

THE HUB CITY CHRONICLE

-NEWSLETTER OF THE PLYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY-

Christmas 2010

Volume 21

Number 5

CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM

Our dining room is ready receive guests! This holiday season we have a beautiful "Christmas Dinner" display with china from Theodore and Wilhelmina Herring, of Greenbush. The Herring's, who immigrated from Germany in 1853, settled in Greenbush where Theodore operated a successful sawmill. The dishes, circa 1870's, have a beautiful pattern of various outdoor scenes.



Christmas menus from 1840 to 1890 offer a glimpse of popular fares. German feather trees are adorned with vintage decorations.

The dining room chairs were manufactured at the Plymouth Furniture company. An Edison phonograph, vintage harp, parlor stove, and ornate rocking horse, compliment the surroundings.

Special thanks to Jean Bohnhoff, Ray Piper, and Dan Buckman, for creating our Christmas Dining Room.

CELTIC CHRISTMAS TEA NOLLAIG SHONA! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

A collaborative Irish – Christmas program

Saturday, Dec. 4th – 1:00 to 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon

Christmas treats, traditional brown bread, tea & coffee, will be served in addition to entertainment and conversation.

Music by O'Connor & Theiss.

Sponsored by the Sheboygan County Historical Research Center, the Sheboygan County Chapter of Celtic Women International and the Plymouth Historical Society.

A donation of \$3 is suggested. This event is open to the public.
Snow date Saturday Dec. 11th.



Do you have memories of those little cardboard houses under the Christmas tree? With the cellophane windows and roofs sprinkled with glittering snow? Often times these house or villages were displayed in a prominent place during the Christmas season. The mantle, dining room buffet, coffee table, or even in a corner of a room.

These houses date back to the early 1900's and were manufactured in Germany, however, thousands were produced and imported from Japan in the 1920's and 1930's. They were known as a "Putz" scene. Most had holes cut in the back to illuminate the cellophane windows. Sears and Montgomery Ward's offered various shapes and sizes in the 1920's with fencing and figurines.

The early versions were quite detailed and were an architectural marvel. Some were covered with silk floss, giving them a pebbled surface, others had bottle brush trees.

Putz houses continued to be produced but by the 1960's the styles were very simple. Most were referred to "Japanese houses" as they have a "made in Japan" stamp on the bottom. You can find these at antique stores, resale shops, at auctions, and on e-bay.

We have a variety of buildings from the collections of Jean Bohnhoff and Dan Buckman on display at the museum this Christmas season. It may bring back memories of your Christmas past, or better yet, create memories for the future.

The museum is decorated for the Christmas season! Visitors will see a variety of ornaments, Christmas cards, a fine collection of butter dishes, a ceramic village with houses, shops and figurines extending along the entry wall – a must for children and will be appreciated by adults too. An ornament that once hung on a street lamp on Mill street, circa 1980, is again illuminated – this time it's in the warm confines of our museum. Stop by and enjoy the holiday season with us!

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND HOURS – FRIDAY 10:00 TO 8:00 P.M.
SATURDAY 10:00 TO 4:00 P.M. – SUNDAY 10:00 TO 3:00 P.M.

Christmas Cookie Sale! Once again we have an opportunity to sell home-made delectable's – Christmas Cookies! Many of our friends are busy baking their favorite recipes which will be sold in assortments at \$5 per box. The museum will be open the Friday after Thanksgiving, Saturday and Sunday. We guarantee a complete "sell-out" so run like a bunny to make your purchase – you don't want to be disappointed!



