

# HERITAGE TOURISM GUIDE

for the Green Lake Country Area



*It's never too late to be present in our past.*

# INTRODUCTION

## to the Green Lake Country Area

The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States defines heritage tourism as “traveling to experience the places, artifacts and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past” through cultural, historic or natural resources.

In Green Lake Country, our story is told through the Historical Societies and museums who take you into our past, show you where we came from, who we were then and who we’ve become today. Heritage Tourism means visiting our small, quasi-rural towns, meeting a local volunteer and engaging in a wonderful conversation with someone who is passionate about our past and eager to share our stories with you.

When we take the time to learn about our histories, we develop a stronger respect for the people, factories, industries and families that helped shape us. By seeing photos of an old quarry, or holding the tools mine workers used, we understand their challenges, we put ourselves in their everyday lives, imagine what their reality was like. By learning how a butter churn works, exploring doctors utensils of the early 1900’s, to admiring elegant Victorian gowns and porcelain plates, or finding humor in stereoscope images, we can leave today and enter the world of yesterday. It’s “Edutainment” at a whole new level.

The pages that follow should illuminate just enough to spark your interest to come and visit the places and people that left their histories with us, so we can share their stories with you today.

We are always reminded, it’s never too late to be present in our past.

**Linda Ruggeri**

*Executive Director*

Green Lake Country Visitors Bureau

[www.glcountry.com](http://www.glcountry.com)



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The Green Lake Country Heritage Tourism guide is a celebration of community collaboration. This guide was made possible by the support of the Green Lake County Economic Development Commission, the hard work of our Historical Societies and museum volunteers, the creative efforts of Brandon Jacobs and Tami Conlon at Ripon Printers and Matt Trotter, and Green Lake Country Visitors Bureau.



*Stereoscope, Fairwater  
Historical Society*

# • BERLIN •

## WISCONSIN

### **BERLIN AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Berlin Area Historical Society was formed in 1964 fulfilling a need to have an educational institute dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of the Berlin area. Our first museum was Clark School, a quaint one-room schoolhouse which began accepting students in September of 1866. It is located in Riverside Park (entrance on Water St) and represents how rural communities were addressing the need for children's education in the 1800's with the means available to them at that time.



*1st Nations Monument*



*Clark School Museum*



## MUSEUMS

The Museum of Local History introduces the visitor to the early Indian tribes (Mascoutin, Menominee, Miami, Kickapoo, Sauk, Fox, & Winnebago) that lived here with some of their unique artifacts and stories. Then, you meet Nathan Strong and Company as they explore the area for a good river crossing. An additional room is dedicated to the many churches of Berlin with photos and artifacts depicting the era and changes through time. The second floor recognizes Berlin's industries and institutions. Climb aboard at the steamboat display for a feel of what it was like to travel the mighty Fox River.



Also located at this address is the Kroll Bottling Works building, a former carriage house/garage, which displays an early 20th century living and kitchen area with period appliances and furniture. Ice harvesting equipment from the days of ice boxes are part of the collection in this building. Early print shop equipment, when pages were set one letter at a time, round out this building's displays. Around the corner on Franklin St, is a former blacksmith shop that houses our Transportation and Tools exhibits.

The main museum is open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of June, July and August from 1 to 4 p.m. or by special request most anytime. We are also open the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. There is no charge to tour our facilities but a free-will offering is gratefully accepted so we can continue to preserve and showcase our local history. Our exhibits are constantly rotating, so we encourage visitors to call or visit our website for additional information.

### **Berlin Area Historical Society**

111 S. Adams, Berlin, WI 54923

(920) 361-2460

[berlinareahistoricalsociety.com](http://berlinareahistoricalsociety.com)



*"Gathering Cranberries" by Ray Radell (Post Office Mural)*



# • FAIRWATER •

## WISCONSIN

### FAIRWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Fairwater Historical Society was created to preserve the old Fairwater Grade School, which opened to the community in 1910. The school, a pillar of our local education, was headed for demolition after it stood empty for 18 years and was in need of massive repair. Concerned and caring Fairwater residents organized the Fairwater Historical Society with one goal in mind - restore the old two story brick grade school and use it as their museum.

