

# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Jan 2021



COVID-19 Memory Tree  
created by member Marion  
(Welch) Heinisch-Clark. See  
story continued on Page 12.

### IN THIS ISSUE

COVID-19 Memory Tree .....	1, 12
The Story of the Eagle Painting.....	2
Membership Renewals.....	3
Reader Response to <i>Virtual Education</i> .....	4
The Whettam Family .....	5-6
Harvey Wambold Letter.....	7-8
Steinke (Sprague), June A. Obit.....	9
Murk, Vera Obit. ....	9
Pasterski, James A. Obit.....	10
Hawes, Robert W. Obit.....	11

### Welcome to New Members:

Marsha Bronson Family  
Evans, Janet  
Hyland, Mrs. Frances  
Ed Pierce & Nancy Campbell

The museum remains closed to the public at this time. Members work from home on projects and perform building maintenance/archiving tasks on site. We look forward to a time when we may once again resume events and gather together safely. Until then please continue to follow us on Facebook and/or check our website for updates and stay warm and safe, friends!



Jeff  
Nowicki,  
Art &  
Carrie  
Peavy did  
a little  
decor-  
ating to  
light up  
the  
museum  
over the  
holidays.



### EHS Board

**President**  
Jeff Nowicki, 2022

**Vice-President**  
Eloise Hall, 2021

**Secretary**  
Art Peavy, 2022

**Treasurer**  
Pat Hawes, 2021

**Financial Officer**  
Donald Ledrowski

### Board Members

**2021**  
Pat Hawes  
Peter Jones  
Don Ledrowski  
Richard Moeller  
Carolyn Rosprim

**2022**  
Scott Bovee  
Brian Breber  
Jim Fronsee  
Jeff Nowicki  
Art Peavy

**2023**  
JoAnn Gilbert  
Diana Hall  
Eloise Hall  
Gina Neist  
Mike Rice

**Curator**  
Elaine Ledrowski  
594-3301  
**Newsletter Editors**  
Art & Carrie Peavy  
594-5454  
**Webmaster**  
Mike Rice  
**Facebook**  
Elaine Ledrowski

**EHS Museum**  
262-594-8961

**CLOSED**  
Check our website for  
updates.

**Website:**  
[curator@eaglehistorical.org](mailto:curator@eaglehistorical.org)  
Facebook: Like us at  
Eagle Historical Society

## The Story of the Eagle Painting *By Sally (McKenzie) Whettam*

When I was a little girl, my parents and I lived in Eagle with my Grandma and Grandpa Whettam in a big house on Hwy. 59 across from what now is the Hen House. It was a grand home; four bedrooms upstairs and two downstairs. My grandparents rented out some of the spare rooms. I remember my Grandma working in the kitchen all day preparing meals for the boarders as well as the tramps who hopped off the trains knowing they'd get a free hot meal from her!

Mr. Klode, owner of a furniture store in Milwaukee, furnished Grandpa with extra beds to house prisoners from the Milwaukee Jail who worked on his farm across from Palestine School. A certain fellow was a talented artist. My Grandma gave him handkerchiefs and dish towels to paint on. I recall one very special piece.

In December of 1941, I was in the first grade at Eagle Graded School. News of the bombing of Pearl Harbor impacted everyone, even so far away as my peaceful hometown. Soon after, the distraught gentleman took out his paints and got to work.

He positioned a majestic eagle below two American flags. The title was "Remember Pearl Harbor," and the four corners listed "Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom of the Press, and Right of Assembly." When he had finished his painting, he gave it to me!

I grew up and eventually married Paul McKenzie, who proudly served our country in the U.S. Army. I am now living in Mukwonago, remembering the stories of my life. I have treasured this artifact from my childhood all these years.

It reminds me of a time when our nation came together with a common purpose. I hope future generations can learn from the past and honor those who defend our nation.



## 2021 Membership Renewals

Our heartfelt thanks go out to our many members who have not only generously renewed their memberships after this past difficult year but given us additional donations—too many to list. We are truly blessed to live in and serve a community with such a dedicated group of followers.

