

## One Hundred Years Ago...

By John Hart

One of the largest celebrations in the history of Sauk City took place on June 23-24, 1923. It was to dedicate the recently completed free bridge which replaced the previous 1860 wood and iron bridge which had become a free passageway just two years previously. *The Baraboo Republic* reported that the event "attracted a great throng from the surrounding country and, as the celebration partook of the nature of a homecoming, quite a number of old residents came from distant cities, especially a considerable delegation from the Chicago-Sauk City and Milwaukee-Sauk City organizations."

A memorial was built on the Sauk City end of the bridge. It was funded by the native son and ex-governor Emanuel Lorenz Philipp (1861-1928). It was designed by another native son architect Alfred Clas (1859-1942). The memorial approach was meant to honor the "brave patriots who represented Sauk City and surrounding territory in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and the World War. He wished that the memorial should serve as an expression of gratitude of this generation and as an inspiration to loyalty and love of country for future generations." In 1923 there were a number of Civil War veterans still living, including John Kleinlein (1847-1924), Ferdinand Keller (1843-1936), Conrad Kouni (1842-1930), Erhardt Accola (1844-1927), and dozens more.

There were a number of musical selections played by the Sauk City Band, the Mozart Club of Madison and the "Star Spangled Banner" was sung by the assem-



blage. Numerous addresses by the Chairman of the Highway Commission, the Chief Engineer, and by the then current Governor John James Blaine (1875-1934). P.J.R. Post (1857-1926), Sauk City Clerk, presented a history of crossing the river from the time of Berry Haney's (1806-1858) flatboat to the current new bridge. Sauk City native Clara Thiele Runge (1860-1952) gave her address in German. She recounted E.L. Philipp's career as a schoolboy in Sauk City. Clara was one of four graduates in the first Sauk City high school class in 1879. In 1923 she was a Regent of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She was the first woman to hold that position.

The woman of St. Al's served a noon meal and evening meal in the dining room of the new high school. In the evening there was a dance in the school's auditorium. After the dedication ceremonies, the Twin Cities Red Sox lead by Jimmy Dodge (1889-1947) played a ball game with a team from La Crosse.

The next evening Sunday the 24th the events were concluded by a gathering at the park of St. Norbert's Catholic Church at Roxbury.



**Sauk Prairie Area  
Historical Society  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT**

John Hart

**VICE PRESIDENT**

John Nickel

**SECRETARY**

David Geier

**TREASURER**

Cheryl Carroll

**Board Members**

Lise Meyer-Kobussen

Becky Nickel

Jennifer Niles

**How-to-Contact Us**

**BY MAIL:**

565 Water Street  
Prairie du Sac, WI  
53578

**SEND US AN EMAIL:**

spahs@frontier.com

**CALL US:**

(608) 644-8444

**VISIT US ONLINE:**

saukprairiehistory.org  
saalemragatzchurch.org

**VISIT IN PERSON:**

Check out **Tripp  
Heritage Museum**  
by appointment or  
during open hours.  
Saturdays 10am-1pm  
Please call Museum Man-  
ager, Jack Berndt at (608)  
644-8444 to schedule an  
appointment.

*From the Desk of*  
**SPAHS Board President**  
*John Hart*

Greetings to all  
residents of the  
Sauk Prairie Area  
communities!



*John*

Lise Meyer Kobussen has been an important asset for our organization and the wider Sauk Prairie community serving the last five years as SPAHS president. We are grateful that she will continue to provide enthusiastic guidance to our historical society programs. I was elected President at our Annual Meeting in April. Our officer team includes John Nickel, Vice President; Cheryl Carroll, Treasurer; and David Geier Secretary. Additionally Jennifer Niles and Becky Nickel are active board members.

Responsibilities of the board includes the preservation and maintenance of three historical buildings. These would include the 1912 Tripp Heritage Museum in Prairie du Sac and the 1875 Salem Ragatz church and the 1880 Our Lady of Loretto church, both located in Honey Creek. The society undertakes membership management, fundraising, educational and community outreach programming, community engagement, and the museum's collection management and displays. We provide support for genealogy and family history research.

