PRESERVATION RACINE, INC.

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2015

Ernst Klinkert, Brewer, 1845–1936, Continuing Research summary
Presentation Given at the German Men's Club, Monday 1 December, 2014

In December 2014, I gave a newly researched presentation about Ernst (Ernest) C. Klinkert, seeking to fill out the information about him, and especially his buildings. The research continues and more information has emerged since the presentation, which I will mention here. Also, I invite anyone with information about any of his many properties in Racine to be in touch with me. It would be nice to plot them on a map – there were so many and we have lost so many! I hope to bring all this together for a small illustrated book in due course. Meanwhile, here is a synopsis of the new information about him.

Klinkert's life can be seen in three major phases:

I. 1860s/70s to 1889, Arrival in America and establishing his business
II. 1889 to 1920, Successful brewer and local benefactor
III. 1920 to 1936, Decline following Prohibition and loss of his major income

I 1860s/70s to 1889, Arrival in America and Establishing his Business

Ernst or Ernest?

An abiding question concerns Mr. Klinkert's first name: should be it be the German Ernst, or the Anglicized Ernest? It may be relevant that the newspapers used the Anglicized form, while the German form was used for his brewery, where it makes marketing sense: the Germans are famous for their beer and there was a famous Brewing Academy in his birth-town of Frankfurt. The tombstone also gives the German form. Both, surely, are correct: one for the family and the brewery, and one for official public announcements in a country where many ethnic foreigners had Anglicized their names.

—Journal-Times Photo.
Ernst Klinkert.

Obituary photograph, *Racine Journal Times*, November 23, 1936

Family

One new discovery is that several members of Ernst Klinkert's family were also in America. They have not all been identified and located but thus far we can point to four half-brothers and possibly a fifth (**Julius**) who awaits further investigation:

1. **Frederick Klinkert**, c.1820–1915, arrived and settled St. L ouis, MO, c.1851, blacksmith
2. **William Berges**, 1838–1922, arrived Milwaukee 1868, settled Neuchatel, KS, shortly thereafter, or late 1872 , homesteader
3. **Ernst ("Ernest") C. Klinkert**, 1844–1936, born Frankfurt, Germany, arrived Neuchatel, KS, late 1860s–c.1870 or 1870–72; lived St. Louis 1870, Milwaukee by 1873, settled Racine c.1876 , brewer (trained in Germany)
4. **Johann ("John") Adam Klinkert**, 1849–1915, arrived (where?) 1865, settled Milwaukee and Superior, WI, brewer (trained in Frankfurt, Germany).

735 Center, Klinkert's first Racine residence

Tremendous difficulties attend the events, locations and dates of Ernst's early life in America owing to conflicts in the early histories (largely reminiscence-based) and newspaper articles concerning local breweries or Klinkert himself. Verifying the events against primary sources, such as marriage certificates, census information and City Directories, particularly vindicates one history (*The History of Racine County*, Fanny Stone, 1916) and adds much detail. Thus Ernst first surfaces in Neuchatel, Onaga Co, KS, in the later 1860s, where he had purchased a homestead. Finding he hated homesteading, he was no doubt delighted to sell the property to his older half-brother William Berges in 1870 and leave Kansas. He is next recorded in St. Louis, MO, where his older half-brother Frederick had settled some considerable time earlier. In St. Louis, he returned to the brewing trade and married Sophia Walter (1858–1907, also a German immigrant) in 1871.

Soon afterwards he is said to have been in Milwaukee, working for the Blatz Brewing Co. Blatz was one of the larger Milwaukee Brewers (the largest was P. H. Best, where his younger half-brother Johann worked). It was destroyed by fire in 1873, rebuilt thoroughly modernized within a year, and in 1875 was selling Milwaukee's first individually bottled beer. The "lightning stopper" was invented just that year, and replaced the laborious and slow hand-wiring of the corks with a wired leverage system similar to the modern Champagne cork retainer. This allowed the corks to be levered quickly into the bottle by flipping the loop.

Klinkert in Racine

Frederick Heck

The same bottling system appears in Racine's Heck Brewery at about the time that Ernst is said to have been manager there from "1874 to 1878". The city directories, however, do not record Klinkert in Racine until 1876, when he is indeed listed as working for Frederick Heck and living right next door to Mr. Heck on 735 Center Street.

