

Burlington Historian

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

Calendar

1893 Columbian Exposition,

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, 2:00pm - 3:00pm, Burlington Public Library, Burlington, WI. FREE

Burlington Cemetery Walk,

Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, 1:00pm, Tales of The Lake of the Shining Arrow, Burlington Cemetery, Burlington, WI. Cost \$15.00.

Member and Volunteer Thank You,

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2025, 6:00 - 7:30pm, Veteran's Terrace, Burlington, WI. FREE

Board of Directors

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

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Jeff Lettow
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BURLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

THANK YOU

EVENT

We are delighted to invite you to our Thank You Event for Society Members and Volunteers!

This event promises to be an evening of valuable connections, insightful conversations, and new insights. Board member, Jeff Lettow, will present a program on the early presence of Native Americans in southeastern Wisconsin.



Wednesday,
October 29, 2025



6:00 - 7:30 PM



589 Milwaukee Ave
Burlington, WI

RSVP via phone message or email:



262-767-2884



burlingtonhistory@gmail.com



Established
1928

BURLINGTON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New Member

Paul Christensen, Burlington, WI

Renewal Members

Judith Bauman, Burlington, WI
 Timothy Beix, Burlington, WI
 Bret Bushman, Waukesha, WI
 Victoria Davis, Sheboygan, WI
 Carol DeMarco, Raleigh, NC
 Stephen & Susan Dow, Madison, WI
 Robert and Victoria Gariepy, Burlington, WI
 James R. Harkness, Muskegon, MI
 Joanne Hoover, Gilbert, SC
 Maria Ingram, Kansasville, WI
 Cheryl Johnson, San Gabriel, CA
 Bob and Mary LaBadie, Burlington, WI
 William and Marcia Large, Burlington, WI
 Beverly Rausch, Burlington, WI
 Charlie Roy, Burlington, WI
 Kurt and Stephanie Rummler, Burlington, WI
 Deborah Schlitz, Burlington, WI
 John Smith, Burlington, WI
 Pat Sullivan, Burlington, WI
 John and Kathryn Swanson, Burlington, WI
 Margie Vos, Burlington, WI

Donations

Bret Bushman, Waukesha, WI
 Stephen and Susan Dow, Madison, WI
 Maria Ingram, Kansasville, WI
 Cheryl Johnson, San Gabriel, CA
 Nancy Osmolak, Burlington, WI
 Charlie Roy, Burlington, WI
 Pat Sullivan, Burlington, WI

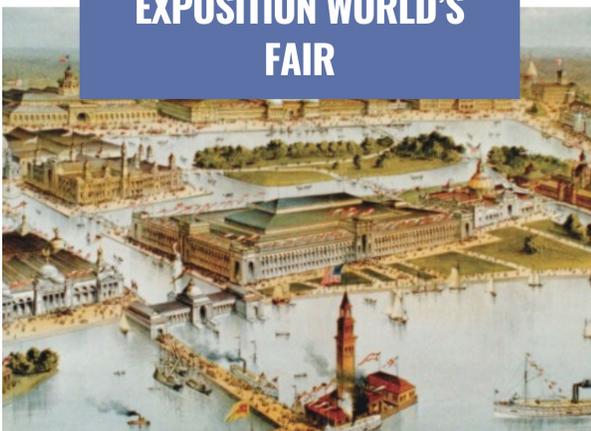
We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Herb Lederer of Barrington, IL.

Dr. Lederer's generous donation to establish the Herbert A. Lederer and Dolores Kessler Lederer, and Robert L. Lederer and Marlene Ganswindt Lederer Endowment Fund will play a vital role in preserving Burlington's rich history. This generosity ensures that future generations will continue to learn and appreciate our shared heritage.

Thank you, Dr. Lederer, for your invaluable support and commitment to our society's mission!

Upcoming Events

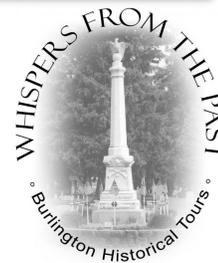
1893 COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION WORLD'S FAIR



PRESENTED BY JASON REHORST
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 2 P.M.

The Burlington Historical Society and the Burlington Public Library bring this presentation to the community. The talk covers the fair, the people that attended, the new products introduced and a number of other historical topics.

www.burlingtonlibrary.org



BURLINGTON 5TH ANNUAL CEMETERY WALK

Sunday, October 12
at 1:00 pm

Burlington Cemetery, 701 Browns Lake Drive,
Hwy W, Burlington, WI

Reenactments based on local author,
Carol DeMarco's book, **LAKE OF THE SHINING ARROW**,
documenting the rich history of Brown's Lake.

Hear the stories of these early settlers
and visionaries of Brown's Lake:

John Hockings by Dr. John Park
Essa Eddy Wells by Joe Davies
Ray Moore by Dan Gill

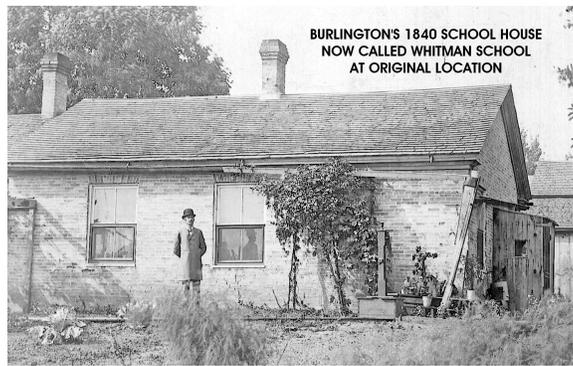


\$15 donation
per person

Purchase Tickets Online at:
www.burlingtonhistory.org/events
or at the event.
Held Rain or Shine.



