

DE PERE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Pillars of the future,
built on the foundations of the past.

White Pillars Museum • 403 North Broadway • De Pere, WI 54115
Open Monday – Friday • Noon to 4:00 PM, Other times by appointment: 920-336-3877
www.DePereHistoricalSociety.org

Volume 21

Issue I

Winter 2009

De Pere Historical Society Board Members

President: Tom Walsh, Vice President: Mary Ann Schumerth, Treasurer: Dick Smits, Secretary: Mark Reinhart.
 Members: Cindi Barnett, McKim Boyd, Fran Dimmer, Mike Fleck, Jeanne Guerin, Tony LaLuzerne, Lynn Lee, Anne Mattern, Gerald Mattern, Mary Kay Milquet, and Doug Sommer. Curator: Laurel Towns.

New Museum Archive and Research System available at White Pillars!

Year	Page	Prev	Next	Original File
1891	347	246	348	BCD-1891.pdf
1909	3	8	10	DFH-1909.pdf
1910	261	260	262	BCD-1910.pdf
1910	274	273	275	BCD-1910.pdf
1911	264	263	265	BCD-1911.pdf
1916	23	18	20	BCD-1916.pdf
1921	94	93	95	DFPD-1921.pdf
1921	252	250	256	DFPD-1921.pdf
1922	224	223	225	DFPD-1922.pdf
1923	225	224	226	DFPD-1923.pdf
1923	824	823	827	DFPD-1923.pdf
1924	288	287	289	DFPD-1924.pdf
1924	295	294	296	DFPD-1924.pdf
1925	211	210	212	DFPD-1925.pdf
1925	381	380	386	DFPD-1925.pdf
1949	141	140	142	DFPD-1949.pdf
1950	271	270	272	DFPD-1950.pdf
1951	184	183	185	DFPD-1951.pdf
1953	223	222	230	DFPD-1953.pdf
1954	47	46	48	DFPD-1954.pdf
1954	386	385	387	DFPD-1954.pdf
1956	225	224	227	DFPD-1956.pdf
1956	484	483	487	DFPD-1956.pdf
1956	518	518	520	DFPD-1956.pdf
1957	22	22	20	DFPD-1957.pdf

Search returned 65 different pages for "Whitbeck"