The former third grade classroom now serves as the society's meeting room, document storage area and genealogy research room. This

space houses a vast collection of Utley Quarry photos and mining tools from the 1880's. The Fairbanks Room, named after a generous benefactor, was once a first grade classroom and now showcases current and former Fairwater businesses with a veteran and church display area. The original stained glass windows from the first Fairwater Baptist Church are restored and displayed here, and a true testament to art (circa 1904). Also found here are artifacts and military records of hometown heroes.

The third room, known as the Mercantile Room, also served as a former classroom. It has been converted into an old mercantile store, replicating the Lieske, Lee, and Frei stores which once did business in Fairwater. This area has a small gift shop with area post cards, the Utley Book, commemorative cups, and a society cookbook with pages of recipes from long ago. The Old Fairwater School basement has a selection of agricultural relics showcasing our successful farm community. Also found here is information on the Laper Dance Pavilion and the one item people ask most about: the

World Famous Fairwater Waterwheel, known as the largest overshot waterwheel in the western hemisphere (photos and information are available, the wheel is located on private property).

In 2009, the 1848 Plocker Inn was moved to the grounds. The inn was once part of the stagecoach stop on the Old Military Road which ran south of Fairwater. This is a must see building. Restored to its original design, it houses a variety of old photos and prints, as well as original items from the stagecoach inn. Fairwater's first post office boxes, once located at the Plocker Inn, are also found here.

The Fairwater Historical Society is open Saturdays, 1-3 p.m., May through September, and by appointment the rest of the year. We welcome your visit or questions.

### **Fairwater Historical Society**

Hwy 44, 106 Main Street

(920) 346-5140

[wlhn.org/fairwater\\_histsoc/](http://wlhn.org/fairwater_histsoc/)



*Fairwater Schoolhouse*



*Washington Street, Fairwater - 1898*



# • GREEN LAKE •

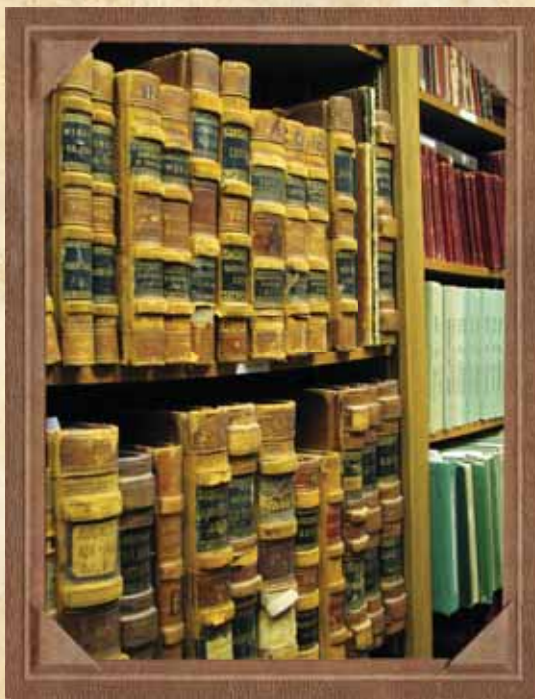
## WISCONSIN

### **DARTFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Dartford Historical Society preserves the heritage of the community. It's purpose is to tell a complete story of people and nature in our area, showing history as a continuing movement of yesterday, today and tomorrow. The Society hopes to provide each visitor, from the youngest to the oldest, with a feeling of participation and pride in this flow of history.

The Dartford Historical Society was formed in 1956. In 1974, the original Fond du Lac and Sheboygan Railroad depot was donated to the Society for a museum, which can now be found in the Friday Club Park in downtown Green Lake (554 Mill St.).

The Society continued to collect materials related to the history of the Green Lake area and by 1994 had outgrown the Depot Museum. Thomas Caestecker donated the former Caestecker Public Library to the Society (building located on the corner of Mill & South St). The Dartford Historical Society opened its new archives and exhibit galleries in June of 1995.



