



Upcoming events:

OCTOBER 19 - Cemetery Walk, 1pm - 3pm (Most Precious Blood Cemetery)

OCTOBER 26 - Fall Fun on the Farm, 10am - 12pm (Farm)

OCTOBER 31 - Trick or Treat, 5pm - 7pm (Village)

NOVEMBER 16 - Porch Pot Class, registration required, (Farm)

NOVEMBER 23, Annual Meeting, 9am (Farm)

DECEMBER 7 - Christmas at the Village, 9am - 12pm (Village)

DECEMBER 14 - Christmas on the Farm, 11am - 2pm

Stay tuned for 2025 events!

Visit our website for more info!

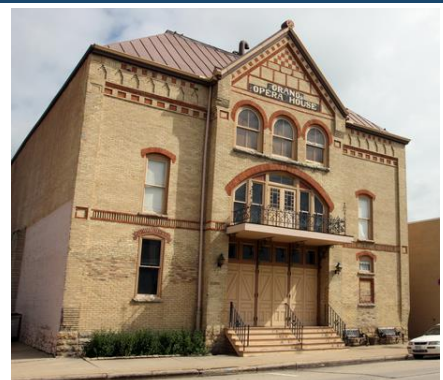
Happy Fall! It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of 2024. As the year winds down, that means it's time once again to renew your NLHHS Membership. You should have received an email with a membership form attached, but if not, you can always print out a form on the website, [www.newlondonwihistory.org](http://www.newlondonwihistory.org), under the membership tab. Please try and get it back before the end of the year. As always, we are grateful for your support! If you could please share the membership info with others we would appreciate it!

You are also invited to the annual meeting on November 23 at 9am. The meeting will be held at Thern Farm and all members and prospective members are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to [thernfarmnl@gmail.com](mailto:thernfarmnl@gmail.com) if you can make it. This will be a potluck breakfast as well so please bring a dish to share.

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 Grand Theater has been a topic of conversation recently. Built in 1894 as an opera house, it has been a fixture of downtown New London. In the late 1990s the theater was in need of repair and concerned citizens formed Friends of the Grand. Through their efforts the building was able to be saved. However, once again the Grand Theater is facing an uncertain future as it requires extensive work to remain usable. It is currently for sale.



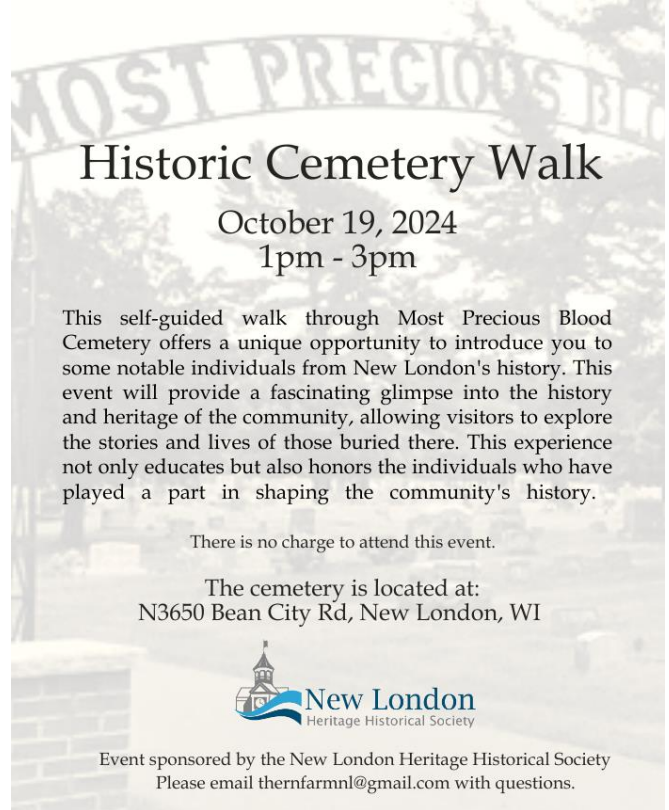
## Historic Cemetery Walk

We are excited to sponsor this brand-new event. On October 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding a historic cemetery walk at Most Precious Blood Cemetery. This self-guided walk will introduce you to some of the individuals that helped to shape New London into the community we know.

Jean Skewes at MPB Parish has been so helpful in getting us information and answering our questions for this event.

The is no cost to attend this event!

Make sure to stay up to date on this event and others by following us on Facebook and checking the website.




## Historic Cemetery Walk

October 19, 2024  
1pm - 3pm

This self-guided walk through Most Precious Blood Cemetery offers a unique opportunity to introduce you to some notable individuals from New London's history. This event will provide a fascinating glimpse into the history and heritage of the community, allowing visitors to explore the stories and lives of those buried there. This experience not only educates but also honors the individuals who have played a part in shaping the community's history.