Displaying page 1 of 3

Short Text from Newspapers

...y report bulletin of the Attorney W. J. Lander's appeal in the Whitbeck Co. mill in De Pere. The reports of the teachers of the C. O. ...
 ...y re-actor Mr. The ladies took a genuine interest in Whitbeck of Green Bay. Considers the cooking school held in connection
 ...If you do not hold this evening with Prof. E. H. with good fortune. Whitbeck of Madison as the case O. E. OBERHART the St. James restaurant op-
 ...report Sunday at Racine. C. F. Goodell is now day operator Whitbeck address was full of news at the Milwaukee depot. hourly a
 ...hat the average person does not know has been compiled by Prof. E. H. Whitbeck of the University of Wisconsin geology department. Did you know
 ...been published and is ready for distribution. It was written by Prof. Whitbeck of the University of Wisconsin after spending much time in th-
 ...table fees \$1.30 leave to report that the County Clerk and Day Whitbeck, and correct copy of the records of said association of the T-
 ...mic development of southern Wisconsin written by Professor E. H. Whitbeck of the University. The volume is bound in cloth and has seal-
 ...ons published and is ready for distribution. It was written by Prof. Whitbeck of the University of Wisconsin geology department. Did you know
 ...annated banners at De Pere Wednesday. Mrs. H. Schneider and Mrs. H. Whitbeck of Denmark were called at the L. E. Miller home Sunday. John H.
 ...orth April 19. 1893. His presence. The engineers saw the truck Harry Whitbeck, Denmark village, approaching the crossing and is said paraly-
 ...sist made into the burning store building on Fourth street. H. C. Whitbeck has purchased the J. B. Brunstetter house as a re-
 ...sided in letter written by Mr. Butler and the residence of H. C. Whitbeck from which Nelson Metcoun counted three proposed an en-
 ...s. Marie Backus. Gifts of our club effect at a cost respectively HARRY WHITEBECK, Florence Donna Cooka Stoumatt. A proposition of D. A.
 ...sion Blanche LeRoy Naum Bengstrom Helen Marquardt Jack Drummond Ruth Whitbeck Helen Kersten Helen Serroogy Florence Louise Marie Schampers Ed.
 ...revised 28 sentences. Law covering soil and more and more per Mr. Harry Whitbeck. Married Rosemary Haskers Mel Ann Grace Kalka New Denmark Pe-
 ...d Total \$3467.61. TOWN OF ASHWAUBENGEH ward Frank and Richard Whitbeck. County of Brown State of Wisconsin COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS 11.
 ...ment 1019 Emory St. Green Bay Wis. at 401. Ed. St. Frank and Whitbeck Edward Frank 1567 Ellis St. Green Bay Wis. Rishar-
 ...sant Alice Van Dyke. There will also be an exhibit by Luan Gerald Whitbeck and Jane the Wisconsin conservation department. See SCOUTS
 ...sibility dryer over the weekend. an outboard motor and a small Richard Whitbeck 37 B. Office boat hotel instance hotel and home address. Incon-
 ...sitor Ed. 920 Friday. This article is 515 To Be Associated. Van Dyke Jerry Whitbeck Donna 1100 Main Street BATH and 408 To Be Associated. Whitson W.
 ...an. Chairman. Mary Ann waiting at home after using her information. David Whitbeck Ann for going into the water or not. Lambrecht Richard Hooy-
 ...sion captain Mr. Helene Bill Ledette. Albin Dolberry Bob Swoboda David Whitbeck Jan. Van Der Hout Kurt Dery Henry Swene. Ed. Linnas. Team 4C.
 ...snack with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Knapton and family. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Whitbeck of Milwaukee were Christmas guests of Christ Whittier and Min-
 ...sible of profound propoundly engineers and enthusiasts team and Jerry Whitbeck ping will enjoy the new set of milk pong table in the E.

This is a sample of the Newspaper database search results for the surname "Whitbeck."

New Museum Archive and Research System for Historical Society Members is a Huge Success!

After years of hard work and countless volunteer hours, a new Museum Archive & Research System became available to members on October 23, 2008.

The new system features five workstations with access to the following information:

Newspapers - This unique newspaper database features scanned images of most De Pere newspapers from the mid-1880s through the 1970s. It sports a "Google-like" search engine that can find a particular name or phrase in under a minute. This database contains newspaper issues from the De Pere News, Brown County Democrat, De Pere Journal-Democrat, Twin City Index, and more.

Newspaper by Year - This database is used to quickly search a newspaper when the approximate issue date is known. It is great for find your mother's birth announcement or great grandpa Ray's obituary, when you know the date of the event.

Holy Cards – Also known as prayer cards, funeral cards, or mass cards, the Holy Card database features a scanned image of cards in the De Pere Historical Societies collection or images of cards donated by members of the community for use at the Museum. Each card was scanned and hand-indexed with information from each card.

Ledgers - Over 125 ledgers from business and civic organizations have been scanned and hand indexed into the Ledger database. This database offers a quick search feature that sails through the data and returns a list of all the ledgers that pertain to your search criteria. If the name you are looking for is found, you may find out what store grandma shopped at or when grandpa joined the band.



Past Perfect - This application, designed specifically for museums, contains a searchable database that holds scanned images of the De Pere Historical Society's 15,000+ photograph collection. This database is great for finding out if the museum has a picture of your great-aunt Tilde, grandpa's class photo, or what your home looked like fifty years ago.

The system is unique to White Pillars and De Pere Historical Society members and is not available over the Internet. The system is supported by volunteers and is open to members on Thursday evenings between 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM, by appointment. To sign up to use the system, contact at White Pillars at 920-336-3877.

The First Customer

Greg and Roberta Van Erem of Stillwater, MN tested the new system, and in the first thirty minutes found information that helped them find relatives in the area. Below is the story they told their family about how the De Pere Historical Society's Museum Archive & Research System helped them find their De Pere relative ancestors.

