

20 20

La Crosse County Historical Society

Annual Report



Darrell Ferguson portraying George Edwin Taylor, Juneteenth Tour

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



It certainly has been an interesting and historic year for all of us and for LCHS. The pandemic has touched everyone's lives from concerts, restaurants, travel, and even visits to the grocery store. For LCHS, the riverboat and bus tours from 2020 were canceled, and the visiting groups we did have were limited in size and required masks and social distancing.

We invented new ways to support our mission. Tickets to our live performance of Discover the Silent City were reduced by half to comply with the county health department recommendations and attendees were required to wear masks and practice social distancing. But the event was well-received and sold out. We produced a video version of it that can still be viewed through our website.

Our board meetings and membership meeting were virtual, and this spring we had a successful Remember When fundraising auction online. Thank you so much for your support and participation. We hope to do more in-person events as well as virtual ones like the recently well-attended War Eagle presentation by underwater archeologist Tamara Thomsen.

LCHS is looking ever more professional to the visitor as we emerge from 2020. We opened the new La Crosse Area Heritage Center in November. It is a new and improved replacement for the old Riverside Museum, and if you haven't been there yet, I think you will be very impressed with the updated and additional historical exhibits in a larger, more inviting space. We continue to work with the Mayor's Task Force and are seeing progress toward a future destination museum for the area. Always looking for ways to update and improve, we have begun a new Guide School for our dedicated docents and guides. And we are proud to announce that the Historical Society has earned five Silver Certificates and one Bronze Certificate from the American Association of State and Local History in their six areas of evaluation, including Interpretation, Stewardship, and Management. Congratulations to all who have contributed to these impressive accomplishments as we move forward and continue to improve.

2021 is starting to look up as of this writing, and we hope you all will continue to support us as we come out of a challenging year and look to the future. Thank you again for your continued participation and dedication to La Crosse history.

Robert Mullen, LCHS Board President

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A lasting memory from managing the historical society during the pandemic of 2020 will be the loneliness of a year with almost no interns, volunteers, or visitors. Another will be all the lessons we learned while creating the La Crosse Area Heritage Center and our pride in how it turned out.

Visitorship at Hixon House was down 93% from the previous year. After welcoming 1,200 passengers from cruise boats in 2019, in 2020 the boats did not come, causing economic hardship in ports up and down the Mississippi. Student field trips also disappeared, and we only offered tours the latter half of the year, by appointment, to small family groups.

I certainly worried a lot about our financial health last year--indeed, I still worry. Our situation would have been much worse except for three things: a small Covid Relief grant, a PPP loan that was forgiven, and you, our members and donors. Donations and memberships increased 45%!

2020 was not a year of stagnation for LCHS, despite the national shutdown. We learned to do more virtual programming, and we designed and built the La Crosse Area Heritage Center.

The Heritage Center is the city's premier history museum, with updated exhibits on eight different aspects of local history and culture. It's a showcase that illustrates what we can accomplish and what we hope to achieve someday soon in a large regional history center.

We anticipate that visitors will be returning this year, not at 2019 levels, but with some robustness. In anticipation of this and a leap in visitors next year when Viking River Cruises starts carrying passengers on the Mississippi, we have hired another staff person to recruit, train and oversee a growing number of Hixon House docents and tour bus guides. This means LCHS has more interpretive guides and they are hand-selected and trained to a high level of professionalism.

It also means that your little historical society that five years ago operated with only 1.5 staff positions is now gearing up with two full-time and four part-time positions, counting the staff at the Heritage Center. We are doing more, and we are doing it better. When the day comes to cut the ribbon at a new, full-size history museum, LCHS will be ready.