Over the years the Society has collected over 6,500 artifacts, 3,200 newspapers, 15,000 visual images, 900 books and 250 cubic feet of archival materials related to the history of the Green Lake area.

The Museum is open Saturday from 10 to 1 p.m. from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Society Building (501 Mill St) is open Friday from 10-4 and Saturday from 10 to noon year round. A \$1 donation is suggested for admission. There is a \$5 per day charge to access the archives. If you'd like to visit us at a different time, please call us to schedule an appointment.



# *Current Exhibits*

## **SOME OF THE EXHIBITS HOSTED AT OUR SOCIETY INCLUDE:**

- Named Streets - Walker Ave. & Ruth St.
- Stocking the Pantry - Green Lake Grocery Stores 1900-2000
- Preserving the Past - National Historic Register places in Green Lake
- Native People of Green Lake - Native Americans and mound locations
- From Field to Table - Resort hotels, farms and kitchens - 1890's
- Putting Around - Golf courses of the Green Lake area
- Early Green Lake Photographers - William Lockwood and Clinton Pierce
- Checking Out Your Home - Researching Buildings in the Green Lake area
- Off to War - Green Lake area men serving in the Civil War

### **Dartford Historical Society**

501 Mill St, Green Lake, WI 54941

(920) 294-6194

[dartfordhistorical.org](http://dartfordhistorical.org)



*Depot Museum*

# • KINGSTON • WISCONSIN

## KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY INFORMATION

The Kingston Historical Preservation Society originated in 2002, when a group of dedicated volunteers brought together the local history that many individuals had retained and collected over the years and have now made it available to the public.



In 1998, a horse drawn wagon train followed the Military Road through our area to celebrate the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial. A book of local Kingston/Dalton/Manchester/Marquette history "Common Threads" was created as our celebration of these events. The projects' success was a driving force to collect more information.



*Early Film & Photography Reels*



Our first museum was located in the small brick building located by the pond (formerly the library and fire department). We quickly out grew this space and in 2012, with the talents and efforts of many volunteers, we moved into a



*Antique Baby Carriage*

new building. To help raise funds for this museum we made another book titled "Treasured Memories" with over 160 stories, pictures, biographies and reminiscences. A third memory book is in progress for printing in 2014 called "Memorable Moments." Our local region is well known for our Amish community and this third book includes the history of the Amish and their families (an Amish display at our museum is in the works).

