



## Celebrating 130th anniversary of the beginning of New London City Fair!

I am well pleased with the "fair" pieces presented this summer at Thern Farm - bicycle tricks and horse racing in July and August, following another great Rhubarb Fest in June. The Friday Farm Markets have been a success. I took home a pie from Betty and a craft item from one of the vendors. I saw wedding preparations from one of many held at the Farm this summer, with more to come next year. What a growing joy for us!

Farm Director Megan has been enrolled in a class to train Directors of non-profit organizations like the Thern Farm, so I hope to see what she is learning as a new year approaches.

Finally, I want to thank the dedicated volunteers and Megan for a wonderful fresh start after a year of pandemic closures. The Farm is doing great, so invite your friends to come and see and consider volunteering to help out!

*Tony Fuller, President of New London Heritage Historical Society*





EST. 1987

# HISTORICAL VILLAGE

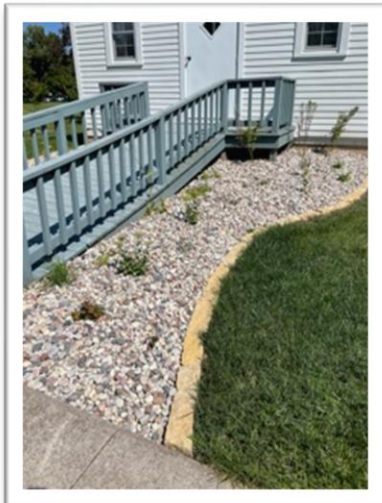
NEW LONDON HERITAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



On June 26 and 27, our first major event at the historical village was the reenactment of the Civil War involving different divisions of the north and south. The first day was rained out but the second day allowed us to have a skirmish between the two with real artillery. The reenactors in their roles made history come alive with their costumes and demonstrations.



On August 2nd, Wolfrath's Landscaping helped us start landscaping around the church and octagon house to start a memorial garden to honor past members who gave much of their time and talents. This is still a work in progress.

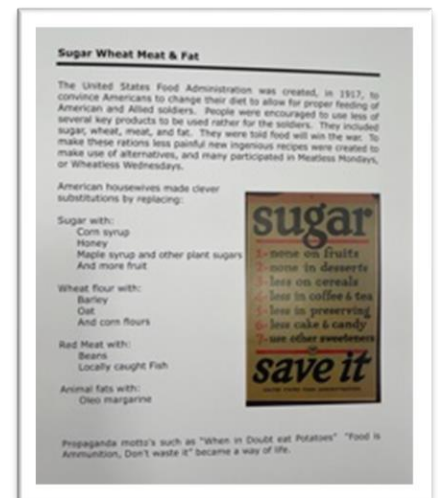


On August 7th we had our Heritage Day with a World War 1 theme with items on loan from the Military Veterans Museum and Education Center in Oshkosh.

We also had old posters depicting the home front and encouraging people to buy bonds and ration their food for the war effort. People were encouraged to plant gardens, children were out selling bonds and women were working in factories.

In 1918, as thousands of American troops headed to Europe for the closing of WW1, many died of the Spanish flu.

We had the Bloodmobile, a young lady impersonating Clara Barton, and a large rummage sale. Rain was a problem again.





On May 15<sup>th</sup> we had a perennial plant sale at the village. Historical Society members and non-members brought extra perennials, small trees, a few house plants and vegetable garden plants they had started. There were also flowerpots, bird houses, and a few tools. It also brought in people who had never been there before. It was fun discussing how to grow certain plants and talk about their problems and successes. The plants that were not sold were either planted around a tree by the Simmons Building or taken home to be saved for a future landscaping project. That project took place in August. We divided up the hostas and planted the perennials that survived from the sale. *(Submitted by Charmaine Gerndt)*



### **Camp Hatten Visits**

We were given the chance to host Camp Hatten at both sites. Camp Hatten is a summer program for children of grade school age that provides a variety of activities. They had requested that we show what life was like in New London about a 100 years ago.

Outside of our log cabin in our Village, we showed the children how they washed clothes back in 1900. We also had someone cooking over an open fire the way they might have. They got to taste the stew. We provided some games that the children would have played at that time such as Hopscotch and jump rope.