Peggy Derrick, LCHS Executive Director

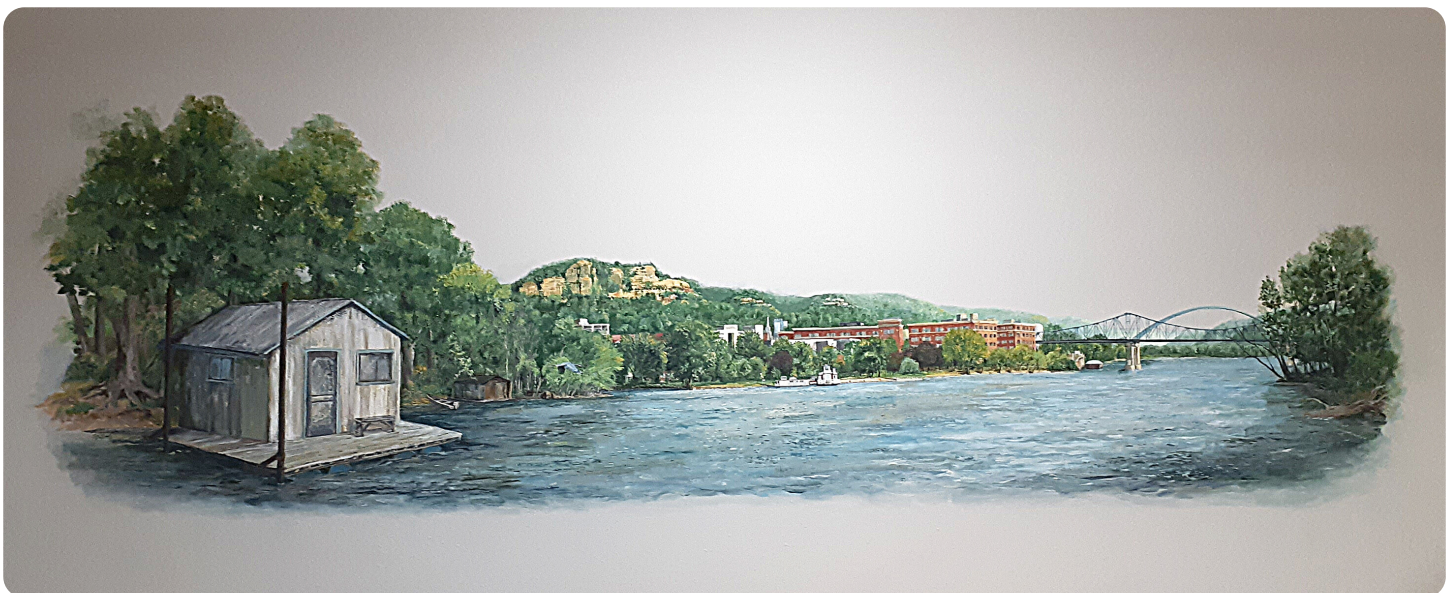
JUNE 21, 2021 MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Count of voting members present
3. Approval of 2020 annual meeting minutes
4. Approval of board member appointments: Thomas Behrenbeck, Richard Breaux, Nou Vang
5. New business
6. Adjournment

JUNE 25, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Candace Brown, Board President.
2. Voting Members Present: 21 voting members were present for the Annual Meeting.
3. Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes: A motion was made by Barb Janssen and seconded by Carol Mullen to approve the July 12th, meeting minutes. Motion approved.
4. A motion was made by Dave Lange and seconded by Jean Skemp to approve the renewing board members as well as the appointments of Greg Clark, Barb Janssen, and Tracy Littlejohn to the LCHS Board of Directors. Motion approved.
5. New business: No new official business was discussed that needed membership approval.
6. Adjournment: A motion was made by Bob Mullen and seconded by Barb Janssen to adjourn at 7:11 p.m.