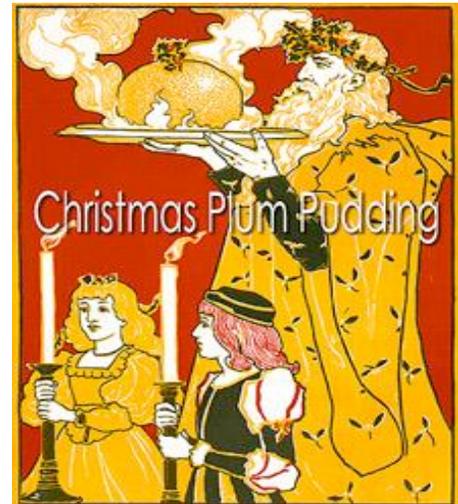
Carol

If you would like to donate a few dozen cookies they may be dropped off at the museum Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday Nov. 22 – 24th from 10 o'clock in the morning to 3 o'clock in the afternoon, or, call Meyer at (920)-892-4652 for more information or alternative delivery times. The Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday drop off is preferred to allow volunteers time to carefully package the cookies prior to the sale. Please! No store bought cookies, bars or bakery. The volunteers will have to eat them!

Silent Auction! Take a peek at our silent auction items available Thanksgiving weekend. Included is a child's writing desk from the 1940's, a wicker stand, cups with the 12-days of Christmas designs, 12-large Packer posters from the 1988 era, donations from The Wreath Factory & Fibber McGee's, a Diners Delight basket with 10 - \$10 gift certificates, and much more. Bidding begins Friday and ends at noon on Sunday. Winners will be notified Sunday afternoon.

Plum Pudding

Plum pudding, a Christmas dessert, has been served on Christmas day for centuries. The traditional plum pudding is served in a blaze, with a sprig of holly stuck on top. A little brandy poured over it and lighted at the last moment produces the desired effect. Favorite plum pudding recipes have been handed down from generation to generation, which add to the festivities of the holiday. Plum pudding is best when made four or five weeks prior to Christmas and can be stored for months. During the Victorian era, a silver coin was baked in the plum pudding, with a promise of wealth in the coming year.



In our Gift Shop –

Christmas books by author Rochelle Pennington

The Christmas Tree Ship – \$17
The story of Captain Santa.

The Historic Christmas Tree Ship – \$20
A true story of Faith, Hope & Love.

An Old Fashioned Christmas – \$20
Tinsel, Gingerbread Men & Billie-the-Brownie.

Also available – a fine selection of vintage jewelry, post cards, cookbooks, and other publications of local interest.

The Museum is open Thrs-Fri-Sat-Sun. through December
Closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day.
Winter hours begin in January – Fri. & Sat.
Hours are 10 to 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Dear Santa,

This year we would like a special delivery to the museum. We could use computer paper, white and assorted colors would be fine, pads of writing paper, recipe size cards, post-it notes, cleaning supplies and paper towels, a lap top, and books of postage stamps.

Dec. 20, 1916 - Plymouth Review: C.C. Corbett – Jeweler and Optometrist Victrola Agent – store open every evening. Pyrex oven ware makes an ideal Christmas gift. For a gift that will please select some article of jewelry.

Jan.14, 1939 – Spartanburg Journal: Sheboygan, Wisconsin – Ten years ago Mrs. Carl Schwinling lost a ruby engagement ring while feeding meal to a cow on her father's farm near Plymouth. This week the cow was butchered and the ring recovered. It was as good as new.