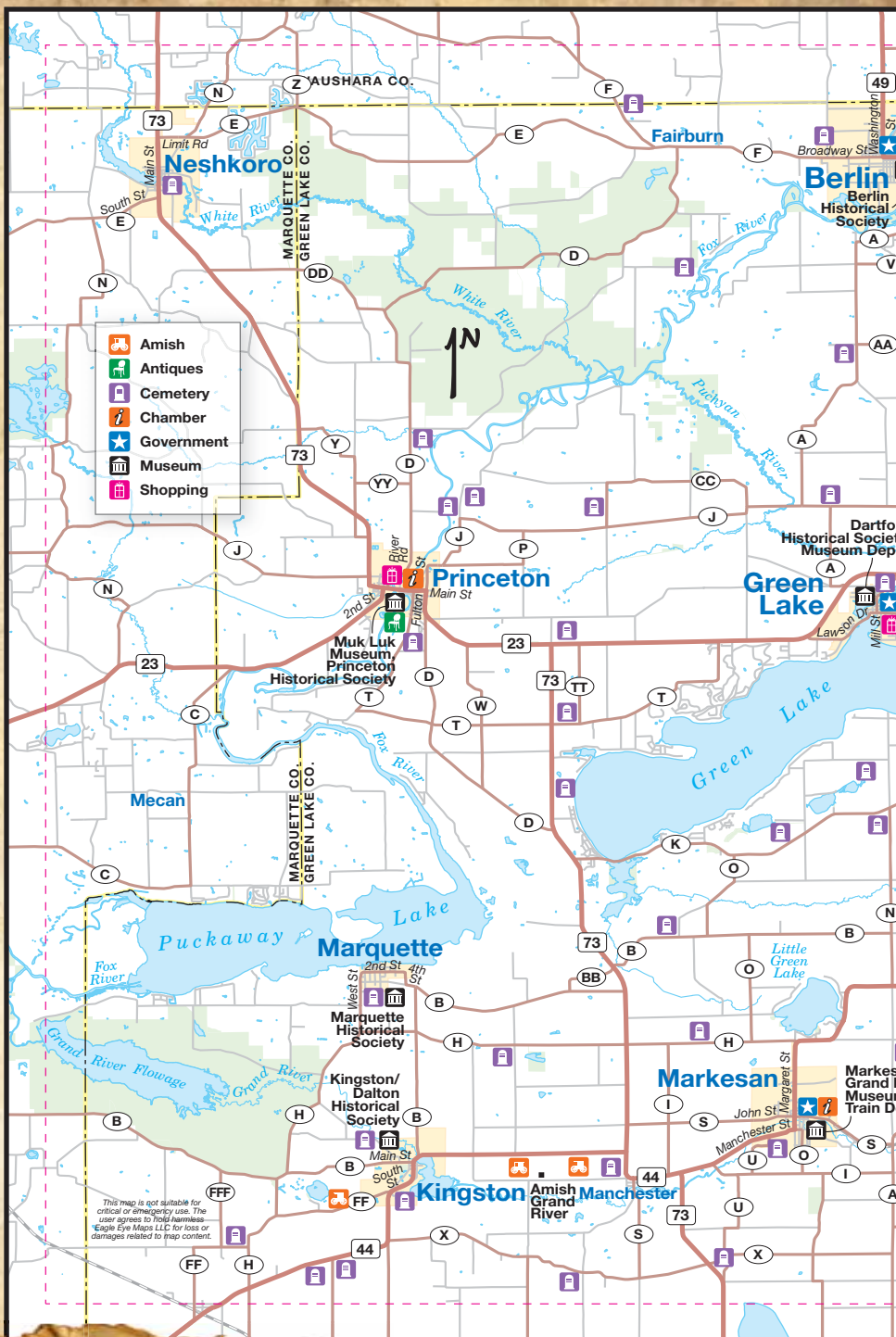
The Kingston Historical Preservation Society hosts four programs a year; the first Sunday in February, April, October and December at 1:30 p.m. that features a variety of talents, and interests. We also have an open house on Memorial Day to honor our local servicemen and women with our veteran's displays.