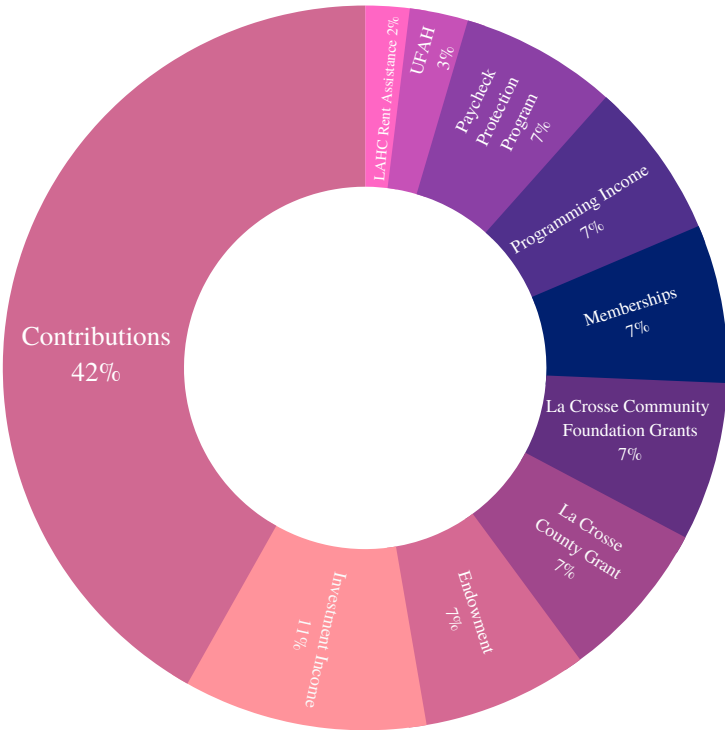
Respectfully submitted by Marissa Dickinson



Mural by Karen Klingbeil at the La Crosse Area Heritage Center.

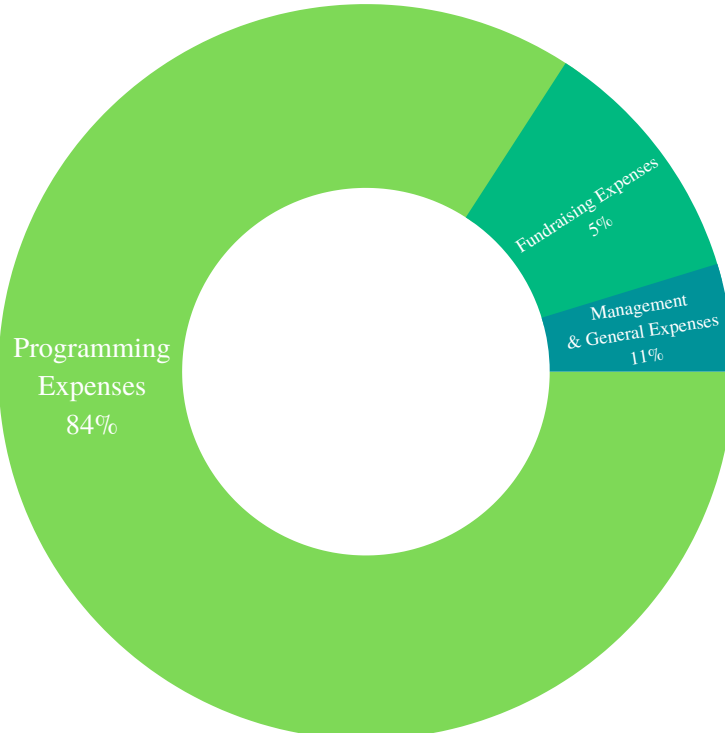
FINANCIAL REPORT

JANUARY 1-DECEMBER 31, 2020



SUPPORT & REVENUE

LAHC Rent Assistance	\$5,000
UFAH	\$6,631
Paycheck Protection Program	\$17,784
Programming Income	\$17,862
Memberships	\$17,975
La Crosse Community Foundation Grants	\$18,000
La Crosse County Grant	\$18,163
Endowment	\$18,800
Investment Income	\$27,646
Contributions	\$106,367
Total	\$254,228



EXPENSES

Fundraising Expenses	\$13,554
Management & General Expenses	\$31,804
Programming Expenses	\$240,661
Total	\$286,019

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

During the Covid-19 pandemic LCHS continued to fulfill its mission of preserving and sharing La Crosse's history.