*Respectfully,*

*The Eagle Historical Society Board and Officers*

### **Senior \$8.00**

Adler, Pauline  
Baker, Annette  
Bashaw, Sharon  
Bergmann, Gerry  
Bryce, Joanne  
Chamers, Paul  
Bovee Clark, Dorothy  
Dahms, Mae Ruth  
Fanshaw, Donna  
Frame (Carter), Roseanne  
Gilbert, JoAnn  
Guldenaar, Jeanne  
Hawes, Pat  
Hyland, Mrs. Frances  
Johnson, Roger  
Kau, Dorothy  
Kinosian, Amy  
Madsen, Bill & LeAnn  
McKensie, Sally  
Moots, Peggy  
Nygren, John  
Orchard, William  
Richardson, Jean  
Schmielau, Arlene  
Sievers, Toulia  
Thiele, Jean  
Weimer, Betty  
Zawada, Cynthia

### **Individual \$10.00**

Allen County Public Library  
Bovee, Scott  
Chapman, Kathleen  
Chapman, Robert  
Chase, Alli  
Conley, James & Barbara

Evans, Janet  
Fisher (Moore), Dorothy  
Foley, Stephen  
Gier, Fred  
Howard, Ty  
Johnson, Jim  
Johnson, Jerry  
Kalnes, Stephanie  
Marquardt, Maryann  
Matters, Karen  
Masan, Cal  
Rolfe, Ruth Anne  
Spurrell, Richard  
Walbrandt, MaryJo  
Williams, Vonda  
Winzenried, Ellie & Bob

### **Family \$15.00**

Badinger, Dexter & Marlys  
Breber, Brian & Lucy  
Marsha Bronson Family  
Burstein, Jerry & Trish  
Clark, Marion & Ralph  
Dexter, Julie & Mark  
Dulde, DDS, Dr. Ryan  
Erickson, Gordon & Karen  
Fredenberg, Gert  
Frisch, James & Diane  
Grotjan, Jim & Michelle  
Harthun, Richard & Sally  
Hein, Greg & Marlene  
Heinisch-Clark, Marion  
(Welch) & Ralph Clark  
Jung, Anne  
Kennedy, Michael & Karen  
Krestan, William & Claudette  
Kruse, Donald  
Laine, Gigi & Bruce

Ledrowski, Alan &  
Scarlet Parris  
Ledrowski, David & Julie  
Loerke, Pete  
Neist, Jim & Gina  
Olson, Ken, Mal & Jeff  
Radabaugh, Wayne & Jan  
Rosprim, Gerald & Carolyn  
Sasso, Shari  
Scheff, Greg & Sue  
Sherman, Tom & Bonnie  
Sievers, Doug & Mary  
Steinke, Bob  
Thayer, Richard & Kathleen

### **Sustaining \$25.00**

Adams, Bill & Jacki  
Adduci & Lewis  
Anderson, Bob & Richard  
Baker, Victoria  
Beitz, Mary  
Calkins, Carol  
Chamberlain, Arn & Jessica  
Chapman, Cheryl  
Day, Rosanne  
Greve, John & Barbara  
Hanson, Sandra  
Hinkley, Harold  
Hunt, SE  
Kienast, Doris  
McCormack, John,  
Tammy, Cole & Luke  
Mecca, Matt & Ellen  
Payne, Gary & Nancy  
Peavy, Art & Carrie  
Peterson, Kathy & Harley  
Potrykus, Conrad



Rice, Mike & Joanne  
 Rudy, Brian & Elaine  
 Rupp, Terry  
 Sadler, Michael & Ann  
 Schaefer, Bonnie & Glen  
 Sierpinski, Donald  
 Walters, Bob & Pat  
 Weedman, Thomas & Jean

