

Burlington Historian

A publication of the Burlington Historical Society, 232 N. Perkins Blvd., Burlington, WI 53105
www.burlingtonhistory.org burlingtonhistory@gmail.com

Calendar

Wed., May 8, 2024, 6:30 pm,
Burlington Public Library, Free
-The Story of Frederick Stanton
Perkins and his Native
American Artifact Collection by
Grace Pelisek

Sat., Aug. 3, 2024, 10:00 am,
Whitman School, Beloit St,
Burlington, Free
-One Room School House
program by Susan Apps-Bodilly

Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024, 1:00
pm, Burlington, WI Cemetery -
Annual Cemetery Walk,
Cost \$15.00

Board of Directors

President Julie O'Neill
Vice-Pres Jackie Heiligenthal
Secretary Priscilla Crowley
Treasurer John Smith

Directors

Jeff Lettow
Stephanie Rummeler
Sarah Sullivan
Dennis Tully
Lisa Wagner
Cory Weithaus
Ray Ziebell

Volunteers are busy preparing and cleaning the Pioneer Log Cabin and Whitman School for visitors this season.



The Pioneer Log Cabin will be open on Thursdays from 3-7pm and Saturdays from 10-2pm beginning May 9th. It is located in Wehmhoff Square.



The Whitman School House will be open on Aug. 3rd from 10-12 pm for the one-room school house program. It is also open by appointment throughout the spring and summer. It is located on Beloit Street.

Welcome New Members

Clayborn Benson, Milwaukee, WI
Patricia Arnold-Mora, Milwaukee, WI
Greg Gauger, Whitewater, WI
Michael & Theresa Jones, Burlington, WI
Mark Weiler, Concord, MA
Scott Rausch, Annandale, VA
Marge Martin, Sturtevant, WI
Geri VanderLeest, Wind Lake, WI
Shaina Madden, Kansasville, WI
Laura Bunte, Burlington, WI

Renewing Members

Lawrence & Barbara Ostermann, Amelia, OH
Douglas & Susan Curtis, Waukesha, WI
Dan Creek, Burlington, WI
Gordy & Bev Gill, Burlington, WI
Walt Uebele, Burlington, WI
Dr. Herb Lederer, South Barrington, IL
Martha Bigalk, Minneapolis, MN
Ray & Carol Ziebell, Burlington, WI
Gary Bronson, Racine, WI
David & Rebecca Uhen, Burlington, WI
Kathleen Thate, Burlington, WI
Dave Veenendaal, Sun Prairie, WI
Peter & Lori Hintz, Burlington, WI
Michael Rehberg, Lake Geneva, WI
Don & Joan Kerkman, Burlington, WI
Ruth Milatz, Burlington, WI
Anthony Merlo, Mount Pleasant, WI
Joe & Peg Fox, Cincinnati, OH
Marianne Roenna, Bartlett, IL
Phyllis Robers, Burlington, WI
Pam Wanasek, Burlington, WI
Tamara Brever, Burlington, WI
Beatrice Regner, Burlington, WI
Meg Regner, Burlington, WI
Bob & Jennifer Grandi, Burlington, WI
Stephen & Susan Dow, Madison, WI
John & Kathryn Swanson, Burlington, WI
Marc Rausch, Burlington, WI
Patrick McCanna, Burlington, WI
Frank & Margaret Klein, Kenosha, WI
Gerard & Beverly Vail, Dubuque, IA
James & Mary Ann Vail, Dubuque, IA
John & Hilarie Vail, Dubuque, IA
Bob Stowell, Burlington, WI

Donations

Walt Uebele, Burlington, WI
Herb Lederer, South Barrington, IL
David & Rebecca Uhen, Burlington, WI
Dave Veenendaal, Sun Prairie, WI
Peter & Lori Hintz, Burlington, WI
Ruth Milatz, Burlington, WI
Marianne Roenna, Bartlett, IL
Tamara Brever, Burlington, WI
Todd Weiler, Wauwatosa, WI
Mark Weiler, Concord, MA
Geri VanderLeest, Wind Lake, WI
Pam Wanasek, Burlington, WI
Martha Bigalk, Minneapolis, MN
Bob & Jennifer Grandi, Burlington, WI
Greg Gauger, Whitewater, WI
James & Mary Ann Vail, Dubuque, IA
Stephen and Susan Dow, Madison, WI
Eric & Bonnie Erickson, Burlington, WI
Bob Stowell, Burlington, WI
Ray & Carol Ziebell, Burlington, WI

The Burlington Historical Society would like to thank all our supporters. Our mission, as stated in our By-Laws, is “the collection, preservation and dissemination of materials and information relating to the history of Burlington area, including Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth Counties.” We could not fulfill this mission without your support.