Many visitors express interest in learning about residential and commercial properties in our communities.

One of the most rewarding aspects of our work is the opportunity to provide youth groups with some additional hands-on experiences, by hosting several hundred school-age children each year. We have welcomed classes from all of the Sauk Prairie schools, including the high school, as well as home school program attendees from outside the Sauk Prairie area.

We are appreciative of the support that our 300 members provide through their membership dues.

Membership revenue has increased each of the last 5 years. The SPAHS's Facebook group ably monitored by Tripp Museum Manager Jack Berndt, has grown to over 3,500 members. We have recently received donations from the Oschner Family Foundation, the Charles J. Ploetz Family Foundation, the Sauk Prairie Mason Lodge #113, and a memorial bequest honoring the life of long-time member Paul Ladd. We thank the family members and friends for their donations.

Continued on Page 3



## From the Desk of SPAHS Board President

...Continued from Page 2

This summer we will assist the Sauk County Historical Society with their celebration of the 350th anniversary of French-Canadian Louis Jolliet and Jesuit Jacques Marquette's 1673 exploration of a pathway to the Mississippi River. Planning is in the works for a presentation and field trip this fall by author and scholar Dr. Patrick Jung, on Black Hawk and the 1832 Battle of Wisconsin Heights. Watch for future announcements.

Maintenance-wise, we have a project to address this summer a significant bat problem that we have in our rural church buildings.

Finally, we look forward to a busy summer and fall. We would appreciate any help in building our membership and donations. We need to grow to keep this organization healthy and provide new programming. Thank you all and hope to see you at Tripp.



Upstairs



## Many Thanks!

Thanks to Cheryl Carroll, we now have an option of drinking other than Tripp tap water! And thanks to Bill Schuette, who helped us install the vintage rotary phones, the Tripp Museum Telephone Company is now fully operational.



Main Level

**Green Acres**  
The Place For Steaks!  
GOOD TIMES, GREAT FOOD.  
BUILT ON A CENTURY OF TRADITION.

**Open 7 Days a Week**  
Bar open 4pm. Dinner service 4:30pm.  
608-643-2305 [GreenAcresRestaurant.com](http://GreenAcresRestaurant.com)

**CAMEO ANTIQUE MALL**  
Visit Our Large Used Bookstore  
We have Sauk Prairie area memorabilia  
Open Thursday through Monday 9 - 5  
Closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays  
827 Water St.  
Sauk City, WI 53583  
608-643-8000  
Shop online @ Etsy & Ruby Lane

# Sauk Prairie Sketches Continued...

By John Hart

Sauk Prairie had another Hungarian Count besides Agoston Haraszthy. This other Count became the namesake of one of America's great artists.

Haraszthy first arrived at Sauk Prairie in September 1840. On Christmas day in 1848 he and his family were transported to Madison to prepare for their eminent departure to California via the Santa Fe Trail. Just months earlier in July a new group of European emigrant refugees arrived from Hungary and Germany. Included in this company was Charles Naffz (1825-1914), Joseph Reiner (1815-??), and George Totto (1820-1894). Like his countryman Count Agoston Haraszthy, Totto came from a noble family. Totto and the other refugees had participated in the European revolutions that had failed for the most part.

Upon the refugees' arrival they lodged with the Haraszthy's. Reiner would go to California with the Haraszthy's in just a few months. He was a long-term associate of Agoston, at times managing some Haraszthy real estate and a vineyard in San Diego which Haraszthy continue to own after his relocation to San Francisco and later Sonoma. Charles Naff would live out the balance of his life in Sauk City as a businessman and member of the Free-Thinkers.