15,136 unique website visitors viewed **31,388** pages

3,869 online collections visitors performed **6,575** searches

280 visitors at Historic Hixon House and the
La Crosse Area Heritage Center



500+ attendees to LCHS events and
programming



310 member households

159 artifacts were added to the collection



LCHS MUSEUMS

The La Crosse County Historical Society operates two museums in La Crosse, the La Crosse Area Heritage Center and Historic Hixon House.

LA CROSSE AREA HERITAGE CENTER



The La Crosse Area Heritage Center opened in November of 2020. It brings the rich stories of the La Crosse area's history and heritage to community members and visitors in new and meaningful ways.

The Heritage Center provides unique access and rigorous, research-based curation and interpretation of the artifacts and stories of all who came before. Experience the surprising connections between the past, the present, and each other.

Exhibits include: the Ongoing Ho-Chunk Presence; Early White Settlement; Logging on the Black River; Brewing in La Crosse County; Black Barbers; Made in La Crosse; and Steamboats, Mussels, and Fishing: Life on the Mississippi.



HISTORIC HIXON HOUSE

Historic Hixon House was built in 1858 by pioneer Gideon Hixon, who went on to become a wealthy lumber baron in La Crosse. He and his wife Ellen raised their five sons in this home and expanded it to the size it is today. The family for many years retained the home in nearly the same state that Ellen Hixon left it when she died in 1913. In 1965, their descendants gifted the house to LCCHS complete with its original Victorian and Arts and Crafts furnishings.

A special treat is Mrs. Hixon's "Turkish Nook," a fashion of the late 19th century that died out completely in later years. It survives now as a rare example of the Victorian taste for the "exotic."

LCHS MEMBERS

Life Members

Ballard, Alexandra
Dahl, Harry
Fortney, Marc & Carol
Foster, Barbara Hunter
Geiger, William Dodd III
Glore, Fred Hixon & Connie Pemberton
Glore, Maude
Hansen, John & Donna
Hixon, Andrew
Hixon, Dylan
Hixon, Shanti
Mathy, Leah
Mathy, Steve
Reinhart, Robert & Diane
Schwalbe, Tye
Skogen, David & Barbara
Walz, Richard
Weber, Donald & Roxanne
Whitney, Wheelock III
Whitney, Benson & Mary Farnam

Heritage Circle

Binsfeld, Anthony & Barbara
Cleary, Gail
Geiger Nielsen, Devon

History Guardians

Behrenbeck, Thomas & Julie
Bosshard Parke Law
Clemons, Arla
Reinhart, Riley

Sustaining

Blomquist, Barry & Eva Dahl
Donskey, Kirk
Glendenning, Mark & Margaret
Greiner, Joel & Jacquie
Hoel, Bill & Karen
Lund, Jean
Mattison, Mark & Wendy

Century

Bacon, Kent & Julie
Beekman, John
Beutler, Arthur & Carolee
Beutler, David & Clews, Peggy
Callies, Chuck & Carla
Campbell, Roy
Dudkiewicz, John & Judy
Erickson, Katherine & Randy
Evans, Anita
Finn, Donna
Governmental Employees Credit Union
Growt, David & Audrey

Century Continued

Hixon, William Jr. & Julia
Kotnour, Nancy
Logan, Laurie & Alice Bachop
Lysne, Sally Nelson
Markussen, Vicki
McMillen, Milton & Paul Brieske
Morrison, David
Pederson, John & Cathy
People's Food Cooperative, Inc.
Rada, Ronald & Jane
Rudolph, Mike & Evelyn
Schafer, Mary
Schaper, Dennis & Cyndy
Sebo, Jeri
Seielstad, Peter
Sherwood, Linda
Skemp, Fred & Jean
Solberg, John & Nancy
Stephens, Patrick & Joanne
Stolder, Mary
Storch, Marc & Beth
Vande Walle, Raechel
Vinger, Don & Norma
Wakeen, Deb
Welch, William
Wetterling, Dale & Mary
Wiffler, James
Wood, Margaret & Daryl
Zeman, Bob