Finding Louis and Collette

By Greg Van Erem

On Thursday 23 Oct 08 I travelled to De Pere WI on business to inspect some new process equipment I had ordered from a local vendor. De Pere is a suburb south of Green Bay. I had visited them once before about 5-6 years ago. On that trip I had found a small local historical museum in De Pere. This museum had an extensive display of the Dutch coming to America. I

had made a mental note to stop by and see if they could direct me towards finding any information on my Van Erem ancestors. My wife Roberta had accompanied me on this trip, as we were planning to drive thru Door County over the weekend. I wrapped up business needs late afternoon on Thursday.

I picked up Roberta and we went to the De Pere White Pillars museum at 403 North Broadway, arriving at 4:15. The sign on the door listed their hours as 10 – 4. We went inside as the door was unlocked, and were greeted by the curator who was preparing to lock up. We asked how we could find some information, and a lady poked her head out of a back room and said to come see what they had. It was a brand new software database system. Volunteers had scanned in all of the De Pere newspapers, and had gone thru them all to identify key names for electronic searching. What name did I want to find?

I gave them Louis Van Erem. Bingo. Up popped the obituary from the 19 Dec 1902 edition of the De Pere Journal Democrat! They were just testing the system for the first time that afternoon, and had not yet installed the 'print' function buttons. Their support person was on hand, and we did get a printed copy. It reads:

“Louis Van Erem, aged 68 years, died Sunday at the home of his son-in-law, Antoine Tillman. The funeral was held from SS. Peter and Paul’s church Wednesday with burial in the town of Preble.”

I was amazed. They asked what else I wanted to search? I gave them the name of Josephine Van Erem. Again, success! In the 10 December 1891 Brown County Democrat was found –

“Mrs. Henry Van Erem, of Green Bay, died last week and was buried from the Preble Catholic Church. Deceased was 81 years of age and leaves one son, Louis Van Erem, to mourn her loss.”

Here they were, the original emigrant Van Erem’s, mother and son! Now, where the heck was Preble? I was shown a map, Preble was a town or township just east of Green Bay, and was eventually annexed to Green Bay in 1964.

The De Pere society only had their local newspapers, they did not have the Green Bay papers. I asked if

Green Bay had such a modern system to look thru? I was told they did not, but that everything was on microfilm at the Green Bay library. It was late, we thanked them profusely and left to find dinner. The lady who had offered her time and helped us in this search was Mary Kay Milquet, a Board member for the De Pere Historical Society. Her assistance launched our quest to find Louis.

Friday dawned grey and rainy, not a good day for sightseeing, so we asked for directions to the Green Bay library, and found it easily. The Genealogy department was on the second floor, and we walked to an area of many microfilm readers and many cabinets of film rolls. We asked a lady sitting at a reader if this was all self service, she said yes and explained to just find a roll that included the dates of interest and have at it. There were several Green Bay newspapers in those days, we picked the first one in the drawer, the Green Bay Advocate for May 19 1902 – June 12 1903. (This was in their newspaper series 88 roll 19.) In the Monday December 15 1902 edition we found this –

“Louis Van Erem passed away at his home at 1521 Main street yesterday morning at 8:30 o’clock after an illness which has extended back a number of years. Death was due to a complication of diseases and for some time past his recovery had been doubted. He was 68 years of age. The funeral services will be held Wednesday morning at 9 o’clock at SS. Peter and Paul’s church and the remains will be laid at rest in the Finger church cemetery in the town of Preble.”

Hmmmm. Some discrepancy on who owned the house, but we had an address! We tried several different papers to see if we could find a longer obit on Mrs. Henry (Josephine) Van Erem. No luck here. Earlier newspapers were not well organized, and the obits were placed seemingly randomly throughout the edition. And the print was very small, we had to squint our way thru all the pages column by column, but found nothing. We were given directions to the Peter and Paul church, which was only a few blocks away. On the way we drove down Main St. to see what was at the 1521 address these days. Main St. had commercial storefronts right up to the block of interest. Then, there was a bar and other businesses on the even side of the street, we found 1520, but across the street was all vacant lots. Apparently these houses

had all been torn down some time ago. We are still uncertain who had owned 1521, Louis or his son-in-law.