There is no charge to attend this event.

The cemetery is located at:  
N3650 Bean City Rd, New London, WI



Event sponsored by the New London Heritage Historical Society  
Please email [thernfarmnl@gmail.com](mailto:thernfarmnl@gmail.com) with questions.



## Civil War at the Historical Village

After having to cancel the Civil War Reenactment in June due to the weather, we were excited to be able to reschedule for September.

Attendees were treated to a look back into American history with demonstrations showcasing military and civilian life. They were also able to view live action battles complete with the firing of cannons.



## Holiday Events at the Historical Village & Thern Farm

We've got two festive holiday events this December to help you to celebrate the season. First up on December 7, from 9am – 12pm, you can step back in time at Christmas at the Historical Village. Tour the buildings decorated for the holidays and complete the Santa scavenger hunt while you are there. There is no cost to attend; donations are appreciated.

The following weekend, December 14<sup>th</sup>, is Christmas on the farm. The cost is just \$10/car and includes all of the activities: Santa, reindeer, sleigh rides, face painting, music, and more! This is a fun family event! Additionally, the farmhouse at Thern Farm will also be open on 12/14 from 5pm – 7pm for those that just wish to tour the house without the other activities. There will be one more opportunity to tour the farmhouse on 12/27 from 5pm – 7pm.

Make sure to dress for the weather as the majority of both of the events takes place outdoors.



EST. 1987

**HISTORICAL VILLAGE**

NEW LONDON HERITAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**CHRISTMAS**  
AT THE HISTORICAL VILLAGE

December 7, 2024  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
900 Montgomery Street, New London

Tour the Historical Village and view the buildings decorated for Christmas!

Santa Scavenger Hunt!

Cookies!

nlhs.village@gmail.com

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**Christmas**  
**ON THE FARM**

December 14, 2024  
11am - 2pm

EST. 1914

**TERN FARM**  
NEW LONDON HERITAGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

425 E. Fairview Drive, New London

Join us at this fun holiday event for the whole family! \$10/car includes all activities!

- Meet Santa, Mrs. Claus, and an elf
- See real live reindeer
- Take a sleigh/wagon ride around the farm
- Enjoy snacks and drinks
- Face painting
- Holiday music with Tom's Tunes
- Holiday craft
- Tour the farmhouse

The house will be open for tours again in the evening from 5pm - 7pm with no fee to attend. No other activities will be happening at that time.

Email thernfarmnl@gmail with any questions.

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## Road Construction Then & Now

There's been a lot of "discussion" lately about all of the recent road construction in New London. Perhaps a look back at the early roads of Wisconsin will help with a new appreciation for this short inconvenience to our travels.

Before the 1850s, Wisconsin did not have roads, at least not ones you would recognize. Most travel occurred on footpaths made by Native Americans or along rivers like the Milwaukee or Wisconsin.



Example of a plank road

As more people moved to Wisconsin, settlers cut thick prairies and forests into roads. This was a lot of work for simple dirt paths. Even worse, these paths would turn into mud when it rained. Travelers had to wait for wet roads to dry or risk sinking into the sticky mud.

Early settlers began to think of new ways to connect towns. However, people disagreed on the best way. Some liked railroads. They were fast and reliable but expensive. Others caught wind of Canada's successful plank roads. They heard these roads were better than dirt roads because travelers could carry heavier loads quicker, they were smoother to travel on, Wisconsin was filled with trees to make them, and they were cheaper than railroads. Additionally, plank roads were easy to make. Planks were laid down parallel with the dirt road. Then, longer and thicker planks were placed on top across the base planks. The edges of these planks were covered with dirt to keep them in place. (<https://wi101.wisc.edu/object-history-plank-roads/>)

Reeder Smith, one of New London's founders, built the plank road between Appleton and Stevens Point.

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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.

### 2024 NLHHS OFFICERS:

Charmaine Gerndt, *President*

Sylvia Stern, *Vice-President*

Kathy Braun, *Treasurer/Secretary*



Follow NLHHS Historical Village & Thern Farm on Facebook.

### Historical Village

900 Montgomery Street  
[www.historicalvillage.org](http://www.historicalvillage.org)  
[NLHHS.village@gmail.org](mailto:NLHHS.village@gmail.org)  
920-982-8557

### Thern Farm

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[thernfarmnl@gmail.com](mailto:thernfarmnl@gmail.com)  
920-878-2400

### Mailing address for both:

PO Box 84, New London, WI 54961