Household

Abernathy, Brian & Joyce
Albrechtson, Barb & Rick
Albrechtson, Stephen & Connie
Amundson, Dave & Ruth
Baehr, Linda & Dennis
Baier, Terry & Diane
Bakalars, Mike & Bethany
Blank, Judith & William
Casberg, Ken & Kathy
Clark, Greg & Mary
Cleveland, Ardis & John
Cvikota, Kenneth & Shirley
Darling, Jack
Davy, Michael
Doering, Anita & Bill
Dolder-Zieke, Beth & Steve Zieke
Driscoll, Adam & Laura Godden
Erdenberger, Angela & Chad
Fernandes, Marilyn & Felix
Freedland, Robert & Maureen
Fuss, Kathy & Tim
Gallagher, James & Janice
Galster, Doug & Karee

Household Continued

Gassere, Alice Englehard
Grant, Roger & Charlotte
Green, Larry
Gundersen, Sig & Jean
Hansen, Cheryl
Heerens-Knudson, Nancy & Ralph Knudson
Heim, Joe & Pat
Heineck, Julie
Hill, Edwin & Nancy
Hinze, Mary & Leslie
Hixon, Joseph III & Renate
Huber, Richard & Corinne
Hundt, Nathan
Jack, Steven & Angie
Jenkins, Glen
Johnston, Mike & Sue
Jolly, Janis & Mark Stahlhut
Kerbaugh, Chris & Jane
Kinney, Maureen
Kirkpatrick, Judy
Krajewski, Thomas & Juna
Kruse, Joseph & Barbara
Kusch, Fred & Janet
Lange, David & Karen
Lien, Alden & Helen
Macha, Betty & Allen
Marcou, Bob & Diane
Markos, Donald & Carol
Markos, Richard & Terri
Martell, Ellen
Mason, Jon & Jessica
Mauss, Frank & Sharon Lukert
McGuire, Pat
Metz, Marie
Mial, Richard
Mormann-Krieger, Rebecca
Mullen, Robert & Carol
Nelson-Britten, Carol & Chuck Britten
Nowland, Frieda & Ron
O'Meara, Margaret
Opland, Russel & Peggy
Pein, Jill & Rich
Peterslie, Peter
Przywojski, Rick & Ruth Vach Przywojski
Przywojski, Sam
Ranger, Marc & Elizabeth
Rimmert, Jonathan & Faith
Roberts, Cameron & Carlene
Rude, Brian & Karen
Rudrud, Charles & Linda
Rudrud, David
Russell, David & Nancy
Satory, John & Beth
Schiesser, Randy & Marian

LCHS MEMBERS

Household Continued

Schultz, Michael & Karen
Schwartz, Bill & Maureen
Seager, Glenn & Lila
Sexauer, Pari & Kathy
Siebenaler, Sam & Deb
Sigman, Michael & Kelly Krieg-Sigman
Skinner, Susann & Dean
Smith, George & Marita
Smith, Karol
Stacey, Stephen & Emily
Steingraeber, Carolyn & Mark
Taunt, Robert & Leanna
Theisen, Joe & Carol
Thompson, Marcia & Dick
Trimmer, Tiffany & David Riel
Valiquette, Lynne & Keith
Vanderploeg, Ruth
Vangen, Larry
Visger, Terry & Ken
Wedeking, Russell
Weeth, Charles
Wiebke, Monica & Brad Peterson
Wilson, Patrick & Bobbie
Wittenberg, Jim & Cheryl Amsrud
Wolfe, Glenn
Young, Hugh & Bonny
Young, Suzanne

Individual

Alderman, Katie
Allen County Public Library
Allen, Harriet
Arneson, David
Arzigian, Constance
Asher, Toni
Aubrey, Steve Hixon
Baier, Betty
Beck, Paul
Bigelow, Lois
Birchler, Margaret
Bissen, Barb
Black, Jeanine Ipsen
Blanke, Heidi
Brandt, Brenda
Breaux, Richard
Brendel, Charles
Broadhead, Karen
Brown, Candace
Brown, Oren
Bucher, Lisa
Buckley, Joan
Burns, Josh
Byerly, Tom
Cahoon, Ariel

