presence they functioned as important centers for Indian Agency administration, settlement, and national defense.

Fort Howard was described in Henry Schoolcraft's 1820 journal as "consisting of log barracks, facing three sides of a square parade, and surrounded by a stockade of timber, thirty feet high, with block houses at the angles. The whole is whitewashed and presents a neat military appearance."

Schoolcraft may have been impressed by its neat appearance, but for soldiers stationed at Fort Howard its location near low marshy ground proved a nuisance. An 1823 inspection report by Captain H. Smith of the Corps of Engineers characterized the site as subject to "frequent inundation" with "very bad" water quality. Furthermore, due to paltry funding, renovation of the fort was delayed until the 1830s. Until then, soldiers at Fort Howard enjoyed low grade housing and the constant threat of malaria during the summer season.

In 1817, Colonel Joseph Lee Smith succeeded Major Zachary Taylor as commandant of the fort and in 1820 set about removing the post to higher ground three miles south of Fort Howard on the east bank of the Fox River. The audacious Colonel ordered a portion of his command to occupy an area immodestly named Camp Smith on the present-day site of Heritage Hill. This was done in preparation of constructing a stone fort. Smith, however, never finished his fort before he was quickly relieved of duty in 1821.

His successor, Colonel Pinckney, swiftly reconcentrated the troops at the site of Fort Howard.

During its forty-seven years in operation, the fort was occupied at various times by elements of the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Infantry Regiments, and was garrisoned continuously from 1816 to 1841. At the outbreak of the Second Seminole War in Florida, the garrison, made up of companies of the Fifthh Regiment, was withdrawn and the fort lay empty until the arrival of the Fourth Regiment in 1849. On May 22, 1852, the fort was ordered abandoned. It was briefly reoccupied during the Civil War by a volunteer company assisting Provost Marshall Curtis R. Merrill.

In 1863, the Federal Government ordered the sale of Fort Howard, and it was purchased by the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. The majority of the Fort's buildings were razed and sold for lumber. Any buildings not destroyed were sold intact and removed from their original locations. By 1869, Fort Howard was gone.

WHO WERE THE SOLDIERS?

In the early 19th century, our nation's army was small by today's standards. Shortly after the end of hostilities with England in 1814, Congress called for a reduction of two-thirds in military strength. By 1816, the Army numbered about 9,763 officers and men. Periodic economic crises forced the Government to keep authorized numbers low, and by 1836, the Army numbered only 6,758 officers and men largely spread out between eastern coastal forts, the Florida interior, and the upper Midwest. Between 1820 and 1840, Army strength remained small – never accounting for more than 0.05% of the entire U.S. labor force.

So, who were these men who served in the Army? Recruiting regulations set age limits between 21 to 35 years of age, and strict penalties prohibited recruiting officers from enlisting minors without parental consent. Single, white, native-born Americans were sought, but married men could enlist with permission from General Headquarters. Regulations permitted the enlistment of white men of foreign birth provided that they could speak English. Although free men of color were prohibited from serving as soldiers, they were not excluded from hire as laborers or mechanics.

Less conscientious officers simply overlooked the age and language requirements in order to meet their quotas. Recruiting duty was considered dull and unrewarding. An 1839 article in the *Army and Navy Chronicle* characterized recruiting duty as “perplexing” and “hazardous” duty. Constantly guarding against fraud,

poorly compensated, recruiting officers looked for ways to transfer whenever possible.

The normal term of enlistment was five years, except for a brief period between 1834 and 1838 when Congress lowered the term to 3 years in an effort to reduce desertions. Reducing the enlistment term, however, did nothing to stem the tide of desertions which remained particularly high on the frontier. Among officers, the decision was particularly unpopular and prompted this anonymous response published in the *Army and Navy Chronicle*, “Three years barely suffices to eradicate those habits which must yield to a course of military discipline.” Another officer wrote, “A man scarcely learned the mode of making himself useful before he is discharged.”



Period uniform examples

The majority of recruits came from the northeastern states, the bulk enlisting in New York and Pennsylvania. Few enlisted from the south where slave labor discouraged European immigration, and where the existence of free labor was scarce. Recruiting reports for 1841-42 indicate that southern recruiting depots accounted for only one-quarter of the 1,430 enlisted that year. By the 1830s, an increasing number were taken from newly arrived immigrants, Irish and Germans predominating. Upon visiting the United States, noted English tourist James S. Buckingham remarked that only about half of the soldiers he encountered were native-born Americans, the remainder consisting of Irish, Germans and Scots.