**Sponsor \$50.00**

Andrus, Gary  
 Angers, Debra & Timothy  
 Baker, Edward  
 Beitz, Nick & Rebecca  
 Berg, Jim & Cindy  
 Citizens Bank  
 Compass Screen and  
 Graphics  
 Cole, Roger & Valerie  
 Enright, Donald & Darla  
 Feltes, John  
 Houk, Roger & Dana

Ledrowski, Donald & Elaine  
 Moeller, Richard & Nada  
 Nowicki, Jeffery  
 Perkins, Jerry & Kay  
 Piala, Jim & Cathy  
 Semanko, Gay  
 Sorenson, Thomas & Teri  
 Steinhoff, Steven & Linda  
 Tritz, Carol  
 Wilkinson, Larry & Diane

**Patron \$100.00**

Boxhorn, Dorothy  
 Chapman, Russ & Pat  
 Fisher, Paul  
 Gregg, Ellen & Roy  
 Hall, Diana  
 Hall, Eloise  
 Heckel, Lori & Jerry  
 Jones, Peter & Kelly  
 Kaucic, Kim & Tim  
 Mann, Julie & John

Moffatt, Bruce & Patricia  
 Muth, Stephan  
 Niederner, Edith  
 Pierce, Ed &  
 Nancy Campbell  
 Priatko, Greg & Jackie  
 Steinke, Jesse & Vivienne  
 Thuemling, Diane & Tim  
 Wegner, Allen & Martina  
 West, Daniel & Debra

**Benefactor \$200 & Up**

Day, Tom  
 Heare, Vernetta

**Early Bird Membership**

**Renewal Winners:**

Kathleen Chapman  
 Matt Mecca  
 Nancy Payne

Prizes: *The Eagle Experience;*  
*The COVID-19*  
*Pandemic of 2020*

## From Our Readers...

I just read the article about Virtual Education in the Eagle Historical Society Newsletter.

I do remember "The Wisconsin School of the Air". I attended country school "Alton School and Rock Valley School, Juneau County, Wisconsin" from 1958-1962. 1962 was the last year for country schools in Juneau County. My favorite was "Art on the Air". Our other outside source for information was the "Weekly Reader". It is a very good article.

I am the president of Waukesha County Genealogical Society. I was wondering if I could share this article with our newsletter publisher for our society newsletter?

Thank you for this consideration,

Dorothy Boxhorn  
 Eagle Historical Society Member  
 WCGS President

# The Whettam Family

*By Sally (McKenzie) Whettam*



My grandparents, Nathan and Katherine Whettam, owned the large home across from the Hen House. Katherine's mother was Agatha Breidenbach, and she lived on the family farm in Eagle until she married my great-grandfather, Henry Schmidt, and moved to western Wisconsin. Katherine was born and grew up there, but in 1895, she met and fell in love with Nathan while visiting relatives in Eagle. They married and settled in the village.

My grandpa found work at the Pickle Factory working for Mr. Van Holton, who was known as Pickle Jack. They would dump cucumbers into a huge sorting machine and then into pickling vats standing 15 feet high and 20 feet around. In the late fall, barrels of pickles were loaded onto a train which went right past the factory.



My grandparents' home was larger than they needed for themselves and their one son, my father Edmund. I remember that it had four bedrooms upstairs and two downstairs. They rented out rooms to boarders and tramps who hopped off the trains. My grandma was busy preparing meals and cleaning for her guests. When my dad fell in love and married my mother, Catherine, they moved into the boarding house, too. I was their first child, and I have many memories of living in that home. My girlfriend, Pat Reed (Hawes) used to come over and play with me.

(continued from page 5)



When our family got too big, we moved into our own home in Eagle, but I'll always remember the happy days I spent growing up in the Whettam boarding house!

*Whettam Boarding House*

*As it looks now*





Wed., May 4, 1994



Wambold Home 503 Main Street

My name is Harvey Wambold. I was born in January in 1917 and lived in Eagle most all of my life. I started in the Eagle State Graded School in 1924 which was built in 1905. On March 5<sup>th</sup> of 1928 it was destroyed by fire. Education, of course, still had to carry on. So in between the time of the fire and a new schoolhouse was built the grades were divided into three different groups.

