



Reminder:

Saturday morning NLHHS meetings have been canceled indefinitely.

Upcoming events:

APRIL 8 - Easter Egg Hunt, 10am ages 6 and under, 10:30am ages 7 and up, (Historical Village)

APRIL 22 - Hamlets of Mukwa, 1pm, (Mukwa Town Hall), 8514 Weyauwega Road

MAY 6 - **Registration Required**, Mother's Day Tea, 11am (Thern Farm)

MAY 20 - Plant Sale, 8am - 11am, (Historical Village)

MAY 20 - Open House, 1pm - 4pm, (Historical Village)

JUNE 3 - Open House, 1 pm - 4pm (Historical Village)

JUNE 10 - Rhubarb Fest, 9am - 2pm (Thern Farm)

JUNE 17 - Open House & Picnic, 1pm - 4pm (Historical Village)

JUNE 23 - Friday Market, 2pm - 6pm (Thern Farm)

Visit our websites for more info!

Happy 2023 from all of us at the New London Heritage Historical Society! Welcome to our new members!

We have been hard at work planning our events for the year and are excited about everything we have scheduled. It's going to be a busy year!

Just a reminder that all members are invited to attend both the farm and village sub-committee meetings. This is where we plan programs and events, discuss maintenance, and take care of all the other details of running both sites. The next Village meeting is February 21 at 8:30am at the Depot and the next Farm meeting is March 22 at 8:15am at the Farm.

We are always looking for more help so if you are interested in volunteering your time or talents, please let us know!

Megan Koehler

NLHHS - Thern Farm & Historical Village



The log cabin was dedicated 25 years ago at the Historical Village. This will be celebrated at an open house in July.



THERN FARM SEEKS NOMINATION

Contributor: Jennifer L. Lehrke, AIA, NCARB

Principal Architect, Interior Designer & Historic Preservation Consultant Legacy Architecture, Inc

This past July, Thern Farm started the exciting process of seeking a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Thern Farm was previously considered in both 1988 and 1997, for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as the historic site of the New London Fairgrounds. However, it was rejected because the physical characteristics of the fair some of which included a grandstand, racetrack, and gatekeeper's lodge were gone.



The Thern Farm has been nominated to be listed in National Register of Historic Places. If such recognition is awarded, it would be the first place in New London to receive that honor. James Card Photo

Since then, a new farmstead methodology has been developed by the State Historic Preservation Office at the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS).

Earlier this summer, another evaluation of the property's eligibility for listing in the National Register, focusing on the farmstead methodology, was prepared by Legacy Architecture, Inc. of Sheboygan and submitted to the WHS. The results of that effort were a favorable opinion by the WHS to proceed with a nomination for the Thern Farmstead as locally significant in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of a collection of nineteenth and twentieth-century dairy farm buildings. All of the buildings are vernacular and utilitarian and possess a high level of integrity. Of the nine buildings located on the farm, eight of them fall under the criteria required for the nomination.

The National Register of Historic Places honor properties significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. A property is listed in the register after a nomination documenting its historic significance is approved by the Wisconsin Historic Preservation Review Board, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the National Park Service. Nominations are complex technical documents that require extensive research, the ability to describe architectural features, write a historical analysis, and closely adhere to rigorous technical instructions. Legacy Architecture completed the nomination and submitted it in early January. This was their 52nd nomination to the National Register over the last 13 years. The decision on whether to place Thern Farm on the National Register of Historic Places is expected to be made later this year.

Upcoming Events, by Sylvia Stern

NLHHS at the village will have an Easter Egg Hunt on April 8. It will begin at 10:00 for children 6 and under and 10:30 for children 7 and older. Don't be late because it goes fast and when the eggs are gone it is done. On April 22, a program on, "The Hamlets of Mukwa," will be co-hosted by NLHHS and the Mukwa Township at the Mukwa town hall in Northport from 1:00 to 3:00 with a short break in the middle for stretching and light refreshments. The program will be presented by Martin Wilson who collected history and pictures and also lived there in his youth. He has the information in an attractive format that can be purchased and then put into binders. Anyone who has stories, pictures, and other memorabilia is welcome to bring for sharing later.

On May 20 we will have a Plant Sale at the village from 8:00 to 11:00. We welcome donations of perennials, shrubs, trees, garden tools, and lawn ornaments. The plantings around the buildings came from the generous donations of people. Please bring the donations before the time the sale starts. Call if you need to bring them the day before.



Projects at the Village

There are a couple of projects at the Village that will be started this year. They have been in the works for a while and are finally ready to begin. One project was necessitated by the unfortunate acts of vandalism that took place at the village last year. More outdoor lighting will be installed with the hope that this will be a deterrent for any other vandalism. We are grateful to our village neighbors that help keep an eye on things.

The second project we will begin soon is the installation of heating and air conditioning split units in the Octagon House, Schoolhouse, and Church. Mold has become a problem in these buildings and in order to protect and preserve the many historical artifacts contained within we need to regulate the temperature. This is a big project for the village, but is needed to keep our collections protected for many years to come. We are hopeful that we can expand our programs year round since the village is currently only open in the warmer months.