We drove to Saints Peter and Paul Parish church which is at 710 N. Baird St., and rang the bell on the office. It was 12:15 and there was no response, we figured they had gone to lunch, but no, here came a little old lady who unlocked the door and had us come in. She wanted to be helpful. I showed her the obit for Louis and asked about the location of the cemetery. She went to an office and pulled out the Internment record book for our time period, and opened it right to the page where Louis was listed. (This genealogy stuff is apparently rather easy when done in person!) We got a copy of this original record. Death was on the 14th and burial was on the 17th. Cause of death is listed as “general debility” and the cemetery as Preble.

All the other internments listed on this page list the cemetery as Allouez, a town north of De Pere and south of Green Bay. There is also a ‘Remarks’ column, which is blank for Louis, but other remarks on this page include “drowned in Green Bay”, “born prematurely about 7 mo’s”, and “died under influence of chloroform”.

The lady called to another younger lady in back about the whereabouts of Preble cemetery. This lady walked up smiling saying she had been baptized in that church, it had changed names several times, and was easy to find right out on Finger road. They looked up a MapQuest route and gave it to us. Even little old ladies working in a church office can use a computer and the internet these days!

We had lunch, then drove the freeways to the east side of town, exited on Mason St. which runs west, Finger Road runs to the east. Another few miles and we were out of the area of new development and in a more rural area. We first saw a large cemetery on the right, then a school, then the church. We pulled in. There was a newer addition on the front (north) side of the church with a stained glass window reading “Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church” and below this an Auction notice. The church and all the belongings were being sold in two days! We went inside and asked about finding a grave, the people were a bit perplexed, turns out they were the auctioneer and

staff, but they suggested we look in the old cemetery right out back, not the newer large one by the school.

It was raining, Roberta and I each opened an umbrella and walked out back. There were only a handful of rows, and maybe 6-8 headstones in each row. We each started down a different row. Lots of lichens growing on these stones, it was not easy to read in the rain. Near the last row Roberta hollered “Found him!”. We could make out “ois VanEre” on the top, and the base in larger block letters was “VANEREM” Wow. A little rubbing and we were sure it was Louis. But we needed to clean the stone to be sure. They had nothing of use at the church, but we did grab a bucket, then drove back to a gas station and some cleaning materials. We used Ziplock bags like rubber gloves.

We went back, Roberta held the umbrella, and I doused the stone and began cleaning. Louis and his inscription came out legible. This was on the south side of the monument, which was a square column maybe 10” square and 5’ high. We looked at the east side and noted there was an inscription here too, but couldn’t make out much. We scrubbed this – here was his wife Collette! She outlived Louis by 25 years and died in 1927.

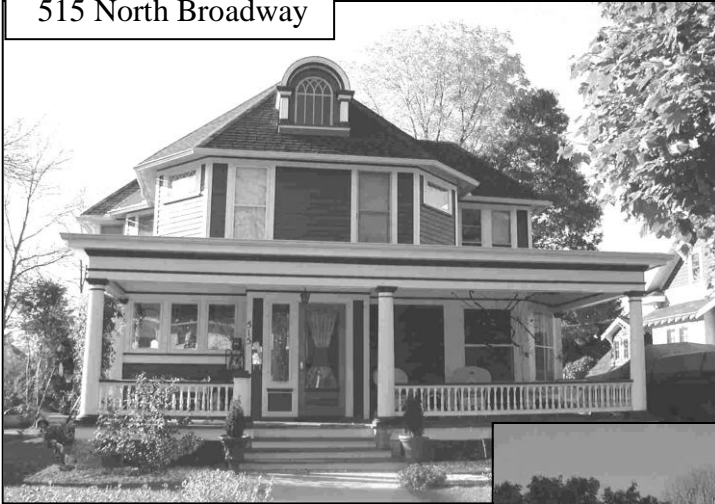
We did not inspect all the stones, it’s possible/probable that Louis’ mother Josephine is also buried here. We did find a smaller upright stone that appears to be ‘Tracy Van Erem’.