George Totto would spend the next nine years in Sauk Prairie before moving on. George recorded a federal land patent on February 1, 1850. This was for a ¼ section (160 acres) of land being NW1/4 of section 2 in township 9 north of Range 6 east (Town of Prairie du Sac). The Sauk Prairie Healthcare is now on this property as well as the Moely Prairie property. George Totto bought this land by purchasing a Bounty-Land Warrant from Patrick Gorman, Private, Ohio Vols., Capt. William Kearnelly's Co. for service in 1846 during the Mexican American War. There was an

active secondary market for land warrants used to pay soldiers as compensation for war services. Often these warrants could be purchased for less than the \$1.25 per acre that a cash land patent would cost at the time.

He married Isabel Dunham Wyckoff in May 1855. Her family had immigrated to Sauk City the year before. They had one daughter born to them in Sauk Prairie. In June of 1857 they relocated to Westport Township in Dane County and then later to Burke Township about 3 miles south-east of Sun Prairie. In 1867 George travelled back to Hungary to reclaim his substantial property that he had to leave behind in 1848. It is unknown if he succeeded. He stayed several years and returned to Wisconsin. The Totto's raised a total of six children. Their third child, Ida Ten Eyck Totto, was born on January 13, 1864. At the age of twenty she married the neighbor's son, Francis Calyxtus O'Keefe. They raised a family of seven children. Their second child born November 15, 1887, was named after her grandfather George Totto. Georgia O'Keefe would go on to become a famed artist. She was best known for her paintings of enlarged flowers, New York skyscrapers, and New Mexico landscapes. O'Keefe has been recognized as the "Mother of American modernism".



Ida Ten Eyck Totto

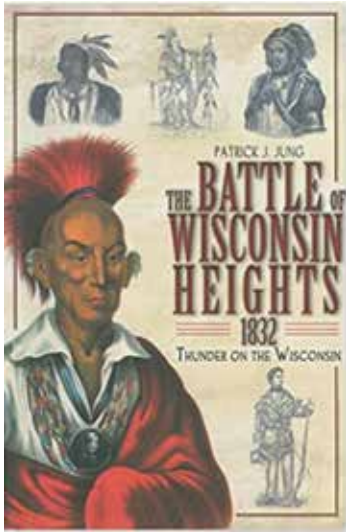
## New Donation to SPAHS Archives

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week(end), a SHOUT-OUT to Joel Chrisler, who after 33 years! of teaching at Sauk Prairie High School, is retiring in a few weeks. Joel has graciously donated his collection of SPSHS activities' posters (over a 120) & VHS/DVD tapes showing pictures & scenes of students in athletics, music, etc. Check out the final image here & find Joel as pictured in the 1991 Eagle Echo yearbook. CONGRATULATIONS Mr. Chrisler!





# SPAHS to sponsor a Presentation and Tour about Black Hawk



The Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society is planning to sponsor a presentation about Black Hawk and the 1832 Battle of Wisconsin Heights. A program will be presented by author Patrick Jung at the Tripp Heritage Museum. Dr. Jung is a professor of history and anthropology at the Milwaukee School of Engineering in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For the past three decades he has

pursued the study of history as a researcher, author, and university instructor. He is the author of “The

Battle of Wisconsin Heights 1832”, other books, articles and academic essays.

Professor Jung will speak at 1 p.m. at Tripp Heritage Museum in Prairie du Sac on Saturday, September 30, 2023. Following this, there will be a tour of the battlefield area. As there is limited parking available at the site, SPAHS will provide bus transportation. Tickets for the presentation and tour will be \$10.

The Wisconsin Heights Battlefield was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. The DNR purchased this property in 1990. This historic resource has been often overlooked over the years. There have been many myths, folklore, and legends presented in the past that we hope to understand better.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SCHS Summer Picnic

June 14 th , 2023  
VFW Park, Prairie du Sac  
See article on page 6.