Donations to benefit the Burlington Historical Society and the Burlington Cemetery Association's repair of EN White Mausoleum.



HISTORY OF WHITMAN SCHOOL

1840 Whitman School was built. It stood in the middle of the block bounded by Jefferson, Dodge, Madison and Pine streets. Whitman School is the oldest documented building in the city of Burlington. It was used as a school for about 15 years.

1843 Reverend Luman A. Petibone held Presbyterian Church services in Whitman School which later became Plymouth Congregational Church.

1847 Lewis Washington, a former Virginia slave, was on tour of southeastern Wisconsin and stopped at Whitman School and spoke to a packed audience. Lewis talked about freedom in a general way, not only for the slave but for the whole human family. He encouraged the voters to leave the old parties and vote for the anti-slavery ticket.

1856 The little schoolhouse had become too small for the growing population. Upon the completion of Lincoln School in 1859 the little school fell into obscurity.

1866 Lucius Whitman bought the property and his house stood on the front part of the lot. Because of his long tenure of ownership it became known as the Whitman School.

1919 Whitman School was sold to Florence Miller and Fred B. Stoehr.

1941 On July 28, 1941 the property was sold to Roman Uhen.

1983 Mr. Uhen wanted to put up a new garage, planning to demolish Whitman School. The Burlington Historical Society stepped in and promised to build Mr. Uhen a new garage if it could have the Whitman School building.

1985 Burlington celebrates its Sesquicentennial (150th year birthday). In order to raise funds, a float is entered in the celebration parade by the Historical Society asking to SAVE WHITMAN SCHOOL!

1986 Whitman School was moved to Schmaling Park on July 28, 1986.

1986-1988 The Historical Society undertook the restoration of Whitman School.

1988 On August 21st, 1988, there was a dedication ceremony to celebrate the completion of the restoration.

1990 Alice Petracchi offered day long classes for Burlington's second, third, fourth and fifth graders to experience life in a one-room school house.

Timeline compiled by Jackie Heiligenthal.

Back to the Future...

By Priscilla Crowley

On the south side of Burlington stands a small, nondescript building that is actually a true hidden gem in Burlington's historic past - Whitman School.

The white building with neat trim work holds so many memories of days gone by. To step through the doorway is to take a large step back in time. Come join us for a journey back to yester-year. Opening the door is like opening Pandora's Box of good things. Whitman School came into being in 1840 and was the first officially registered school in Racine County. Throughout its life Whitman School has gone through many changes and Burlington came very close to losing this important piece of history. Through perseverance and hard work we thankfully were able to restore this valuable piece of history for all future generations to enjoy.



When you walk through the door you are walking back in time. The school is set up much as it would have been in 1840. Take a seat on one of the benches and let your imagination loose - can you see

them? Little girls in their pinafores and dresses and boys in their suspenders and homespun shirts - some with shoes and some without. They come straggling in with their books and lunch pails - taking their seats and being called to order by their teacher.

The school accommodated all grade levels so the teacher had his or her work cut out for them. The school was open on a limited basis - children were a necessary work partner in the family endeavors and shared in both the success or failure of their efforts.



As you soak up the memories can you see Johnny pulling the pigtails of Susie sitting in front of him? Can you see the children reading from their McGuffey Readers or practicing penmanship or their math sums? Listen, can you hear the giggles and whispers, the recitations, the voice of the teacher giving directions? As usual there is always at least one mischief maker in the group who winds up standing in the corner -

sometimes with the dunce cap on as an incentive to do better in their studies and become a more productive student.

At last it's time for lunch and recess. The morning flew by and now it's time to have fun. Baseball - skipping rope, shooting marbles - games - playing with your friends and eating the simple lunch mom packed before the children left for school.

Lunch is over- now it's back to lessons - more studying - over in the back corner desk - is that Tom dozing off - wait till the teacher catches him -it will be the corner for him for sure. More lessons - geography, history, the list goes on. Finally it's 3:00 - time to go home - the teacher is ringing the ending bell - no more lessons until tomorrow - just the homework the teacher assigned for tomorrow's lessons. Can you hear them noisily filing out the door ready to do anything but study?

This was early education - it's interesting to note how much education has changed but how much it is basically the same. The goals are no different, provide an education to our children so they can

become productive, well rounded and educated adults.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Whitman School. It was from this small seedling that our Educational Tree here in Burlington grew to what we have today. Our Educational Tree has many branches and we can be proud of the educational opportunities that are available to our children. A visit to Whitman School is like going back to the future - good education is our future.



We at the Historical Society are very proud of Whitman School and we would love to show it off to anyone interested in a tour - individuals or groups such as Scouts - classes from our local schools -home

schoolers - small events. We are open to anyone with an interest in enjoying a trip to the past. Please feel free to contact us at 262-767-2884.

We look forward to seeing you!

We would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to Dr. Herb Lederer.

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.



Don't have cash, checks, or a stamp? That's okay! Become a member & supporter of Burlington Historical Society through our website!



Renew or become a new Member of the Burlington Historical Society!

Members receive newsletters three times per year and support the protection & preservation of Burlington's rich history!

_____ 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 5310