Did you know the Burlington Historical Society has a Facebook and Instagram page?



-Check for updated event information
-View photos of Burlington from the past



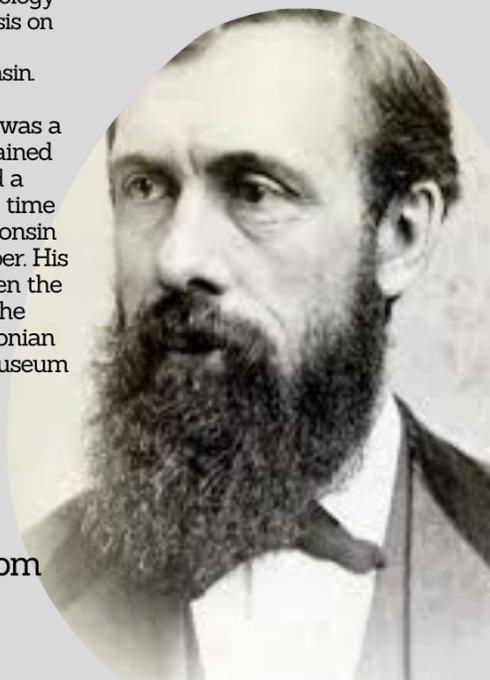
Be sure to “Like” our page so you do not miss any posts!

YOU'RE
INVITED

The Story of Frederick Stanton Perkins

Please join Grace Pelisek, UWM Anthropology Masters Student, as she presents her thesis on Frederick Stanton Perkins and his Archaeological Collection from Wisconsin.

Frederick Stanton Perkins (1832-1899) was a pioneer resident of Burlington and a trained portrait and landscape artist. He had a voracious appetite for collecting, at one time amassing the largest collection of Wisconsin archaeological artifacts and Native copper. His collection is currently spread out between the Wisconsin State Historical Society, the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, and Beloit College's Logan Museum of Anthropology.



May 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm
at Burlington Public
Library

Frederick Stanton Perkins, son of Origen and Maria Salina Perkins, was born in Trenton, New York, in 1832. He settled in Burlington with his family around 1837. Sent to school in New York City in 1842, he returned to Burlington prior to his father's death in 1853, at which time he inherited the family's homestead, at 117 E. State Street, including an extensive amount of land from State Street to Market Street between Kane and Pine Streets.

By the end of 1853, he returned to New York to study art and, within two years, moved to the Adirondack wilderness to pursue painting landscapes. However, he returned to Burlington around 1856. He moved to Milwaukee in 1860 and established himself as a portrait painter whose clients included bankers, industrialists, and railroad magnates. He returned to Burlington during the Civil War to manage the family farm. During this time, he married Emily Wainwright. After Emily's death in 1888, he married Sarah Starkey that same year.

While painting in the East Coast during the 1850s, he gained an interest for anthropology. He soon began to avidly collect prehistoric American Indian stone artifacts. During the early 1870s, he started running ads in the Burlington newspapers seeking Indian artifacts to purchase. He expanded into collecting all relics, made of stone, flint, or copper and began placing ads in newspapers across the state. His collection, which numbered over 9,000 objects, was first discovered by the academic world in 1875 when a University of Wisconsin professor met Perkins by chance while lecturing in Burlington. Perkins soon sold 8,000 of his items to the state for \$4,000; he was also made vice-president of the State Historical Society. Around 1890, he sold 449 copper objects to the Smithsonian Museum of National History for \$7,000. Mastodon tusks and other fossils that were found in Dover and purchased by Perkins were sold to the Milwaukee Public Museum. He sold some of his best pieces to European collections.

Covered with extensive orchards, Frederick Stanton Perkins sold his family's land in 1896 to be developed as residential lots. Streets in this area are named after members of his family, including Alice, Edward, Frederick, Henry, Mary, and Robert Streets; Perkins Boulevard; and Wainwright Avenue. Portions of this land along Edward, Kane, and State Streets and Perkins Boulevard make up a substantial portion of the proposed Kane Street Historic District.