Some attended school in the basement part of the Methodist church, some in the upstairs part of the Catholic church and the rest in the upstairs part of the building next to the then lumber yard, which was called the Masonic Hall. We used to have 10 years of schooling here at that time, and I finished school here and then was fortunate enough to finish my last two years of high school in Palmyra and graduated in 1935. In our school years I think we all probably had a favorite teacher too and I think that mine was Miss Helen Travenich, and I think that was because she often would come out and take part in games with us. I'm sure we all had a favorite subject in school too and mine was arithmetic. I say that I guess because I did learn my multiplication tables quite well and we had one teacher who often with a few minutes remaining before school let out would give us some mental arithmetic problems (example, etc.) and I was often able to come up with the right answer. Numbers play an important part in our life, and particularly so if in any business.

Population, of course, back then wasn't as big as it is now, so there were only perhaps 8 to 12 students in a class. Living right here in town I didn't have far to walk to school like some of the children did who lived out in the country and had to walk a mile or more to and from school.

I think we all had certain jobs or duties to do too in our growing up days and some of mine were to keep the sidewalk shoveled off in winter time and mowing the grass and keeping the coal and wood box filled up.

I'm sure we all more or less had a favorite pet in our younger days too, and mine was a couple of hunting dogs my father had. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and he brought me up that way too.

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

Economic times too were much different back then than what they are now, and in my latter school years I often worked down at the Allpress farm in the summer and was paid a dollar a day and was given my dinner and supper.

I hope the time never comes again when the U.S. gets involved in another war, but I was drafted in March of 1941 and which at that time was supposed to have been only for a year's time but then came the Pearl Harbor incident and then, of course, my Army service continued on for another 4-1/2 years -- 2-1/2 years in the U.S. and 2 years overseas. I only bring this up because it turned out to be quite a historical education in itself for me.



Harvey in uniform

While overseas I got to see such historical places as the London Bridge and St. James Church and Buckingham Palace in England and the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and as we traveled on we went through the Brenner Pass and on past the leaning tower of Pisa and through the outskirts of Rome and down to Naples and over to Africa. It turned out to be a mistake that we were sent to Africa, so after a short stay we were boarded on a plane and we

were flown down the coastline down to Casablanca and on over to Natal, Brazil, and on to Miami, Florida, and then by train to Ft. Sheridan, Illinois, where I received my Army discharge.

My closing words are to get all the education you possibly can as it will be of great value and help to you throughout your lifetime. Thank you.

*The above letter written by Harvey Wambold was retyped and printed with permission given by Eunice Wambold. Photos were shared by Diana Germaine.*



Harvey and Eileen wedding



**Steinke (Sprague), June A.***Nov. 17, 1922 - Oct. 29, 2020*

June A. Steinke, 97, of Mukwonago, passed away peacefully on Oct. 29, 2020, surrounded by her family. She was born in Waukesha on Nov. 17, 1922. June is now reunited with Bob, her husband for 72 years. She is survived by her children Tom, Jim (Phyllis), John (Pam), Mary (Don), Bob (Cindy), Pat (Wade), Dave (Carole) and Sally (Thomas); 16 grandchildren: Mike, Pam (Chris), Penny, Matt (Beth), Erin (Travis), Jesse (Vivienne), Rhonda (Jeff), Heidi, Katie (Norb), Dan (Becky), Nicole (Ryan), Josh, Stacy (Brian), Mindy (Derek), Bree (Tom) and Cassy; 24 great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren. In addition to Bob, June was also preceded in death by her parents, Jesse and Mary Sprague; her brothers Gerald (Joyce) and Joseph; her