### **Kingston Historical Preservation Society**

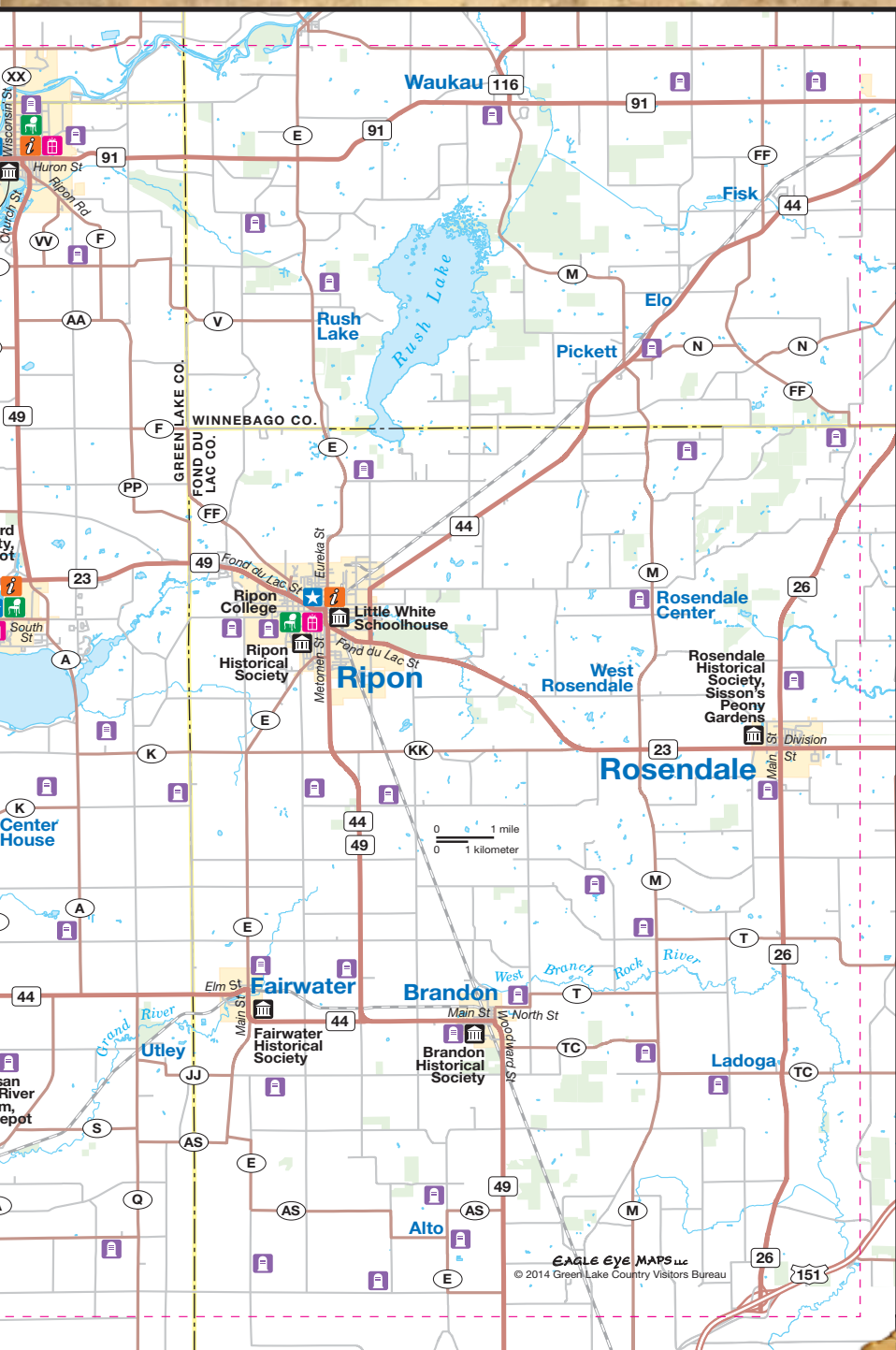
575 Main St., Kingston

Tours by appointment (920) 394-3075.









# • MARKESAN •

## WISCONSIN



### MARKESAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The quiet, Midwestern town of Markesan houses some well-kept secrets and maybe even a few closet skeletons. Few people know about the Mackford Murder or the missing gold shipment lost on its way to Green Bay. Fewer still realize that Markesan once manufactured washing machines or baseball bats (Hart Wood Prod Co).

These and many other "skeletons" can be discovered at the Grand River Valley Museum.

The complex consists of 3 separate buildings housing over 15,000 square feet of area artifacts. The main building showcases antique living spaces, veterans' memorabilia and the displays of what the streets of Markesan looked like throughout history. Tools of the shoe-makers, doctors, dentists, haberdashers, trappers and bankers dating back to the early 1900's can be seen here. It also houses the genealogical archives of the Society.



*Victorian Dresses*





*Antique Washing Machines*

The original Markesan Depot houses the schoolroom and railroad display, and the Arthur Jahns Memorial Agricultural Museum houses the equipment and tools of the agricultural background of the area. The depot agent's office houses railroad memorabilia as well as a working telegraph. The loading dock houses a milk bottle collection and equipment used in the growing and harvesting of potatoes.

The museum is open May through September on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. or anytime by appointment. Special events for the year include a cemetery walk through each Memorial Day and the Annual Heritage Day Celebration on the third Sunday in September from 1 to 5 p.m. There are demonstrations, free refreshments and entertainment throughout the afternoon. Visit and join us for a "Blast from the Past."