One final project we are hoping to complete is painting the Octagon House. The Octagon House was built in New London in 1867-68 and was considered an architectural feat. In addition to its eight-sided shape, it was quite a showplace in its time. The parlor was complete with pump organ, plush couches, and large framed portraits on easels. A cupola on the roof topped a spiral staircase in the center of the house. Do we repaint it white as it is currently, or do we paint it in a victorian color scheme popular at that time? Stay tuned!

A new caboose for historical society

The newest addition to the New London Heritage Historical Society Village on Montgomery Street is a cream colored caboose which will join the little red caboose on the village railroad tracks.

The Chicago Northwestern Railway caboose left from East Minneapolis on Dec. 8 on the Northwestern Railroad to Merrilan, WI. From there to New London it was transported by Green Bay Western Railroad arriving the following Thursday night.

On Saturday, Jan. 16 the caboose was brought in and through New London by truck, (actually two trucks), to the historical village site. It was set up on the track there next to the other caboose.

Historical Society President Bob Polaske said the caboose was built in 1968 and is all-steel construction. It served in the Wyoming coal fields and in the Iowa and Nebraska areas. In 1980 it

was completely reconditioned--painted inside and out, with electric lights an oil burner and an ice box installed.

Polaske said it will be reconditioned to original and will be ready for the public to explore during the historical society summer season.

Historical society members had a lot of generous help in this latest addition to a village which will now include a school-house, an Octagon House, an old depot, a church and two cabooses.

The two trucks and trailers, equipment and the men were donated by Murphy Construction Co. of New London. Dawes Rigging & Crane Rental Inc. of Kaukauna donated the use of the crane and rigging equipment. Glenn Feltes of Sherwood was the crane operator.

Doug Tyler and Randy Hooyman did the truck driving, and Gene Hooyman was manager and equipment coordinator.

The NLHHS has lost a longtime member.



Robert James Polaske passed away on Saturday, December 24, 2022, at the age of 94 at Willow Lane Assisted Living in Appleton, WI. Bob was born in New London, WI on November 16, 1928. He is the son of Leonard and Mary (Rohan) Polaske. Bob had two brothers, Clement and Leon, and one sister Katherine.

Bob attended Most Precious Blood School and graduated in 1947 from New London High School.

In September of 1947, Bob went to work for the AT&T Phone Company. He was an installation and repair technician and worked there for 36 years before retiring.

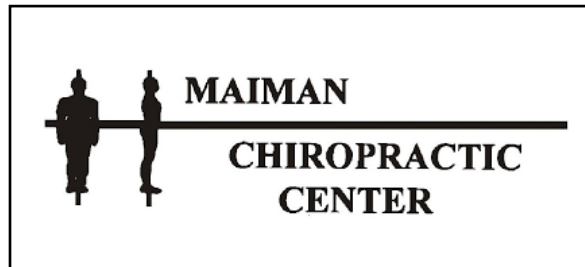
Bob served in the United States Army from 1950-1952 on active duty and from 1952-1982 in the reserves. He took great pride in serving his country and received one of the highest honors; Command Sergeant Major.

Bob was a lifelong resident of New London and loved his community very much. He founded the Heritage Historical village in New London. He was President for 32 years and a hands on contributor. He purchased the locomotive and yellow caboose as well as other memorabilia for the Village.

Full obituary can be found at: www.clinehansonfuneralhome.com

Maintenance and preservation at the Historical Village and Thern Farm, as well as providing programs and events, is a monumental responsibility. The support of local business, through their generous donations, helps to offset costs and directly impacts our mission of preserving the history of our area.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION:





The New London Heritage Historical Society is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations to the Historical Society are used for maintenance, education and preservation programs and are 100% tax deductible.

2022 NLHHS OFFICERS:

Charmaine Gerndt, *President*
Tony Fuller, *Vice-President*
Sylvia Stern, *Secretary*
Betty Neuzil, *Treasurer*

Historical Village

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920-982-8557

Thern Farm

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thernfarmnl@gmail.com
920-878-2400

Mailing address for both:

PO Box 84, New London, WI 54961



Follow the New London Heritage Historical Society & Thern Farm on Facebook.

NLHHS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Online registration available: www.thernfarmnl.com/nlhhs

Annual Membership Fees: \$15 per student/veteran, \$20 per individual, \$45 per family. Also offered: \$300 Lifetime.

Fill in form below and mail to: NLHHS Membership, P.O. Box 84, New London, WI 54961 Checks can be made payable to NL Heritage Historical Society

Name _____ New Member or Renewal _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone # _____ Email _____ Preferred way to be contacted _____

Amount included _____ Student/Vet \$15 _____ Individual \$20 _____ Family \$45 _____ Lifetime \$300

Comments: _____

Thank you for supporting the New London Heritage Historical Society!