Individual Continued

Carskadon, Sue
Casto, Grant
Cepek, Alice
Chapman, Frances Hixon
Christy Moss, Denise
Collins, Marjorie
Coulee Bank
Cowen, Sandra
Crescent Jewelers
Crocker, Les
Daley, Robert Sr.
Deisting, Melissa
Derrick, Peggy
Dickinson, Marissa
Dooley, Sigrid
Ellenz, George
Erickson, Marsha
Euler, Bobbie
Flaherty, Lynda
Freehoff, Sophie
Gingerich, Sherry
Goetzman, Verda
Granum, Richard
Gschwind, Mary Ann
Gustafson, Ronald
Hague, Lynette
Hanson, Mike
Harris, Ronald
Helgeson, David
Hodson-Haag, Donna
Hoelzen, Randy
Hogue, Janice
Holley, Maria
Howard, Douglas
Hundt, Paul
Jaeger, Johnathon
Janssen, Barb
Kabat, Tim
Kakuska, Michael
Kiihn, Mary
Kilbey, Regina Markos
Kimball, Patricia
Knapp, Ruth-Ann
Kurtz, Dianne
La Crosse Community Foundation
Lazere, Monica
Lichter, Margaret
Littlejohn, Tracy
Lord, Jane
Loveland, Warren
Lyga, Pat
McGarty, Bernard
McLenahan, Gladys
McLoone, Robert

Individual Continued

Medinger, John
Monson, John
Monsoor, Mary
Murphy Library Special Collections
Nash, David
Nelson, Mary
Nieckarz, Marilyn
Nimm, Katherine
Nottingham, Ann
Novak, David
Nugent, Mary
Oak Grove Cemetery
Olson, Jed
Overgard, Florence
Patterson, Elsie
Pittman, Rita
Plesha, Roger
Pralle, Madonna
Record, Dick
Reynolds, Mitch
Richardson, Bessie
Rose, Steve
Ross, Dennis
Rudolph, Don
Sacia, Bonnie
Schneider, Gail
Schnell, Marian
Schroeder, Kurt
Schwarz, Rebecca
Schwem, Marti
Seelow, Sandra
Silberschmidt, Laurel
Sill, James
Skemp, Robert
Smith, Linda
Snodgrass, George
Spector, Jack
Tiffany, Lauren
Tuttle, Barb
Vach, Amy
Van Lin, Frank
Vang, Nou
Warner, Peg
Watson, Ariel
Wehrs Chevrolet
Weisbecker, Richard
Werner, Rosemary
Wheeler, Eric
Wrobel, Ray

2020 Supporters

\$15,000+

Loveland, Warren & Denise

\$5,000+

Beutler, Arthur & Carolee

Dahl, Harry

Glore, Maude

Glore, Fred Hixon & Connie Pemberton

Sloan, Franc

Whitney, Wheelock III

Gretchen Guernsey Leigh Fund

Mathy Construction

\$2,000+

Carskadon, Bill & Sue

Clemons, Arla

Hill, Edwin & Nancy

Hixon, Joseph III & Renate

Lord, Jane

Weber, Donald & Roxanne

Hixon Properties Inc.