daughter-in-law Sharon Steinke; her granddaughter Jenny and her great-grandson Barrett. In addition to being a loving and supportive mother and grandmother, June worked many years as a registered nurse at Waukesha Memorial Hospital. She was a longtime member of St. James Catholic Parish. She had a strong belief in God and the blessings He brings. She enjoyed getting together with friends, attending Mukwonago Senior Citizens events, playing cards, traveling, jigsaw puzzles and the Milwaukee Brewers. The family wishes to thank Chrystal for her loving care over the last couple of years. A special thanks to the ProHealth and AngelsGrace Hospice team for their loving care. In lieu of flowers, donations were made to St. James Catholic Parish in Mukwonago or to St. Jude Children's Hospital in her name. A Mass of Christian burial was held at 12 noon on Mon., Nov. 2, 2020 at St. James Catholic Parish in Mukwonago. Fr. Loyola Amalraj officiated the Mass. Visitation was held from 10 a.m. until the time of service at the church. June was laid to rest next to her husband in St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery in Eagle immediately following the service. Gibson Family Funeral Homes of Palmyra & Eagle served the family and online condolences were placed at [gibsonfuneral.com](http://gibsonfuneral.com).

**Murk, Vera***Mar. 21, 1929 - Dec. 2, 2020*

Vera Murk, longtime Eagle resident, passed away peacefully on Dec. 2, 2020 at the age of 91. Born of Russian immigrants, Mar. 21, 1929, Vera learned English very quickly which enabled her to translate for her parents. Vera went to school to become a secretary and assisted her husband in his commercial art business. They raised their family together in Greendale before moving to Eagle. Active member of the Russian Orthodox Church and volunteer at Old World Wisconsin. She was a good hearted and kind friend who was known for her beautiful handwriting which she shared on the many cards and letters she sent. Loving wife of 69 years to the late Martin Murk and wonderful patient mother of Laura (Peter) Holbus, Apalachin, NY, the late Robert John Murk and Nancy (Jeff) Leonard, Hartland, WI. She is further survived by 5 grandchildren and 6.5 great-grandchildren. A Very Special Thank You to the staff and friends at Three Pillars for the friendship and loving care given to our family. A Private Family Service was held on Sat., Dec. 12, 2020. Memorials were made to Three Pillars, Milwaukee Rescue Mission, St. Jude or the Salvation Army.

**Pasterski, James A.***Mar. 30, 1932 - Dec. 2, 2020*

James A. Pasterski, 88, of Eagle Spring Lake, WI passed away on Dec. 2, 2020 at his home with his loving family by his side.

Jim was born on Mar. 30, 1932 in Milwaukee, the son of Edward and Helen (Spitalniak) Pasterski. He grew up in the Milwaukee area and excelled in sports from a young age, especially football. Jim attended Notre Dame University and also Marquette University during his college years. He played football on a scholarship for both schools. After school, Jim married the love of his life, Joan Utpatel on March 2, 1957 and the couple was blessed with two children, Debra and Gregory. Service to others was a very important aspect of Jim's life. He served his community, the Town of Eagle, for over 45 years.

Some of his positions included, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and from 1981 until his passing he served as Town Treasurer. He also sat on the Eagle Spring Lake Board of Lake Management for many years. Jim's family also remembers him as a true salesman. He could sell anything, from golf balls to area resorts, to safety equipment. Jim was interested in history and loved to read. He also had quite the sweet tooth and was happy to eat any pie, cookie or cake served. Some of his favorite desserts were Lorna Doone Cookies, Culver's strawberry shakes, and turtle chocolates. Above all else in Jim's life was his love for family. He was especially proud of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; they were the apple of his eye. Jim was a good man and lived a full life. He will be forever remembered by his family and friends.

Jim is survived by: his two loving children, Debra (Daniel) West of Eagle, WI and Gregory (Dawn) Pasterski of Eagle, WI; his dear grandchildren, Jeff (Alyssa) Pasterski, Matt Pasterski, Dayton West, and Devon West; his great-grandchildren, Caden and Kinsley Pasterski; and his sister, Ruth Karn of Grand Junction, CO. He is also survived by other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 48 years, Joan, his parents, and his two brothers, Edward and Ronald.