After starting his search using the new De Pere Historical Society’s Museum Archive & Research System, Greg Van Erem found the tombstone of his great-grandfather Louis Van Erem in Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church Cemetery.

2008 Historical Preservation Awards

515 North Broadway

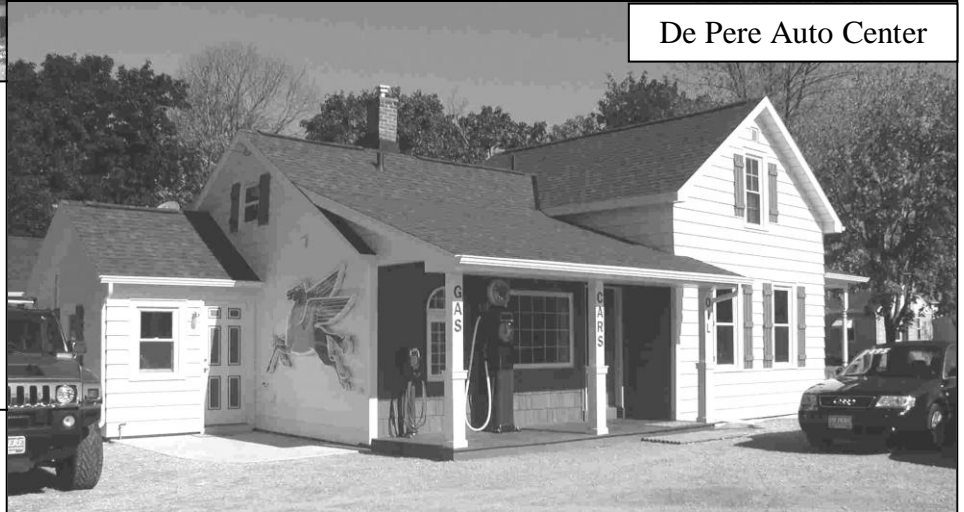


Historical preservation awards were presented recently at the 38th annual De Pere Historical Society dinner at the Swan Club at Legends.

The Max Franc Historic Preservation Commercial Awards were awarded to Wildroot Salon, 114 N. Michigan St., owned by Sue Fritsch, and De Pere Auto Center, 705 George St., buildings owned by Lawrence Fisette. The house owned by Richard and Mary Annen, 515 N. Broadway, received the Max Franc Historic Preservation Residential Award.

Doug Sommer and Ben Steiner received the Nan Workman Appreciation Award for their dedication to the Society for their many hours of service with the Society's new Museum Archive & Research System.

De Pere Auto Center



Wildroot Salon



Historical Society Board News

The De Pere Historical Society thanks out-going Board member Dolly Van Sistine for her contributions to the Society. Dolly served many years as the Society's treasurer. The Society also thanks former Board member Bob Boyer. Bob served as the Society's Vice-President during the last two years.

The Society welcomes Jeannie Guerin and Doug Sommer as the newest members of the Board of Directors. We thank them for their willingness to contribute to the Society's mission to promote public awareness, understanding, and appreciation for De Pere's rich historic past through educational programs; to discover, to collect, and to preserve materials related to De Pere's history; to serve as a repository of information for others interested in De Pere's history; and to chronicle the events of the present for future generations.

Santa's House



Helper Elf Anne Mattern (left) watches as Fran Dimmer records his granddaughter sitting on Mrs. Claus' lap.

Santa's House was huge success in 2008 with 470 children and adults visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Special thanks to Santa Dr. C. J. Van Sistine and Santa Bob Phillips, Mrs. Claus Cathy Van Sistine, and all of Santa's helpers and elves from the following businesses and organizations: Woman's Club of De Pere, Garden Club Des Peres, Brown County Community Woman's Club, Stowe's Drug, and the De Pere Historical Society.

6th Annual Photo Show

The De Pere Historical Society photo show will be held on Wednesday, February 4, at 7:00 PM at the West De Pere High School. The photo show will be followed by an anniversary celebration social at 8:00 PM.