Occasionally, some aspiring individuals would by-pass the local recruiter, making the journey to enlist at the garrison of their choice. Nathan Jarvis described that type of individual in a letter to his father as “idle wandering fellows who have no home.” In the same letter he described two men recently arrived at Fort Snelling from New York determined to “see the country and fight the Indians.” Dismayed by the lack of fighting to be had, and faced with limited options, one decided to take work as a civilian laborer while the other opted for the Army.

Army life may have afforded newly arrived immigrants and “idle fellows” with an opportunity to carve out some sort of existence in the newly minted Republic, but it came with a cost. In part two of this series, we will take a closer look at the daily life of a soldier on the frontier.



Two soldiers inspecting a period musket

A LADY'S LIFE AT FORT HOWARD



Claire E. Gwaltney
Director of Engagement
and Visitor Services



At this time our town became quite gay. Every lady, of the military as well as civilians, gave a party, as it was the only way we could entertain so many gentlemen. Our parties were quite recherche [rare or exotic] I can assure you.
- *O-DeJit-Wa-win-ning*, 86.



Portrait of Elizabeth Baird by Green Bay photographer H.S. Clark, 1870.



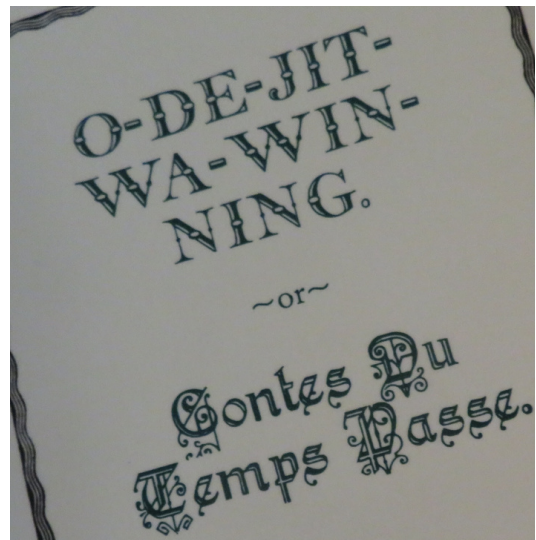
Born in 1810 in Prairie du Chien, Elizabeth grew up on Mackinac Island. She came from a family of fur traders and had Odawa American Indian ancestry. At age 14 she married Henry Baird and moved to Green Bay. Elizabeth taught herself how to speak, read, and write English and helped her husband in his law practice. She remained in this area for the rest of her life and in the 1880s published a series of newspaper articles about early Green Bay.

Elizabeth's memoirs are rich in stories about life at Fort Howard. She chronicles the marriages, births, and deaths of officers stationed there and paints a vivid picture of the parties and gatherings that took place. It's also clear that the military community in northeast Wisconsin was tight knit. Personnel that had been stationed at one fort would be reunited at another and as women traveled west to join their male family members, they would marry that relative's friends and colleagues, creating a close and intricate web of familial relationships that spanned hundreds of miles and dozens of years.

Elizabeth Baird lived a full and long life and more importantly – for us, at least – she wrote about it. Whether you're interested in how Green Bay developed from a frontier settlement to a bustling metropolis, the role of Fort Howard in early U.S. military history, or who ran off and eloped with who (because Elizabeth wrote about that, too!) then these memoirs are for you. Visit your local Wisconsin library or stop by The Hill Cafe and Gifts at Heritage Hill to pick up your copy today!

It's true that men are typically the first people one thinks of when looking at 19th century military life, but in fact, women were just as integral as their male counterparts in the daily life of a military outpost such as Fort Howard.

Women were often employed as hospital matrons, laundresses, and cooks. And many soldiers would bring not only their wives but also their children on their military assignments. The memoirs of Elizabeth Baird, while not a military wife herself, provides us with insight on the lives of military families and the Green Bay social scene during this period.



Elizabeth's newspaper articles were collected into one volume and published in 1998 by the Heritage Hill Foundation.

THE MEMOIRS
ELIZABETH T. B.

THE FORT HOWARD ELM

A Heritage Tree

In creating a historically accurate atmosphere, an aspect one may not always consider is the natural environment. Recently, The Lion's Club of De Pere donated a tree for planting outside the Fort Howard area of Heritage Hill. The question arose, what kind of tree? The answer was easy. An elm.

Before the west side of Green Bay was developed, there stood a 200-year-old elm. In the present day it would be located in CN Green Bay Rail Yard, off of Atkinson Road. Sadly, this mammoth of history died in the early 1930's, but we know it would have seen Green Bay before first contact and through the establishment of the permanent U.S. garrison in 1816.

While the elm population has been substantially depleted because of Dutch elm disease, Heritage Hill's tree should outlive the original Fort Howard Elm, as its species is a hybrid, specifically resistance to the disease. Other trees in the park are not so lucky.