In lieu of flowers, memorials were made to St. Theresa Catholic Church of Eagle, WI.

Jim was laid to rest next to his wife in Jericho Cemetery of Eagle, WI during a private family committal service. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was not a formal service at this time. A memorial gathering will be held at a later date to remember and honor Jim's life.

The family extended a special thanks to Badger Hospice and their entire staff for the care and support they provided Jim and the family. They are forever grateful to each and every member of their staff.

Gibson Family Funeral Homes of Eagle & Palmyra, WI served the family. Online condolences were placed on [gibsonfuneral.com](http://gibsonfuneral.com).

**Hawes, Robert W.***May 2, 1932—Jan. 13, 2021*

Robert William Hawes, 88, of Eagle passed away on January 13, 2021 of complications from COVID-19.

Rob was born on May 2, 1932 to Harvey and Georgiana (Roberts) Hawes of Waukesha, WI. Rob grew up on his family's farm and anticipated life as a farmer. His life changed drastically when both his parents died within a few years, and Rob made the loving commitment to raise his younger sister and brother. His love and responsibility to his family led him to pursue a career in sales. He married the love of his life, Patricia Louise Reed on October 8, 1955. Rob was a devoted sales and delivery person for George's Fine Foods, then moved into tire sales in Waukesha for both Firestone and Goodyear stores. He was a member of the Eagle United Methodist Church all his life. Rob loved getting to know people and enjoyed life long friendships

through his work, even working part time for Napa Auto Parts in Mukwonago for many happy years after his retirement. Rob also loved riding motorcycles and rode into his 80's, enjoying his friendships with fellow riders just as much as he enjoyed the thrill of the open road.

Rob will be deeply missed by his wife, Pat, of 65 years, his children, Jeff (Ellie) Hawes of Eagle, Lori (Mitchell) Glawe of Gray, TN, and Kathy (Harley) Peterson of Plymouth, MN. He has been well loved and will be missed by his grandchildren Dan, Amy, Ben, Jono, Harley and Claire, his brother, Don (Alice) Hawes of Mt. Pleasant, WI, and other relatives and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents, younger brother Howard, and sister Ethel Ann.

Due to the public health crisis, there will be no visitation. A private service for Rob was held at Gibson Family Funeral Home on January 18, 2021 at 11:00 AM for the immediate family.

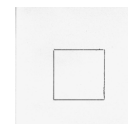
Memorial contributions in Rob's name were directed to the Eagle United Methodist Church or the Eagle Historical Society.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date when it is safe to do so.

Gibson Family Funeral Homes of Palmyra & Eagle, WI served the family. To leave an online condolence or share a memory, please visit [gibsonfuneral.com](http://gibsonfuneral.com).



Eagle Historical Society, Inc.  
217 Main Street  
P.O. Box 454  
Eagle, WI 53119-0454



Please consider purchasing an  
EHS newsletter subscription or  
memorial brick. Contact Don  
Ledrowski at 262-594-3301 or  
don@ledrowski.com for details.

## COVID-19 Memory Tree

*By Ralph Clark and Marion (Welch) Heinisch-Clark*

*(continued from page 1)*

### *Ralph:*

Marion decorates an artificial tree year 'round, calling it a celebration tree, using appropriate ornaments and decorations for most holidays. Her COVID-19 tree is her way of honoring those who fell to the disease, and to those who died from the disease. It was completed before a son-in-law contracted COVID-19. That and prior complications will end up with his death. A grandson in the same family, different location, has now also been diagnosed, but seemingly a milder case. The magazine "Our Wisconsin" received the complete story on the subject earlier this year, along with appropriate pictures for each holiday.

### *Marion:*

When the COVID-19 virus first started to enter our lives, I made a smiley face of hearts to honor the First Responders. Both appeared in our home front window, and in one window of Thomas Press. Now that face masks are in our daily lives, I thought I would like my grand and great-grandchildren to see how we adapted to the new normal, wearing face masks, and enjoying our lives.