Valentine's Day Run

Seroogy's Chocolates located in Downtown De Pere will host the 6th Annual Seroogy's Valentine 5K & 15K Run/Walk on Saturday, February 7 at 8 a.m.

To register or for more information visit: www.midwestsportsevents.com, call 800-429-8044 or email info@midwestsportsevents.com. Proceeds from the event will benefit the De Pere Historical Society.

Volunteers needed: If you would like to help with the race, contact White Pillars Museum at 920-336-3877.

IT WAS IN THE DE PERE JOURNAL

FIRST TELEVISION SET IS INSTALLED IN CITY

November 4, 1948 --- The first public installation of a television set was made in De Pere Tuesday at the Broadway Bar. The installation was made at a most opportune time, for on Tuesday evening many viewed the election returns coming in from Chicago, St. Louis, and other cities.

The aerial installed is about 50 feet above the top of the building, and approximately 90 feet above the street.

The television set at Broadway bar has two new features which have recently been perfected. One is a magnifier which increases the size of the picture, and the other is a film that takes out the harsh colors, thereby making it possible for a person to view television for an entire evening without experiencing eye fatigue. To date Rex Joslin has reported very favorable reception. Tonight the "mishaps" of the Packers from last Sunday will appear, and Joslin invites the public to come and see it with him.

ST. PATICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ST FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH

March 7, 1935 - A big all-day celebration will be held at St. Francis School Hall on Sunday, March 17—St Patrick's Day. This affair is sponsored annually by the St. Francis altar society and a good time for all is insured. A noon hot dinner will be served followed by card playing in the afternoon with a prize for each table. A cafeteria supper will be served. At 5:30 and 8 o'clock a free program will be presented. The public is cordially invited to attend.

March 11, 1943 - Because of the shortage and rationing of food, members of the St. Francis Altar Society will not serve the St. Patrick's Day supper which has become an annual affair. The members feel that since some foods necessary to the serving of a supper are already rationed and others are scarce, it would be not only unpatriotic but practically impossible to put on a supper such as they have in past years.

But, in order that the day, honoring St. Patrick, the patron saint of the Irish, may not go unnoticed, a program will be given on Wednesday, March 17, in the auditorium.

There will be singing, dancing, and choral speaking. There will be no admission. Mrs. James P. Burns is chairman of the program committee.

HALF OF DE PEREANS ARE UNDER AGE 21

January 9, 1975 - Half of the population of De Pere was under the age of 21 years when the census was taken in 1970, according to a study made by Dr. Shyam S. Bhatia, professor of geography at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

Dr. Bhatia's findings are contained in "Age and Sex Structure of Wisconsin Cities, 1970" recently published by the UW-O geography department. It is a sequel to his study of village populations published in the summer of 1974.

Dr. Bhatia has profiled with bar graphs the population of each community in Wisconsin with a population of 2,500 or more, showing the number of percentages for male and female residents in five year groups from birth to age 74 and one grouping for all over 75 years of age.

His study shows the median age for De Pere to be 21.96 years, this age being the point where there are as many residents above the age as there are below.

It also shows that 31.90% of the population is under the age of 15, 7.49% is 65 years of age and older, 49.58% are male residents and 50.42% are female residents. These percentages are based on a 1970 population of 13,309 persons.

De Pere Historical Society
403 North Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
(920) 336-3877

Membership Application Form

If you would like to join the De Pere Historical Society, forgot to renew your membership, or would like to send a friend a gift membership, use this form. All members will receive the newsletters regarding families and events in De Pere history and Historical Society news.

Please check one:

- \$20-\$49
- \$50-\$99
- \$100-\$249
- \$250-\$499
- \$500 or more

Mail To:

De Pere Historical Society
403 North Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
(920) 336-3877

This membership is for...

Recipients Name

Street/Apt

City, State, Zip

Phone _____ Email _____

Circle one: Birthday / Christmas / Other: _____

If this is a gift membership, this gift is from...

Your Name

Street/Apt

City, State, Zip

Phone _____ Email _____

*A special gift notice will be mailed to them with your name on it.

Membership Expires: December 31, 2009