### Patrick Jung Presentation and Tour to Wisconsin Heights Battlefield

September 30, 2023  
Tripp Heritage Museum  
565 Water St. Prairie du Sac  
See article above on this page 5.  
Ticketing TBD

### Presentation by Author Richard Rossin, Jr.

Author of “The History of Joseph Schorer and his Breweries in Sauk City & Elroy, Wisconsin.”  
Soon to publish new book on other Sauk City breweries  
October TBD

### Christmas Carols in the Country

at Salem Ragatz church  
December 2023 TBD

### Bald Eagle Watching Days

January 2024 TBD

## Edward Jones



**Joe LaCour, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor  
493 Water St  
Prairie Du Sac, WI 53578  
608-643-7890

> [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)

MKT-5894M-A

## Spellman Monument Co., Inc.



800 COMMUNITY DR. • SAUK CITY, WI 53583  
608.643.8241 • 1.800.852.5775  
FAX 608.643.6224

# SUMMER PICNIC AND PRESENTATION

SAUK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SAUK PRAIRIE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday, June 14  
6 pm Picnic Dinner from  
Wood's BBQ  
7 pm Presentation by  
Mark Walczynski  
VFW Park, Prairie du Sac  
Price: \$21 available on  
<https://saukcountyhistory.org>  
Or at the Tripp Heritage Museum



The 350th anniversary of the voyage of Jolliet and Marquette through the middle of the North American continent will be commemorated at the Sauk County Historical Society's annual summer picnic in partnership with the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society which will be held along the banks of what Marquette named the Meskousing (Wisconsin) River. After a delicious picnic meal, find out more about this epic journey from Mark Walczynski, author of *Jolliet and Marquette: A New History of the 1673 Expedition*.

Karen Ladd (right) honors her late husband Paul with a \$300 donation for the Tripp Heritage Museum, home of the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society. John Hart, President of the Society (left), receives the gift. Paul is remembered as a valued and long-time volunteer at the museum.



Want coffee? [johnjosephcoffee.com](http://johnjosephcoffee.com) 112 Van Buren St.  
Sauk City, WI 53583

**LAURA BREUNIG**  
**608.963.2720**  
[breunigl@FirstWeber.com](mailto:breunigl@FirstWeber.com)  
[LauraBreunig.firstweber.com](http://LauraBreunig.firstweber.com)

**FIRSTWEBER**  
REALTORS®  
*The human side of real estate.*



# New and Renewal Memberships Since Last Newsletter

Robert & Eileen Adank  
 Shirley Albers  
 Karen Armstrong  
 Dick & Carol Aylward  
 Pauline Ballweg  
 Matthew & Abbey Ballweg  
 Maureen Baum  
 Debra Berndt  
 Linda Boettcher  
 Joan & Dennis Breunig  
 Kristine Brewer  
 Candace Buckles  
 William & Jeneane Burton  
 John & Pamela Buss  
 Jon & Kathy Caffisch  
 Ann Campoll & Willy Walter  
 Jay & Stacy Chrisler  
 Jerry Colstad  
 Pamela Cooper  
 Deb & James Cramer  
 Betty Deischer  
 Gloria Derge  
 Karen & Howard Diehl  
 Kevin & Sara Dillon  
 Leah Ederer  
 Mary M. Edge  
 Charles & Victoria Fenske

Doug & Mary Freidag  
 Fair Valley Performance & Repair, LLC  
 Dave & Kay Fritz  
 Kay Griffiths  
 Bill Grunewald  
 Dan Halling  
 Connie Harrison  
 John & Jane Hart  
 Daleen Heffron  
 Timothy Heggland  
 Don Hehenberger  
 John & Susan Heinzleman  
 Jim & Lucille Hornung  
 Kay B. Hutchison  
 Jeanne & Jim Jessie  
 Bill & Deb Johnsen  
 Fred & Diane Kamps  
 Joan Kaul  
 Donna & Ron Kindschi  
 Eileen Klepper  
 Theresa Klubertanz  
 Donna Knickmeyer  
 Barb Knutson  
 Dr. John & Mary Jane Koch  
 Gary & Edna Lachmund  
 Karen R Ladd  
 Fred & Barb Lemm