Ash tree loss due to the emerald ash borer has impacted Heritage Hill's landscape. The emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle from Northeastern Asia and first identified in America around 2002. Heritage Hill planted over thirty ash trees in the late 1980's all of which have succumbed to the beetle.

Volunteers are now focusing on the removal of several invasive plants and trees: buckthorn, honey suckle, and the prolific growth of grape vines. Leading the charge of volunteers devoted to the cause of removal are board members Cliff Wall and Dan Katers, who have worked diligently behind the scenes to return Heritage Hill's foliage to a healthy, natural state.



Nick Backhaus
Director of Operations



Board members and long-time volunteers Cliff Wall (L) and Dan Katers (R) cleaning up brush around the Park.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS

CAPTAIN

John Shier

AMBASSADOR

John Straub
Cliff Wall

VOYAGEUR

Bonnie and Les Etters
Alison Frazier
Al and Sharon Gutowski
John & Engrid Meng Inc.
Mavis Martens
James Sickel

EXPLORER

Megan Arthur and Ross Mollet
Debbie Ashmann
Ann Beilke
Peter Biermeier
Carlton Granius
Eugene Hackbarth
Julie Anne Kress
Susan Lambert Tease
Mari McAllister Charles
Judith L. Siekman
Julianne Sinnaeve
Donna Urban
Mary Vandenberg
Gary Wickert
Judy Zeitlert-Muniz

FAMILY

Katrina and Mark Adrians
Katie Ahearn
Amanda and Peter Altan
Dawn Baker
Heather Baker
Chelsea Baker
James Balza
Joel and Misty Barthel
Dan Beacher
Lindsey Beaman
Kasey Berceau

Deborah and John Bergson

Erik Berns
Andrea Berns
Stephanie Bolzenthall
Joan Bond
Elena Borghi
Marge Bork
Bob Brumm
Brian J. Buczek
Christian Bungener
Kenneth Calewarts
Lisa Camis
Dennis Carow
Catrina and Mike Chandler
Gary Clark
Ted Cohen
Kim Connelly
Margaret Czachor
Elizabeth and Ziad Darkhabani
Justin Diehl
Tom Dorner
Kelly and Matthew Drzewiecki
Minglen Dzung
Courtney Elkington
Tara Erickson
James and Kathleen Fitzpatrick
Rob Froling and Sam McKenzie
Terry Fulwiler
Ann and Bill Galvin
David Gardner
James Genrich
Kathrine Gerrits
Nicky Gillmore
Linda Glawe Neuser and Thomas
Neuser
Cathy Goehre
Judy Gorke
Gart and Nancy Grams
John Grant and Megan Popkey
Pam and Scott Griffin
Jossiah Grothe
Lauren Guenther
Edgar Guevara
David and Kelly Gusloff
Michael Haddad
Eric and Faith Hagedorn
Cora Haltaufderheid
Norman Hansen
Erin and Matthew Harris
Jacob and Rebecca Hasseler
Shirley Havel
Kayla Heinte

Jennifer and Peter Hentges

William Hinkfuss
Timothy Hinkfuss
Marty Hockers
Gwen Jelinsky
Joel Joski
Dan and Karen Katers
Katie Kaufman
Bruce and Rita Kilmer
Norbert Kleczka
Matthews Kloskowi
Christina Kornely
Tana Koss
Amy and Jeffrey Kostichka
Barbara Krueger
Lyle LaLuzerne
Lauretta and Steven Lambert
Doug Landwehr
Adam and Erin LeGrave
Carrie Leisgang
Herbert Liebmann
Mardell Liethen
Denece and Gary Lorfeld
David Malcolm
Maureen Manion
Amy and Stephanie Mauk
Sylvia McElroy
Jose Mendoza and Luz Tamayo
Bill Micklitz
Eric R. Miller
Becky Mollet
Andy Morien
Katie Murphy
Kathryn Murphy
Linn Murray
Jack Nehlsen
Nicole Nohl
Laura Ojala and Matthew Halbur
Jeff and Lisa Palmer
Chris Peeters
Susan Peeters
Chaz and Kimberly Pelky
Lorraine Poplaski
Debbie Poradek
Kraig Reischl
Brett and LaDawn Reuter
Jesse and Jill Rhoades
Jerry Rodesch and Sidney Bremer
Dan and Eileen Rogers
Patrick and Stacie Rosera
Mark Rowe
Scott Ruetten

FAMILY, CONT.

