

# MENASHA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

November 2013



## HONORING OUR VETERANS MENASHA'S WORLD WAR TWO STORIES THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:00 P.M.

ELISHA D SMITH LIBRARY-COMPANY E ROOM



A sixty minute documentary on the World War Two experiences of three Menasha residents. This is a time to reflect, reminisce, and give thanks to those who have served in order to retain our FREEDOM. Come and join in sharing this event.

### EXCITING RECENT EVENTS – “MOVING FORWARD”

Five Monday evenings Mark Ropella brought his Appleton Career Academy students to view our historical artifacts and meet with some of our officers. This gave the students a chance to go out of their “comfort zone” and discover the history of an adjoining city. They, in turn, are required to further their knowledge in areas of graphic design, preservation, scanning or finding some area they are interested in pursuing. Posters have already been designed which include pictures and background information on Curtis Reed. They will be incorporated in our “Early Settlers” wall. The Career Academy has also generously donated a male mannequin to the society so we now have the Army and Navy uniforms on display.

Another step “moving forward” has begun with twenty-four 5th grade students from Butte des Morts Elementary School taking a WALKING field trip to become more informed of Menasha’s past history. They were educated by Bob Smarzinski, Jean Chew and Kathy Humski dividing them into 3 stations where they could ask questions and actually touch some of the artifacts along with viewing DVD pictures of “old” Menasha on our newly acquired TV screens. A very well-disciplined group were treated with Halloween cookies and milk before leaving the building to tour the Isle of Valor and heading on back to school for dismissal. Thank you to their dedicated teacher, Mrs. Kathryn Tegge, and Kathy Humski for making all of this possible. Hopefully, this will be a stepping-stone for future classes to acquaint them with background history of Menasha and they will, in turn, get their parents interested in becoming active participants.

The following are excerpts from the student’s responses: (Interesting!!)

“Thank you so much for your time to teach us so much about long ago. We appreciate it!”

“Were you a captain in the Vietnam War? What did you like most about the war? A lot of people died for our country.”

“I learned a lot about our country and the wars. Also our freedom. Thank you for teaching me stuff I did not know!”

“I learned how in the old days they did their hair and how they dressed. What was the horse riding outfit made out of?”

“I learned that boys had to wear a skirt on there swimming suit”.

“How long have you worked at the Menasha Historical? What do you do when no one is there? Do you like your job?”

“Thank you for volunteering to go on this awesome field trip. Thank you very much for inviting us. I love history.”

“One of the amazing things I learned was that the real hill of the dead is at Fritse Park under the hill that the slide is on.”

“What do think Menasha would be like if Elisha D. Smith hadn’t come here?”

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST ALMOST EVERYONE WROTE: “Thank you for the cookies and milk!!”

Our work is never ending! We continue to utilize our very limited space and have now received permission to extend our displays outside of our locked area. This will include pictures, maps, informational literature, hours, etc. When renting the other areas in the Memorial Building people will then be able to gain historical knowledge as well as perhaps become more involved in restoring the past.

We continue to receive royalty checks from the sale of our “Menasha” book so remember to put that on your list of presents to purchase.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET/PROGRAM  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12  
5:00 P.M.  
GERMANIA HALL

"Menasha High School Fire of 1936"

42 persons attended our October meeting at which Christine Williams of the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway presented a program on the history and geography of the Fox River and the lock systems.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Todd & Sara Grimm  
Linda Knorr Grishaber  
Kathy & Wayne Humski  
Marie Keddell  
Allen & Barbara Kozlowski  
Gary Smarzinski

**Membership Dues:**  
\$15/individual, \$25/couple  
Menasha Historical Society  
P. O. Box 255  
Menasha, WI 54952



Board Meeting – Monday, Nov. 4, 6:00 p.m.

RESOURCE CENTER & MUSEUM

(Located at 640 Keyes Street)  
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