

Spring 2025

Burlington Historian

A publication of the Burlington Historical Society, 232 N. Perkins Blvd., Burlington, WI 53105
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Calendar

Laura Ingalls Wilder Day, Friday, Aug. 1, 2025, 10:00, Burlington Public Library and Pioneer Cabin in Wehmhoff Square, Free. Presented by Burlington Historical Society and Burlington Public Library.

One-Room Schoolhouse Experience, Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2025, 10:00am - 12:00 pm, Whitman Schoolhouse, 401 Beloit St, Free.

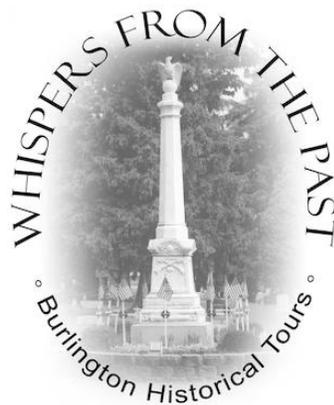
Burlington Cemetery Walk, Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, 1:00pm, Tales of The Lake of the Shining Arrow, Burlington Cemetery, Burlington, WI. Cost \$15.00.

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Directors

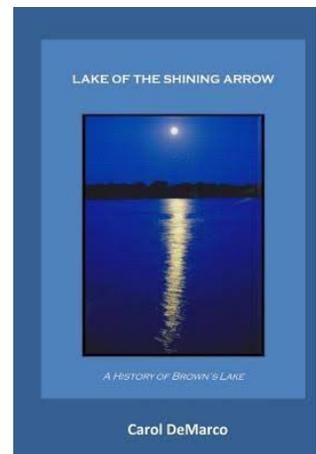
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Whispers from the Past will host the fourth annual cemetery tour at Burlington Cemetery on October 12 at 1:00 PM.

This year's event, titled Lake of the Shining Arrow, will feature visits with the spirits of John Hockings, Essa Eddy Wells, and Roy Moore. These people were part of the history of the development of what local indigenous tribes called The Lake of the Shining Arrow. Today we know that lake as Browns Lake.

Stories about the many people and businesses that settled around the lake and the roles played by these gentlemen and many others are found in a book written by Carol DeMarco, a local author and business woman. The stories we will present are taken from Carol's book. Copies of "The Lake of the Shining Arrow" will be available for purchase or you can purchase a copy at the museum during open hours. Tickets for the event will be available on our website and at the cemetery prior to the event.



Thank You!

Welcome New Members

Lynne Martin Erickson, Madison, WI
Rebecca Faust, Burlington, WI
Cam Fotsch, Burlington, WI
Terry Lavin, Kansasville, WI

Renewing Members

Karen M. Bassi, Waukesha, WI
Mary Block, Burlington, WI
Tamara Lyn Brever, Burlington, WI
Gary Bronson, Racine, WI
Daniel Creek, Burlington, WI
Joe & Peg Fox, Cincinnati, OH
Judy Gambrel, Waterford, WI
Gordy & Bev Gill, Burlington, WI
Bob & Jennifer Grandi, Burlington, WI
Peter & Lori Hintz, Burlington, WI
Marilee & Scott Hoffman, Burlington, WI
Theresa & Michael Jones, Burlington, WI
Joan & Don Kerkman, Burlington, WI
Frank & Marnie Klein, Kenosha, WI
Kathleen McCarthy, Weston, WI
Herbert A. Lederer, Barrington, IL

Marge Martin, Sturtevant, WI
Lori Mehring, Burlington, WI
Tony & Vivian Merlo, Racine, WI
Lawrence Osterman, Amelia, OH
Scott Rausch, Annandale, VA
Meg Regner, Burlington, WI
Peg Rifken, Burlington, WI
Phyllis Robers, Burlington, WI
Kathleen Thate, Burlington, WI
Geri VanderLeest, Caledonia, WI
Dave Veenendaal, Sun Prairie, WI
Bobbie Wagner, Lyons, WI
Pamela Wanasek, Burlington, WI
James Weis, Burlington, WI
Michelle Wilder, Burlington, WI
Elaine Wolters, Elm Grove, WI
Ray & Carol Ziebell, Burlington, WI

Donations

Karen M. Bassi, Waukesha, WI
Mary Block, Burlington, WI
Tamara Lyn Brever, Burlington, WI

