



MENASHA CITY SQUARE 1888

## MENASHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER MARCH, 2009

### LOOKING BACK

Our interesting visit to view Neenah's Octagon House was informational and enjoyable. Executive Director, Dave Dexter, escorted us and we viewed their collection of period furnishings. Thank you, Dave. The noon lunch saw us visiting Rep. Dean Kaufert's Under the Dome tavern. Nancy Barker gave us some historical facts about the place. All in all it was a worthwhile visit with our neighbors.

### LOOKING AHEAD

This month, on Thursday, March 12 we will meet at Menasha's Fire Station at 430 First Street. We will meet at 10:00 a.m. You will feel pride as you tour the Joint Department and learn of all our firefighters do for the communities. Lunch will follow at Michiels on Highway 47, Appleton Road. If you have any questions about arrangements, call Nancy Barker at 725-1441.

### NEXT MONTH

In April we will return to our "home" and meet on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. at our newly restored Resource Center. You will be surprised to see our freshly painted and newly organized headquarters. Katie LaMore and Jeff and Jean Chew have been "busy beavers" completely updating, organizing, and displaying all our resources and artifacts. The program that Thursday evening will be provided by our neighbor, Jack Speech, former president of the Neenah Society. He will speak on the "History of Neenah". We seem to be having a series of programs connecting us with our neighboring city. This could not have happened a few years ago, but we are pleased that we are able to profit from our close friendship.

## IRISHFEST

Menasha Action Council and Menasha Library are sponsoring Irishfest on Saturday, March 21, at Germania Hall. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; dinner and program are at 6:30-9:30 p.m. There will be Irish food, dancing, and music. Also in store are door prizes, stories, and blarney. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and must be purchased in advance at First National Bank, Germanias, or Menasha Library. Irish attire is appreciated.

## IRISH FACTS

Did you know the Irish drink more tea than any other nationality?  
Did you know that 16% of Americans claim to be of Irish descent? The other 84% are green with envy. (Ouch)

## NOTES FROM "MEMORIES OF MENASHA"

In 1998 as a part of the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial our Society published a pamphlet filled with stories remembered by our local citizens. Mildred L. Reimer wrote a story she called "The Fire Station". In connection with our next program we are reproducing Mildred's story.

"The time was 1920, the place was City of Menasha Fire Department, located in the area where Naut's Landing and Menasha Senior Center are located. I lived about a half a block down from the fire station on the opposite side of the street next to the laundry, which is still there. At that time it was owned by Ben Plowright. It was located on the corner of Main and Clay Street. Down a ways across from the laundry was a big barn and that is where the "fire horses" were kept. They were big, strong beautiful horses - two of them - and when the alarm went off, the fire fighters would have to leave the station, get the horses, and take them to the station, where they hitched them to the pumper. Then away they went at a high speed. They pounded the pavement, sparks flying from their hoofs. It was an exciting, awesome thing to see, and I thought the driver was a real hero. I even remember his name. It was Jack Dombrowski. I don't recall if they got to the fires in time to put them out - I suppose they did - or if it was just a wild ride. Of course, the pumper had to be taken back as well as the horses."