### **Markesan Historical Society**

Grand River Valley Museum

214 East John Street, Markesan, WI 53946

(920)398-2719 or (920) 398-3359

[www.markesanhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.markesanhistoricalsociety.org)



# • PRINCETON •

## WISCONSIN

### PRINCETON HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUMS

The Stone House at 632 W. Water St. was purchased in 1982 and furnished as a family home circa 1900. A two story building, the bottom floor houses a simple yet elegantly decorated sitting room, a charming kitchen with a first model icebox, a butter churner and utensils used in everyday life. The visitor can discover the past and imagine what life was like by seeing the character and charm found throughout the rooms and furniture, from the clawfoot bathtub, to patent medicines or

the wool spinning wheel. In the kitchen, the cast iron wood burning stove has a warming oven above and side boiler which was constantly used for warm water. Up the stairs, you will discover a traditional bedroom with a circular rack of exquisite dresses from the past: wedding dresses, evening gowns, flapper finery, and evening night ware. The closet is filled with fur pieces, stylish hats, girdles and foundation garments.



*Cigar Factory Workers*

Attached to the parents' bedroom, is a child's bedroom, with a stuffed mattress, a cradle and toys of the time. The last room features the replica of an office from a renown local dentist from the 50's (referred to by locals then as "Dr. Drill").



The former business building next door, 630 W. Water St., features many collections of interest to the historian and curious guest. Two display cases with Indian arrowheads and various stone tools found in Princeton, on two local farms are showcased here. They belonged to Mascoutin Indians who for many years summered in this area, along the Fox River. Decades later, farm lads delighted in finding and preserving these unique, handmade artifacts. Also exhibited here is a case of Civil War memorabilia, which includes a rifle, a uniform and case of handcrafted buttons (a must see to appreciate the labor of those times). The display is complemented by history books and a listing of local participants, and we are compiling biographies of local soldiers whenever possible. Also shown here are colorful cigar boxes and tools from a once flourishing Princeton cigar factory, photography equipment from the Megow studio, an extensive display of Lion's Club memorabilia, a pump organ and bibles from local churches. In progress are biographical listings of families, business and organizations to assist genealogy researchers.

Open third Saturdays of June, July, and August from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. We welcome visits by appointment too, by calling (920) 295-3469 or (920) 295-4927. There is no charge to visitors, however a free will offering is gratefully accepted.

### **Princeton Historical Society**

630 and 632 W. Water Street

Princeton WI, 54968

(920) 295-3469 or (920) 295-4927



*Mascoutin Stone Tools*

# • RIPON • WISCONSIN

## RIPON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Ripon Historical Society was founded in 1899 “for historical and literary purposes.” The mission of the Society was stated as “the discovery, collection, preservation, and publication of historical records and data of and relating to the City of Ripon.” One of the founders, Ripon lawyer Samuel Pedrick, actively collected documents and wrote and cross-referenced family histories throughout his adult life. The Pedrick papers were the foundation of our ongoing archival collection, much of which is now available online.



*Tinkham's Reed Organ*

The Ripon Historical Society provides resources locally through its museum, library, and archives collections, which are housed in the two 19th Century houses and barn it owns. The Society supports a range of educational opportunities including evening programs, school field trips, college classes, and independent historical and genealogical research.

The strong archival collection documents the building of a small city on the American frontier. Of particular interest are documents relating to the experimental Fourierite community of Ceresco as part of the reform movement in the mid-nineteenth century; the role of Ripon citizens in the anti-slavery movement and subsequent formation of the Republican Party; Ripon's involvement in the Civil War; and the area's industrial development.

The Society played an active part in placing the historic area of the city on the National Historic Register. Pictures, documentation, and a tour booklet showing Ripon's various 19th Century architectural styles are available.

We are open weekdays 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., or at any other time by appointment.