By the time of his death in 1899, Frederick Stanton Perkins had amassed a collection of nearly 50,000 artifacts and reproduced more than 1,200 of them in paintings, replicating their exact size, form, markings, and delicate variations in color. Of the remaining collection, several hundred pieces went to Beloit College; the rest being sold to a private collector in Racine.

Source from: <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI10671>

Happenings at the Museum

There are many on-going projects at the museum:

- Organization of original newspapers in the Archives
- Recording of artifacts and photos
- Organization of Research Files
- Cleaning and organizing basement
- Scanning journals of Fr. Wisbauer
- Planning events, such as the Cemetery Walk
- Creating new displays of artifacts

Please consider getting involved and becoming a volunteer!



Volunteers created a display of Burlington brewery items for exhibit at Community State Bank. Thank you Community State Bank for allowing us to showcase Burlington's history!

Docents Needed!

Being a docent is easy and fun!

We are in need of 2-3 new docents in order to open the Log Cabin and Museum throughout the summer.

Do you enjoy meeting people and sharing Burlington's history? Please consider volunteering at the Log Cabin or museum. No previous experience or knowledge required. We will train you!

If interested, contact us at 262-767-2884 or email burlingtonhistory@gmail.com

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

"May Day, U. S. Way" Burlington, Wisconsin Saturday, May 1, 1954

The citizens of Burlington have joined with the ROSS WILCOX POST and the WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION to make May 1, 1954 a day on which every citizen will be reminded of his greatest asset — citizenship in the United States of America. Forty-five Burlington religious, civic and social organizations have worked together to stage this patriotic demonstration with a mass display of flags, patriotic floats, bands and other festivities. This community believes that the best way to combat Communism and all subversive ventures is not merely to refute their arguments but to live, to appreciate and to sell our own people on the advantages of our American Way of Life.

The Theme of the Day is the Bill of Rights

ARTICLE I.	Freedom of Religion, Speech, and the Press; Right of Assembly and Petition
ARTICLE II.	Right to Keep and Bear Arms
ARTICLE III.	Quartering of Soldiers
ARTICLE IV.	Right of Search and Seizure Regulated
ARTICLE V.	Right of the Accused in Criminal Proceedings
ARTICLE VI.	Right of Speedy Trial, Witnesses, Etc.
ARTICLE VII.	Right of Trial by Jury
ARTICLE VIII.	Protection Against Excessive Bail and Punishment
ARTICLE IX.	Rights Retained by the People
ARTICLE X.	Rights of States Under Constitution

On May 1, 1954, Burlington Wisconsin was the site of a day-long celebration. According to the booklet published for the event, it was the intention of the organizers "to show the nation that Americans, whether residents of a small town or metropolis, have not forgotten the political freedoms which not only form the foundation for the American Way of Life, but also contradict the philosophy of Communism to an extent that lives are risked to reach the land of those freedoms."

Prior to the day, local businesses decorated their store windows and flags and banners were hung throughout the city.

The day began with residents and visitors attending services at six city churches.

A parade with more than 61 floats, 22 bands, and 16 marching units lasted three hours. It was estimated 25,000 to 30,000 spectators lined the parade route.



"May Day, U.S. Way" May 1, 1954

Following the parade, the Burlington High School athletic field was the site of talks by Senators Alexander Wiley and Joseph McCarthy. The national anthem was played by the Fifth Army, Johnson Wax, Marquette University and Burlington Kiwanis bands as a flag, which had flown over the capitol in Washington, D.C. was raised.



A street dance in the evening was the final event.



Burlington Historical Society
232 N. Perkins Blvd
Burlington, WI 53105

Please check the "Membership paid thru date. If your membership has expired or is due for renewal, please consider renewing it at this time. To pay your dues, please clip the coupon below and mail with your check directly to the Museum or visit our website, www.burlingtonhistory.org, and use PayPal.

Thank You.

Become a member of the Burlington Historical Society or renew your current membership. It's easy....

____ **General Membership - \$20.00**

____ **I'd like to make an extra donation \$** _____

Name: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Send with your check to:

Burlington Historical Society, 232 N. Perkins Blvd, Burlington, WI 53105