The school teacher gave them some math lessons in the fashion of the 1900's. The children were surprised to find that they were similar to their lessons now. In the Octagon House, they got to churn butter, see how a Edison phonograph worked, looked over the cook stove to see the parts, and saw some early hair styling tools. While we churned butter, they learned how to play "button, button". It was a great pleasure to share our history with the children.

Schedule: We are in the process of planning for the fall. We are hoping to have something for Halloween and Christmas time. Stay tuned for announcements of things to come. *(Submitted by Charmaine Gerndt)*





We had a very busy summer at Thern Farm filled with events, weddings, and more! Our volunteers put in a lot of work, we love sharing the farm with everyone so it's worth it! As we keep an eye on the constantly evolving news of Covid, we are hopeful we can continue with programs and events through the remainder of the year.

*Megan Koehler, Director*

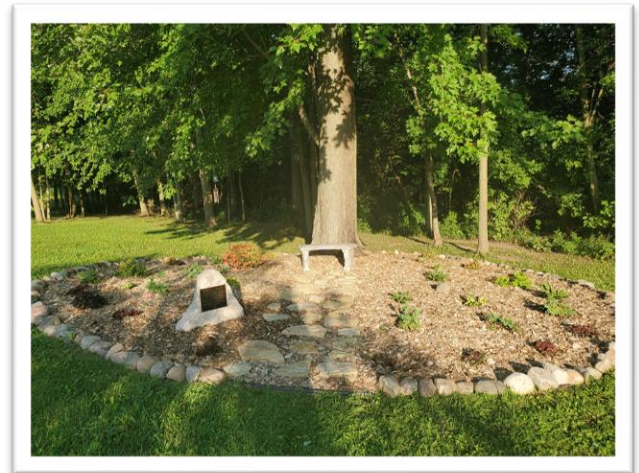
### **Memorial Garden**

Last summer, with the downtime due to Covid, we were able to complete several major projects around the farm. With our busy schedule this summer, we were only able to complete one project. However, this was a very special project.

During one of the hottest weeks of the summer, volunteers Lindy, Arnie, and Betty completed a memorial garden located just west of the farmhouse. It was a labor-intensive project that started by laying weed fabric, hauling, and setting stones around the border, spreading woodchips, planting a variety of shade plants, laying pavers for a path, and installing a bench. All this hard work in the hot sun was made easier by the laughs and fun that come from working so well together.

Our memorial garden will be a place to honor the memory of those that gave their time, talents, and resources to Thern Farm and was funded in part through donations made in remembrance of farm volunteer Judy McDaniel.

Please feel free to stop by and visit this peaceful corner of the farm. *(Submitted by Megan Koehler)*





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - Betty Neuzil

If you've ever been to an event at Thern Farm you have probably met Betty. Betty loves to volunteer at Thern Farm and we are so lucky to have her! Not only does she donate her time to help around the farm she also volunteers her accounting expertise as the treasurer for the farm.

She always has a smile on and will talk non-stop about the farm to anyone that will listen. If you've had a pie or bread from one of our bake sales, chances are Betty made it. She is a fantastic baker and loves to harvest from the farm garden or rhubarb patch to make her delicious recipes. Betty is also a Master Gardener, she has put in countless hours planning and planting flowers and other plants that enhance the beauty of the farm. We get so many comments on how beautiful everything is.

On top of everything she brings to the farm she is also quite the historian. Having been a lifelong New London resident she has a wealth of information to share about the area.

Thank you for all you do Betty!



A new event we started this summer was our Friday Markets. On six Fridays throughout the summer, vendors gathered on the lawn with a great variety of produce, baked goods, honey, crafts, and more! We were very excited by the response from vendors and attendees and will be looking at ways to make it even bigger and better next summer!

*We are always looking for more volunteers at the farm! It is a lot of work to keep everything running smoothly and every little bit helps. If you can spare some time, we would really appreciate it! Call 920-878-2400 or email [thernfarmnl@gmail.com](mailto:thernfarmnl@gmail.com) for more info.*





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

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**NLHHS MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Membership Fees: Annual fee \$10 per Individual or \$15 per Family. Lifetime membership option of \$300.

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

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Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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