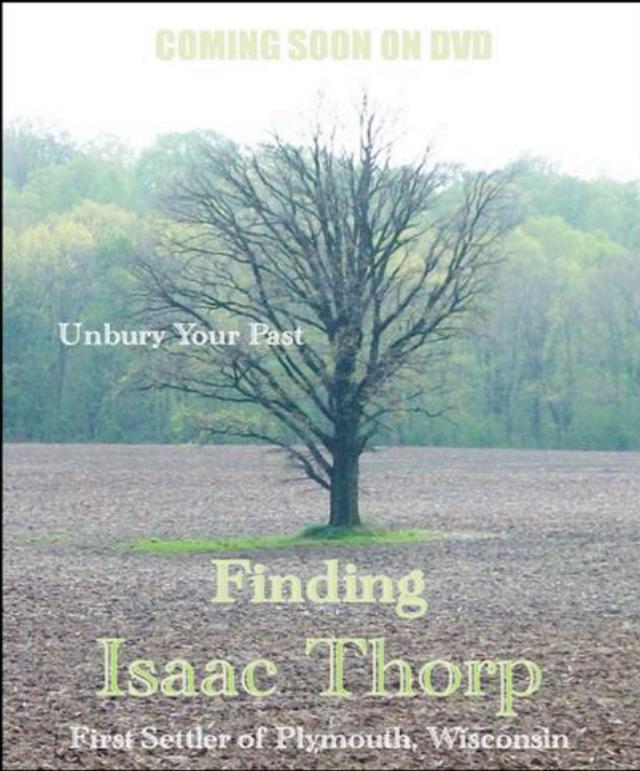
Artificial Christmas trees were originally made in Germany as early as 1845. During the mid-part of the 19th century, Christmas trees were becoming ever more popular for the celebration. In Germany deforestation was widespread, especially during the cold winter months. It had become the fashion to chop off the tip of a large Fir tree to use as a Christmas tree, however, this prevented the tree from maturing, making it useless as a timber tree. Statutes were enacted to limit people to having no more than one tree, hence protecting the forests. With the advent of the "goose feather" tree, this problem was resolved.

Goose feathers were plentiful and these trees became the first artificial Christmas trees. Metal sticks were covered with goose, turkey, or ostrich feathers which were often dyed green to imitate pine needles. These branches are then attached to a wooden rod, supported in a round or square wooden base. These bases replicated the wooden buckets that were used for bases of live evergreens in Germany.

The trees were made to resemble the white pines of the German forestland, so they had wide spaces between their branches that make them ideal for showing off Christmas ornaments, with berries or candle holders on the end of every branch tip.

German immigrants brought the earliest feather Christmas trees to America as an integral part of their celebration. Many goose feather trees were "tabletop trees," so they were easily transported to America along with other Christmas traditions.

On
Christ-
mas morn-
ing when I
awake, and
sleep-dust from
my eyes I shake, I
see a sight that
makes me start and
causes thumpings in my
heart! A Christmas tree –
oh, pretty sight – with can-
dles, bells and balls alight.
With horns and dolls and sugar
plums, and skates and trains and
beating drums. And oh, it is a wonder-
tree, with heaps of things for me
to see! Rare gifts hang upon
the side, which tinsel'd fairies
cannot hide. A soldierdoll, a doll house,
too, and strings of gold come to
my view and as I look I seem
to hear sweet Christmas music
soft and clear,
A Merry Christmas
it seems to say,
A merry, happy, holy day!
Dec. 20, 1916 - Plymouth Review



Plymouth Film Documentary
COMING IN WINTER ON DVD
Dan Buckman, President of
The Plymouth Historical Society
attempts to solve the mystery
of one man's final resting place
and finds so much more.



To View A Trailer For The Upcoming Documentary Go To www.plymouthhistoricalsociety.com

DVD will be available soon! *Stay tuned for more information* – the Plymouth Review, Hub City Chronicle, the Plymouth Historical Society website, or call the museum at 920-893-1876 to reserve your copy. A story of the early history of Plymouth that you will not want to miss. And you won't believe what we found along the way!

The Walldogs will be in Plymouth June 22 -26th, 2011. A number of murals will be painted by professional artists from around the globe. Some of the mural subjects include the cheese industry, Dairy State Bank, Road America, Plymouth Bottling Works, Chaplain's Airfield, Mill pond dam, Plymouth Military, Wadhams-Mobil gas station, Railroad, church history, Plymouth Brewing company, Hi-Ho soda, fire department, Plymouth Maid Ketchup, Plymouth Rocker & Phonograph company, and Isaac Thorp.

If you have any photos, history, memorabilia, etc., please drop information off at the museum or call the museum at 920-893-1876. You may also contact Jerry Thompson, coordinator of the event, at 920-892-6921.