## Ripon Historical Society

508 Watson St, Ripon, WI 54971  
(920) 748-5354 - riponhistory.com



*Pedrick-Lawson  
House Stove*



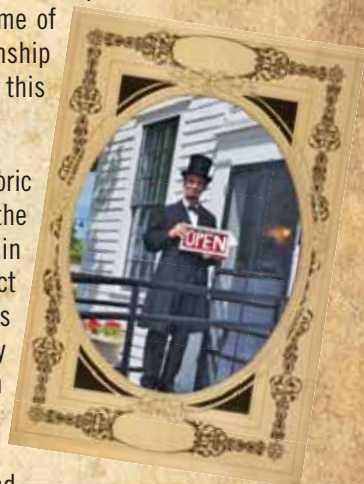
# • LITTLE WHITE SCHOOLHOUSE • RIPON, WISCONSIN



On March 20, 1854, Ripon citizens gathered in this schoolhouse and voted to form and become members of a new political party called "Republican". The birth of the Republican Party brought together a group who pledged to fight the spread of slavery. The purpose of the Birthplace of the Republican Party National Historic Site is to preserve Ripon's Little White Schoolhouse and its collections;

operate it in ways that present to the public the nature of the primary education on the prairie frontier in the time of Abraham Lincoln, and celebrate the kind of active citizenship that led to the founding of the Republican Party at this school on March 20, 1854.

The Little White Schoolhouse is a National Historic Site that celebrates the founding at a local level of the Republican Party. This modest little school was built in Ripon Wisconsin in 1853 and served the school district until about 1860. The meeting that formed the party was held here because schools were traditionally used by citizens as community centers. The citizens met to form a political party that would fight against the Kansas-Nebraska Bill that promoted slavery. Not only did that meeting change political history it also laid the ground work for civil rights history and it all occurred at a tiny one room schoolhouse in Ripon Wisconsin.



The Little White Schoolhouse is open for visitors throughout the year. Open daily from June 1 until Labor Day. Open weekends in May ~ September & October. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to visit the school during the fall, or winter season, contact the Ripon Chamber of Commerce at (920)748-6764 to arrange for a tour.

## **Little White Schoolhouse**

114 Scott St, Ripon, WI 54971

(920) 748-6764

[littlewhiteschoolhouse.com](http://littlewhiteschoolhouse.com)

# • ROSENDALE • WISCONSIN

## **ROSENDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

The Rosendale Historical Society became part of the WI Historical Society in 2001. That same year the members renovated a 1930's former gas station with the goal of it becoming our museum where we would collect & preserve memorabilia and history from the Rosendale Area.



*Sissions Peony Gardens*

In 2005 the society acquired the remaining half acre of the well-known Sissons Peony Gardens. The original windmill, built in 1929, still stands near the entrance to the Gardens (207 N. Main St./Highway 26). In 1968 Gov. Warren Knowles declared Rosendale as the Peony Capitol of Wisconsin. The Gardens were placed on the National Register in 2007. Peonies start blooming in late May & continue through June. Visitors are welcome to tour the gardens at any time. The Society hosts a noon lunch in the Gardens on one of the Sundays in June.

In 2010 the IOOF Hall, built in 1891, was purchased and we began the task of restoring it. Our museum is now located in this former IOOF/Grange Hall (address below). Some of our collections include obituaries & cemetery records; memorabilia from local schools, Green Giant, Dr. Scheid, Scouts, and Veterans of our area. In 2014 this building was placed on the National Register to the great honor of our community.

Admission is free at both of our sites. Donations are welcome so we can continue to preserve the area's history. Grange Hall Museum open 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 1-3 p.m. June – August or by appointment.

## **Rosendale Historical Society**

203 W. Division St. (Hwy 23.)

(920) 872-2558

rosendale.wlhn.org



# • MARQUETTE • WISCONSIN

## MARQUETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & CHURCH MUSEUM

*"At the time the news arrived of the fall of Fort Sumpter (sp) the little Methodist church was completed, all but equipping the bell with a rope. I heard the news when I was coming home from school about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and immediately climbed up into the bell free and commenced swinging the bell back and forth with my hands. The populace thinking it must be a fire, came running and I informed them, shouting from the bell free, that Fort Sumpter (sp) had fallen. I felt very proud of my function as a herald of war and that is as near as I ever came to emulating Paul-Revere."*  
W.L. Pierce (12 year old village of Marquette resident)