Nick & Kathryn Lester  
 Alice Lybek  
 Jane & Jerry Maly  
 Nancy Maschman  
 Ruth McDowell  
 Gary & Eleanor Mede  
 Barbara E Moely  
 Elise Moser  
 Karissa Mundt  
 Joyce Murphy  
 Marjie Neumaier  
 Bart & Char Olson  
 Reon Onstine  
 Sandy Opitz  
 Christine Parchem  
 Mary Peetz  
 Victoria & Orlo Peetz  
 Robert Pick  
 Janis Pierce  
 Vern Racek  
 Elizabeth C. Ragatz  
 Kathy Raymond  
 Connie Reeves  
 Fred & Julie Roelke  
 Barbara & Tom Sandeman  
 Sandra Sandridge  
 Lisa Schwarz

David & Mary Schweitzer  
 Georgia & Frank Selden  
 William Shinker & Susan Moldow  
 Peter & Kim Shrake  
 Audrey Sinnott  
 Terry Steuber  
 Sandra Stiemke  
 Suzanne Swafford  
 Marcy Thurwachter  
 Todd Tobias  
 Thomas Trautmann  
 Phil Trautmann  
 Wendy Trotter  
 Mary Van Allen  
 Deonne Weaver  
 Keith Wegner  
 Robert Weiss  
 Steve & Robin Westre  
 Robert & Marianne Whitmoyer  
 Mary Wilhelm  
 John & Janet Wipperfurth  
 Judith Zeman  
 Pam Ziegler  
 Jim & Pat Ziegler  
 Alyssa Ziegler

**Dischler**  
 Heating, Cooling & Fireplaces

900 19th St.  
 Prairie du Sac  
 608.643.4536

Visit our Fireplace Showroom  
 Mon - Fri 7 AM to 4:30 PM

**Maplewood Sauk Prairie**  
 608.643.3383

Premier Rehabilitation Program.  
*"Restoring Health One Step At A Time."*

Rehabilitation • Memory Care • Long-Term Care

Helping Independent Seniors Lead Active Lives.  
 608.643.8494

**Maplewood Village**  
 Assisted Living Apartments

[www.maplewoodsaukprairie.com](http://www.maplewoodsaukprairie.com)

Auto • Home • Life • Business • Farm

Customized insurance solutions and personal service since 1919.

**MEYER Insurance**  
 Strength and Security

Trusted Choice<sup>®</sup>  
Independent Insured Agent

(608) 643-3000 • [meyeragency.com](http://meyeragency.com)

**Everett's Body Shop & Towing Inc.**

Auto Body • Classic Restoration • 24/7 Towing

847 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578  
 608-643-8624

Bryan Niles - Owner,  
 Auto Body Technician, Towing Operator  
[contact@everettsbodyshop.com](mailto:contact@everettsbodyshop.com) | [www.everettsbodyshop.com](http://www.everettsbodyshop.com)