John & Kathy Reinhart Foundation

\$1,000+

Anonymous

Barney, Ann

Binsfeld, Anthony & Barbara

Geiger Nielsen, Devon

Howard, Douglas

Rada, Ronald & Jane

Schwem, Martha & Bob Robinson

Skemp, Robert

Whitney, Benson & Mary Farnam

Whitney, Joseph & Desiree

Gelatt Foundation

La Crosse Public Education Foundation

Russell & Vera Smith Foundation

\$500+

Kotnour, Nancy

Mullen, Robert & Carol

Parr, James

Schroeder, Grace

Bosshard Parke Law

Coulee Bank

Davy Engineering

Mayo Clinic Health System

Milo and Beverly Mach Family Fund

Xcel Energy

\$200+

Beck, Paul

Behrenbeck, Thomas & Julie

Blanke, Scott & Heidi

Blomquist, Barry & Eva Dahl

Brandt, Brenda

Campbell, Roy

Crocker, Les & Ruth

Gingerich, Bill & Sherry

Green, Larry

Greiner, Joel & Jacquie

Hoel, Bill & Karen

Kinney, Maureen

Lange, David & Karen

Markos, Richard & Terri

Newcomer, Kermit & Barbara

Nieckarz, Marilyn

Pederson, John & Cathy

Schafer, Mary

Schaper, Dennis & Cyndy

Sebo, Jeri

Sherwood, Linda

Skemp, Fred Jr. & Jean

Visger, Ken & Terry

Whitney, Pennell

Wiebke, Monica & Brad Peterson

Altra Credit Union

\$100+

Arzigian, Constance

Baier, Betty

Birchler, Margaret

Boge, Patricia

Breaux, Richard & Deborah Eve Lombard

Brown, Candace & Tom

Casberg, Ken & Kathy

Derrick, Peggy

Donskey, Kirk

Dudkiewicz, John & Judy

Frost, Richard & Teri Wachuta

Garland, Eric & Hanorah

Grant, Roger & Charlotte

Granum, Richard

Heath, Joseph

Hinze, Leslie & Mary

Hixon, William Jr. & Julia

Hodson-Haag, Donna

Houlihan, Tom & Karen

Hyde, Yvonne

Kerbaugh, Chris & Jane

Mason, Jon & Jessica

McGuire, Pat

McLenahan, Gladys

McShannock, Linda

Mormann-Krieger, Rebecca

Murphy, Sue

Nash, David

O'Meara, Margaret

Opland, Russel & Peggy

Pearse, John & Cheryl

Rose, Steve & Nancy

Schmidt, Robert & Carol

Schroeder, Kurt

Snodgrass, George & Nicole

Stephens, Patrick & Joanne

Taunt, Robert & Leanna

Vangen, Larry

Vinger, Don & Norma

Walz, Richard

Watson, Ariel

Welch, William Sr.

Wheeler, Eric & Virginia

Wood, Daryl & Margaret

Vach Przywojski, Ruth & Rick Przywojski

Harter's Quick Clean Up Service

Hengel Brothers, Inc.

Special thanks to the
La Crosse Community Foundation
for their support.



LA CROSSE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LCHS has been in existence since 1898, making it the oldest non-profit organization in La Crosse. The LCHS mission to preserve and share local history is what inspires us to tell the stories of all the people who have lived in this area and who continue to inspire us with their stories of life in the Driftless Region.

Mission

La Crosse County Historical Society discovers, collects, preserves, and shares the history of La Crosse County, Wisconsin.

Vision

Enriching lives through engagement with the history of La Crosse County.

Core Values

Responsibility
Integrity
Stewardship
Education
Service

Leadership

Officers

Robert Mullen, President
Marissa Dickinson, Secretary
Angela Erdenberger, Treasurer

Directors

Thomas Behrenbeck, MD	Fred Hixon Glore
Richard Breaux, PhD	Barb Janssen
Candace Brown	Tracy Littlejohn
Greg Clark	Jean Lund
John Dudkiewicz	Nou Vang

LCHS Staff

Peggy Derrick, Executive Director
Amy Vach, Curator
Margaret Lichter, Interpretation Coordinator
Bobbie Euler, Accountant

Heritage Center Staff

Josh Burns, Visitor Services Associate
Karen Kouba, Visitor Services Associate



La Crosse County Historical Society
145 West Avenue South
La Crosse, WI 54601

Nonprofit
Organization
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La Crosse, Wisconsin
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LCHS Annual Member Meeting

Please join us for the Annual Meeting of the La Crosse County Historical Society, on June 21 at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be conducted remotely via Zoom. It is free of charge, but you must register to attend.

LCHS is a member-governed nonprofit, and this meeting is required by our articles of incorporation. New appointments to the board of directors will be submitted for your approval, and the Annual Report will be officially presented to the membership.

You may register by visiting our website, www.lchshistory.org, or calling our office at 608-782-1980.