Kristi Schertz
Claudia Schultz
Thomas Schumacher
Louis Seiler
Shanna Senecal
Patrick Short
Joleen Skarda
Hayli Slater
Aaron and Erica Smits
Kathleen Spevacek
Brad and Emily Sprangers
Stephanie Stoegbauer
Bruce Sullivan
Jacob F. Tease
Jane Temp
Edward Thao and Sarah Rusch
Kellie and Nathan Thiel
Jacob Thomas
David Tomaschefsky
Emil Toney
Powell Trotti
Susan Van Boxtel
Michelle and William Van Dorp
Brian and Rochelle Van Erem
Cyril Van Sistine
Jeremy and Teriann Van Sistine
Nancy VanBeek
Kim VandenAvond
Myron VandeVen
Matt VanZeeland
Robert Verbruggen
Jaclyn Vergbuggen
Sara Wall
Kristin Wall
Dana Walters
Christian Walton
John Wampler
Trisha Wampler
Jennifer Watson
Tom Weber
Lori Wendricks
Rosalie Wiand
Michael Winter
Brooke Worm
Maria Zehren
Anita Zipperer

INDIVIDUAL

Rob Anderson
Donald Babler
Cheryl Barrett
Molly Behnke
Dan Bennett
Elizabeth Biebel
Leslie E. Bradley
Judith Bragelman
John Braley
William Brewster
Angie Bruner
Lee Brunner

Madeleine Buchholz
Dennis Bushman
Carol Casey
Emily Cherney
John and Anne Clancy-Ledford
Lawrence De Groot
Kristen Delmarcelle
Birgit Dierberg
Eleanor Dockry
Mary Dollar
Bryan Drown
Dean DuMoulin
Faith Enneper
Katherine V. Estes
Diana Fligelman
Alex Forster
Catherine Frazier
Elizabeth Friese
Susan Frost
Katie Genthe
Mary Lee L. Gibson
Roy Giesecker
Dennis Glaman
Margaret R. Gonzales
and Randel Steele
Stacie Gorecki
Lisa Graf Miller
Sally Guinn
Zach Haller
Rose Heimmermann
John Hemmen
Jodi Hemp
Ann Hendricks
Mary Jane J. Herber
Daniel Hertel
James Hickey
Barbara Ellen Huebner
Christine Ivory
Marilee Jahn
Elizabeth Jansen
Jacqueline Javor
John and Mary Ellen Zellerbach
Elizabeth Jolly
Laura Jubert
Lawrence Kabat
Kaitlyn Kane
Liz Kanzleiter
Amara Kectesz-Roatch
Christy Keenan
Ralph Klingsporn
Kim Klister
Jonathan Kriescher
Michael Kukiela
Brandon Lealiou
Liam Ledford
Jaime Leick
Nancy LeMay
Susan Lesneski
Karen Lewis
Gerald Lewis

Charles Lieb
Vicki Losson
Richard Mamrosh
Todd Marsh
David Mau
Kristina Mendez
Amy Miller
Keith Murie
Allison Nault
Robin Nelson
Kealey Neuville
Roxann Nys
Howard Ozz
Kathrine Patterson
Mary K. Piontek
Terri Plautz
Patricia Poole
Linda and Dave Racine
Susan Regnier
Bill Reiser
Kim Ronsman
Frank Sadlon
Judith Saldana
Karen Schumacher
Laura Seymer
Carol Shield
Carol Sippel
Kathleen Smits-Linsmeyer
Bruce and Jane Stoehr
Gwendolyn Strampp
Michael Telzrow
Daniel Terrien
Brad Toll
Brenda Touchinski
Dixie Tubbs
Keith Tyczkowski
Ruth Vollrath
Philip Weist
Alex Wendt
Angela Wied
Kandie Wilz
Lauren Wojcik
Krista Wright
Hung-Wen Yen
Lori Zaskey
Joan Zwicky



Questions about
membership?
Contact Madeleine,
Director of
Development at (920)
448-5150 ext. 402 or
madeleine@
heritagehillgb.org



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



HERITAGE·HILL

STATE HISTORICAL PARK

2640 S. Webster Ave. Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 448-5150 | info@heritagehillgb.org

STAY CONNECTED

Visit us on social media: @heritagehillgb on any of the 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

STAFF

Michael E. Telzrow
Executive Director

Nick Backhaus
Director of Operations

David Haack
Preservation Carpenter

Madeleine Buchholz-Kneeland
Director of Development

Claire E. Gwaltney
*Director of Engagement
and Visitor Services*

Amanda Howard
*Director of Sales
and Private Events*

Diana Fligelman
*Events Coordinator
and Visitor Services*

Bob Bloedorn
Accountant

Elizabeth Jolly
Senior Marketing Specialist