Judy Gambrel, Waterford, WI
Gordy & Bev Gill, Burlington, WI
Bob & Jennifer Grandi, Burlington, WI
Peter & Lori Hintz, Burlington, WI
Marilee & Scott Hoffman, Burlington, WI
Joan & Don Kerkman, Burlington, WI
Frank & Marnie Klein, Kenosha, WI
Robert Koehnke, Burlington, WI
Kathleen McCarthy, Weston, WI
Herbert A. Lederer, Barrington, IL
Marge Martin, Sturtevant, WI
Lawrence Osterman, Amelia, OH
Peg Rifken, Burlington, WI
Phyllis Robers, Burlington, WI
Geri Vander Leest, Caledonia, WI
Bobbie Wagner, Lyons, WI
Pamela Wanasek, Burlington, WI
Michelle Wilder, Burlington, WI
Ray & Carol Ziebell, Burlington, WI

Upcoming Events

Laura Ingalls Wilder Day, Friday, Aug. 1, 2025,
10:00 am, Burlington Public Library and Pioneer
Cabin in Wehmhoff Square, Free. Presented by
Burlington Historical Society and Burlington Public
Library.

Jessica Michna presents: **Laura Ingalls
Wilder; Road to Little House at the Log
Cabin in Wehmhoff Square**

Generations of children and adults have been
fascinated by the stories of Laura Ingalls Wilder.

Her "Little House" series was the basis for a
successful television series. But how did her life

evolve? What motivated her to
put her experiences on paper?

You will meet Laura Ingalls
Wilder presented by Jessica
Michna, reflecting on her life
story and how she came to
produce her literary works.



One-Room Schoolhouse

Experience, Tuesday,
Aug. 19, 2025, 10:00am -
12:00 pm, Whitman
Schoolhouse, 401 Beloit
St, Free. Family Event.
Registration required.



The Wheels on the Bus go Back in Time!

Catch the bus at the Burlington library! Join us for
story time on the bus as we travel back in time to
Burlington's old school house. Disembark and enter a
different time of pinafores and vests, writing on slates,
and playing old-time games with the Burlington
Historical Society. Then ride back to the library and
pick out a back to school book!

It's That Time of Year . . .

By: Priscilla Crawley

According to the calendar Spring is already here but living in Wisconsin we all know that what the calendar says and what Mother Nature does are entirely different things. But thoughts of Spring and what it entails are definitely something we are all thinking about. Spring is a renewal, a time for new growth, a time to be thinking about getting "down and dirty" and playing in the dirt. Seed catalogs have been arriving for weeks, garden centers are ramping up for the huge influx of all of us "would be" gardeners eager to purchase more plants than we can possibly fit into the trunks of our cars or even find room to plant in our yards.

There is just something satisfying about getting your hands dirty and planting all those wonderful, beautiful flowers or vegetables in our gardens. It satisfies the soul and provides endless beauty and fresh vegetables for the taking. Gardening is not a new pastime, man has been gardening practically since time began. There is such a feeling of accomplishment and pride in what can be created from some simple seeds or plants and dirt.

Gardening was even responsible for helping to win both World War I and World War II. They were called Victory

Gardens and helped provide much needed food for the home front. It was a way to supplement the food rationing that became a way of life during wartime. In big cities, because of the lack of individual space, central areas were designated for planting of these gardens; those who lived in small municipalities or in the country had individual gardens. Even in the internment camps created in this country, people who were incarcerated had Victory Gardens.

Growing up in Lyons, my dad couldn't resist his farm background and he created a garden in our backyard. Back then the garden looked huge, I am guessing that it wasn't really that huge, I was just viewing it through kid eyes I remember he was

more than happy to have help from the three of us kids with the weeding and the picking and the hoeing and the watering and anything else he could think of. Preserving the fruits of all that garden labor was just as important as the growing of the vegetables. I remember the canning and the freezing of the vegetables for later. It was work but the reward was worth it.

My in-laws also planted a huge garden and this one was huge but as they got older, their children wound up helping to take care of it. I remember one fateful day, my husband and I went to visit them and Grandma was not happy because she just knew the peas needed to be hoed and she didn't have time to do it and it was getting dark and she was sure they would be ruined and there would be no pea crop that summer. So my husband volunteered to go out and weed them for her, the only thing is he probably shouldn't have gone out to do the hoeing when it was dusk. He hoed all right but the next day Grandma was on the phone complaining that in the uncertain light he had not only hoed the weeds but also a good share of the pea plants. He heard about that for

months afterwards. She couldn't understand how he could possibly have mistaken pea plants for weeds.

These days I do more with flowers than I do vegetables. The growing of anything is good for the soul. The flowers bring joy

and beauty to your life and help make the world a better place. While flowers feed your soul, vegetables feed your body, it's a win-win situation all the way around. Besides, there really is something so satisfying about digging in the dirt and getting that dirt under your fingernails.