The Marquette Historical Society was founded in February 1998 with the educational purpose to preserve, advance and disseminate knowledge of the history of the Village and Town of Marquette and the surrounding area. Our Church museum was built in the early 1860's and has remained true to it's original state. It has not been remodeled, but preserved and maintained to showcase its unique style and the feel it had when locals attended church services there. We have a wide variety of exhibits which rotate yearly, but each is related to Wisconsin history, and how that history permeated our village and it's people. Past and current exhibits include history on the Father Marquette Indian Trading Post, the famous Duck Hunting clubs, Civil War Connections & Companies, as well as information of local businesses that called our area home in the late 1800 and 1900's. We have two annual open houses, one on Memorial Day and Labor Day Weekend, and at any time from Spring to Fall by appointment. There isn't an admission fee to visit the museum, however free will donations are welcome. The Church Museum may also be rented for private social functions, please contact us for additional information.

### Marquette Historical Society

240 W. Second St, Marquette, WI 53947

(920) 394-9361 - [www.marquettehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.marquettehistoricalsociety.org)

# • AMISH COMMUNITY • WISCONSIN

## AMISH SETTLEMENTS IN GREEN LAKE COUNTRY AREA

The Amish denomination originated in Switzerland around 1693 and expanded through Alsace, Germany, Russia and Holland. Many Amish began immigrating to North America in the early 18th century, with further migrations taking place in the 19th and 20th centuries. The largest settlements are in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, and Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Minnesota (there are no Amish denominations in Europe today).

One of the Amish communities in Wisconsin can be found in southern Green Lake and Marquette Counties. The settlements found here are Old Order Amish, with no tractors in the fields, no telephones, and small one-room schoolhouses.



There are many small Amish businesses in the south east part of Green Lake County, as well as businesses supporting the Amish heritage (see Amish keys, page 12). The Markesan and Kingston/Dalton Historical Societies can provide the visitor with in depth information on where these settlers came from, their traditions and customs and how they have integrated into their neighboring communities, as well as what trades they are known for (woodworking, baking, cheese making, greenhouses to name a few).

Because we support and embrace the heritage of our Amish neighbors, we kindly ask visitors to please slow down and show courtesy to horse-drawn wagons and buggies as well as respect the privacy and traditions of these families so everyone remains safe while traveling in our area.





# • MUK LUK MUSEUM • WISCONSIN

## REVISITING A PRINCETON ORIGINAL

In 1938, Ernest and Martha Hiestand began selling crocheted socks, hats and mittens that Martha made. A traveling salesman, Ernest took “Handmade by Hiestand” socks on the road and soon enough Martha couldn’t crochet fast enough to keep up with the demand. That started the Handcraft Co., and in 1940 they moved their small business from their home and converted the bar at the Buckhorn Building to accommodate their growing business. With a growing workforce of about 25 people, it was around this time that Martha’s creative knitting gave new life to an Arctic staple and birth to a new brand — Muk Luks. This combination of wool socks with leather soles was trademarked by the family and became a fast favorite nearby and around the country - attracting attention in fashion magazines, advertisements and even worn by President Eisenhower himself.



Muk Luks and their line up of other footwear and garments that were produced primarily in The American House building (444 W. Water Street). Reliable of Milwaukee, also a family-owned company since 1911, bought the Muk Luk brand from Handcraft Co. in 1972. It expanded the line, which now comes in a variety of classic and contemporary styles and is sold online and in department stores all over the world. The museum is open Saturdays from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. or by appointment. There is no charge and tours are self-guided but a free-will offering is accepted at the door. New Muk Luks and Muk Luks merchandise are available for sale.



### The Muk Luks Museum

631 W. Water Street, Princeton

(920) 980-2572

[theshopsofwaterstreet.com](http://theshopsofwaterstreet.com)

The Museum is maintained by:

The Shops of Water Street



*L.W. Frei Store, Fairwater Historical Society*