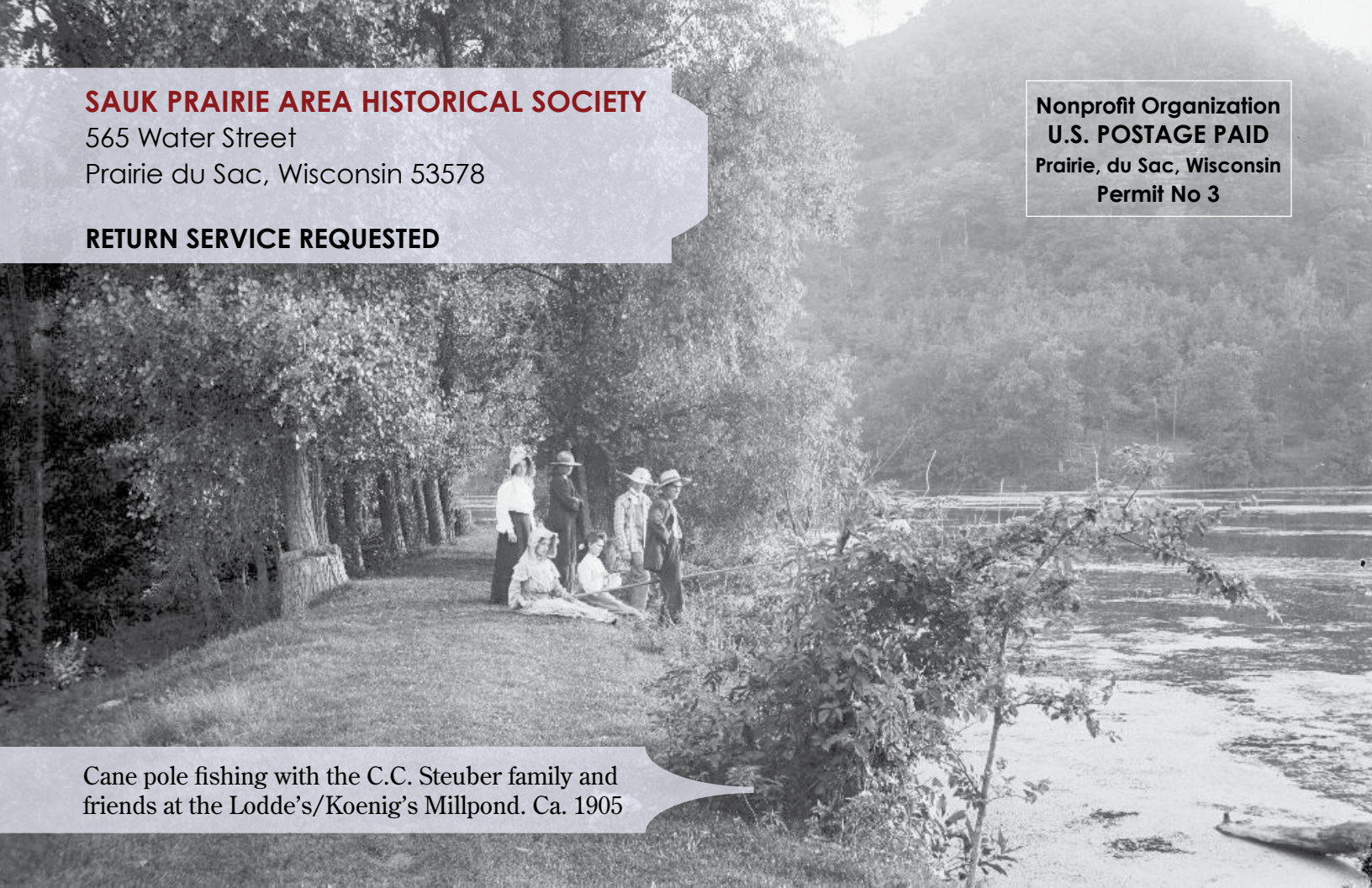


**SAUK PRAIRIE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

565 Water Street  
Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin 53578

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Prairie, du Sac, Wisconsin  
Permit No 3**



Cane pole fishing with the C.C. Steuber family and friends at the Lodde's/Koenig's Millpond. Ca. 1905

**Please support Sauk Prairie Historical Society by becoming a member or giving a gift membership!**

Sign up and purchase online  
[www.saukprairiehistory.org](http://www.saukprairiehistory.org)

**OR**

Fill out and mail this form to:  
565 Water Street, Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Person gifting membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Level Interested** (circle one):

Individual \$25 | Family \$40 | Sponsor \$100



**SPONSOR MEMBERSHIP**

**\$100.00**

Your membership keeps the Sauk Prairie legacy alive by supporting the ongoing archiving of photos, artifacts, and oral histories.



**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**

**\$40.00**

All SPAHS members receive the "Along the Riverway" newsletter, chock-full of photos and stories of Sauk Prairie past and present.



**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

**\$25.00**

Your membership helps keep the Sauk Prairie legacy alive by supporting the ongoing archiving of photos, artifacts, and oral histories.