You are encouraged to visit the Walldogs website to see murals that have been painted in other cities. They are works of art. www.thewalldogs.com



Dec. 20, 1916 – Plymouth Review: Work on the Plymouth Hospital has been hampered by want of brick. They cannot be gotten now because of the car embargo, but the work on the building will be prosecuted with vigor as circumstances will permit. Well wishers of the hospital are planning to pass the

winter months in sewing needed bed linens and other furnishings. The board would suggest that the size of bed sheets in use will be 96 by 68 inches. Pillows of goose or duck feathers would be welcome donations.

Program for Christmas – Catholic church: 12 o'clock midnight: "Silent Night" by a four voice choir, Mrs. Schlaigh presiding; high mass after the song. Offertory: "Adeste Fideles." Sermon: "What does Christmas mean for the world at present?" Mass in honor of St. Caecilia by Rev. Turner. After the mass the song, "And There were Shepherds."



Dec. 27, 1916 – Plymouth Review: Miss Eckart, chief telephone operator, had a Christmas party Saturday evening. The directors' room in the telephone building was artistically decorated in red and green and the tree was prettily trimmed. The operators gave each other presents and the telephone company presented each of the employees with a box of candy.

The employees of the Plymouth Furniture company were pleasantly surprised on each receiving from their employers a goose or box of cigars. Men of families received geese and the others cigars.



Alvin F. Ackerman – *Santa Claus Headquarters* for the largest assortment of Toilet cases, Hair brushes, Manicure sets, and Mirrors. 30 different styles of Eastman Kodak cameras from \$1 to \$60. Cigars and Merschaum pipes from \$3.50 to \$8.00. Guth & Liggert's Candies from 50 cents to \$3.00. Also Lowney's candies. Rubber tired, folding Doll Go-cart at \$2.50. Dec. 27, 1916

Selling out the entire stock of up-to-date clothing, furnishings, hats, caps, gloves, mittens and fancy novelties, suitable for holiday gifts. Sale begins Thrs. December 21 and lasts ten days only.

Everything must be sold – nothing reserved. All fixtures for sale at any price.

Oscar L. Langjahr's Old Stand, 319 E. Mill street.

Dec. 27, 1916



1868 Thanksgiving Preparations
From Harper's Weekly, titled "Preparing for Thanksgiving." Shows a woman at a grocer's shop, examining a turkey that the grocer is offering.



1871 New England Farm Thanksgiving.

From Harper's Weekly, showing a large family seated around a farmhouse table for their Thanksgiving feast.

**Blessings to you this Thanksgiving
and Merry Christmas!**

The Museum is open Thrs-Fri-Sat-Sun. through December – closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day.
Winter hours begin in January – Fri. & Sat. Hours are 10 to 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mark your calendar! Christmas at the Museum – Nov. 26, 27, 28th – Annual Meeting March 17, 2011
Union Cemetery Walk – May 22, 2011 – Ladies Tea Sept. 10, 2011 – Polish Dinner Fall 2011



📖 The story of Issac Thorp – Don't Miss It! 📖

The Museum Gift Shop is open and offers special gifts – Plymouth mugs, shirts, publications of local interest, vintage jewelry, ornaments, street signs, cook books, Plymouth post cards, CD's, and more. Stop by and take a look!

Web Site – Visit the society at: www.Plymouthhistoricalsociety.com

* Thank-you to NSite Designs for designing and maintaining our web site *

The Museum is located at 420 E. Mill Street – downtown Plymouth
Our mailing address is P.O. Box 415, Plymouth WI 53073

Museum phone number: 920-893-1876 e-mail: phs@plymouthhistoricalsociety.com

Board of Directors: President – Dan Buckman; Vice President – Carol Meyer;
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Newsletter Sponsorship – The society is seeking businesses or individuals to sponsor a newsletter. A monetary donation (\$100) is utilized to help defray publication costs. Newsletters are published in a paper and electronic format reaching a wide audience. Sponsors will be acknowledged. For information call the museum at 893-1876, or, e-mail at phs@plymouthhistoricalsociety.com