Gardening of all kinds is really a part of our history. Volunteers work very hard to make the gardens at the museum and log cabin beautiful. The plantings are appropriate to the era of the log cabin and the garden by the museum is always such a restful and beautiful place to visit. We are always happy to welcome guests and show off our museum and our history.



We are very grateful for the Master Gardeners and Burlington Area Garden Club for their dedication in making the Museum and Pioneer Cabin areas of beauty, peace and inspiration!



Vintage garden at Pioneer Log Cabin

If You Plant It, They Will Come!

By Margaret Pisano, Master Gardener

The Pioneer Cabin's fenced cottage garden and the herb garden along the sidewalk have been show stoppers for years. In full sun and with adequate moisture, they thrive! Both of those areas contain plants that we moderns recognize, but whenever possible we use the plant lists of the 1850s German table gardens and the oldest heirloom varieties we can find. We grow cabbages, kale, onions, beans, potatoes, squash, chard, rhubarb, currants, and a colorful riot of reseeding annual flowers that delight passersby. However, notably absent are the tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants which the German settlers did not grow. And we do contend with rabbits!

The herb garden along the sidewalk contains the settlers' herbs for culinary,

medicinal, and dye-plant uses. Soap wort – betony, now one of today's troubling species- makes a sudsy water.

With such solid beauty in those two gardens, in 2022 we began adding native plants to the “fringe” along the park – inside and outside the fence. The pioneers were surrounded by vistas of native plant communities of oak savanna, prairie, and wetlands just teeming with unfamiliar grasses and flowering plants. They had yet to recognize the importance of these plants for soil health, habitat and larval food for insects and pollinators, and as food sources of caterpillars, seeds, fruit for birds and small creatures. They had yet to discover their practical uses. Last year we added 148 native plants and 4 native shrubs with a grant from Wild Ones. This year we will add about the same number from additional grants. This increase in biodiversity and habitat is evident in the pollinating and feeding insects that we have never seen in the garden.



History of the Legacy Garden

By Barb Lehn, Burlington Area Garden Club

In the Fall of 1992 at the Burlington Public Library in Burlington, WI, 22 excited people gathered to find out what was transpiring with two ladies that wanted to form a garden club. There was such a tremendous response that Barb Lehn and Susie Quickstad (two newfound friends) just knew their idea was welcomed. After a few organizational meetings, things were off and running. Ladies and gentlemen alike were having fun sharing ideas and learning about all sorts of things related to gardening through local authorities.

As our club grew, a truly dedicated Burlingtonite, Judy Stone, approached Barb Lehn about a piece of property that could be more than just “a grassy piece of ground”. It could be a re-created garden typical of those found in Burlington in the late 1800s. It was her idea that encouraged The Legacy Garden to take shape.

The Burlington Historical Society welcomed the idea and donated \$1,500 towards the project. Barb and Susie went to work to find people that had some landscape experience. Alvin Schvetz of Landscapes, Inc. offered his service to the club. Schvetz estimated the garden's commercial cost at \$5,000 and could be implemented in stages. After viewing his plan, members of the club offered other services to make this plan come to life. Jack

Schlick, with the encouragement of his wife

Pat, wrote a letter to be sent to the businesses of the community to ask for donations for this beautification project. After many businesses donated, we still needed money to complete our goal.

After much thought the idea of a garden walk came to mind and without hesitation, Susie announced it to the newspaper and thus we were committed. On July 11, 1993, 19 of our members worked together to earn \$530 after expenses, from the first ever, Burlington Area Garden Walk.

Now all that was missing was a quaint old-fashioned fence to complete the garden. The Standard Press newspaper came to the rescue by writing an article about our garden and that we were on the lookout for a fence to compliment our garden. An anonymous call gave Barb Lehn a tip where there was just the fence we're looking for. After a few long distance calls, we were given permission by Mrs. Clemence Curry, to remove a fence from her summer

residence at 30405 Cedar Drive, Browns Lake.

Then there was another long search to find someone with just the right time and talent to restore this aging fence. That person turned out to be Mr. Robert Wollmer of Kansasville. Mr. Wollmer constructed an archway the the garden club's wishes and reconstructed some of the pieces that were too damaged to repair.

Things were coming together and the garden was looking beautiful. On June 226, 1994, the Burlington Historical Society held an old fashioned ice cream social and unveiled the plaque recognizing the many generous sponsors who helped make the garden a reality and the Burlington Area Garden Club dedication the garden.

If you would like to help maintain the garden, contact the Burlington Area Garden Club.
www.burlingtonareagardenclub.com.



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 \$ _____**

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