Murphy and Klinkert

This leads to the second new piece of information, concerning an unsuspected early business partnership. One of the clerks working for Charles Heck (crockery) was George Murphy, and within a year Klinkert and Murphy are listed as partners with a saloon and grocery business on 6th Street. The following year Klinkert is recorded as living above its business premises. As yet, it is not clear how long Klinkert and Murphy remained in partnership but the relationship overlapped with a new partnership Klinkert formed with Erhart Schelling, who had the brewery one block away on Washington and 8th Street.

Schelling and Klinkert

Klinkert's partnership with Erhart Schelling (or Schilling) is well known and it is popularly believed that Klinkert bought Schelling out in 1879. This may bear further investigation, however, because the name on the brewery after the buy-out was not Ernst Klinkert but John Klinkert. Within a year, however, Ernst had clearly bought his half-brother out and his name remained consistently on the brewery thereafter.

Another new discovery suggests that, along with the brewery, Klinkert would also have acquired its two- or three-tier beer-ageing tunnels proudly built next to the brewery under the 800 block of Washington Avenue by Erhart Schelling's brother John.

The Brewery

The brewery's footprint is still clear today. It occupied the large triangular block between 8th Street, Washington Avenue and Marquette Street. Ernst went to live directly opposite at 829 Washington, although that house was long-ago razed.

We have no photographs of the brewery in Schelling's time but we do have a sketch of it in Klinkert's time, 1883, showing that part of it was made in wood. The earliest known photograph was published in *Racine Illustrated, 1893*, by which time it had been rebuilt. There we can see an Italianate brick building with three-story ice-house and vast factory chimney (on 8th), and a

1883 Bird's-Eye View Map of Racine, detail of Klinkert's brewery & previously-built mansion plot

great entrance arch and three-story malt house on Washington. We know what these cost, too, because Klinkert announced them as he built, generally taking care to include actual or projected costs. So we know that he replaced the ice house first in 1882 at a cost of $30,000. This was followed in 1884 by the corner block, which held the washery, kegging and bottling plants, whose cost we don't know. But the date 1884 was recorded in brick along the decorative roofline. In 1886 Klinkert announced that he was replacing the "existing wood-frame structure" with a brick-built malt house, at a projected cost of $16,000. The photo shows yet another block further south, but I have not identified this yet.

However, at some point, another extension was added, the red-brick bottling plant that survives (shorn of its head piece) today. Another early photograph shows that the head piece recorded the name "E. Klinkert Brewg Co.," which places it after the incorporation of 1904 when the brewery received this new name. This photograph was taken from the doorstep of 829 Washington Avenue, where Klinkert was living at the time, so it is tempting to wonder if he took this photograph himself. Interestingly, also, the photograph focuses on this bottling plant and cuts off the north corner of the brewery along with the top of its great chimney and the top of the malt house. Perhaps, then, the bottling plant was new when the photograph was taken. Or perhaps the photograph was actually taken by Klinkert's son Frank, who managed the factory and had his office in the new bottlery.

The Klinkert Mansion

In 1889 Klinkert announced that he was building a mansion on the corner of Washington and 9th Street. The house is recorded in the city directories as 904 and as 910, which was on an area now occupied by South Marquette Street and the little traffic island where the three streets now meet. There was no southern extension of Marquette Street at this date, and the area was indeed a double plot. In 1883 this area was already occupied by two houses, which Klinkert or the previous owner of the plots must have razed before the mansion was built (1888–1889).

The Klinkert Sulky Racing Farm, Race Track, and Ball Park

Having got his brewery into the most complete and up-to-date functionality, and having built his mansion and moved into it, Ernest Klinkert had "arrived". At this point we find him spreading his wings, and the first thing he did was to buy land and build a sulky horse-racing barn and house south of the city on what is now Lathrop Avenue. Klinkert never lived there himself, and this makes perfect sense in relation to the kind of barn he built: a Kentucky Bluegrass "palace". These Bluegrass palaces were hobby farms, built for

business magnates who had become fabulously wealthy in commerce or industry. The farms made no money, and cost a fortune to maintain, but they provided the business tycoons with a way to pretend for a while that they were like European landed gentry. The work on the farms was real, whether crop breeding or horse breeding. There were cutting-edge experiments, and the owners showed all this off to each other at black-tie dinner events and tours. So to build a barn like this was a declaration that he had "arrived".

Another new piece of information is that Klinkert drove his own horses at some of the events. He was particularly known for his fast-paced trotter, a bay mare called Miss Brown. With Miss Brown, he came first, fourth, second and second in a sulky race in 1907, and placed second overall.

As we know, to go with the farm, he also built a practice track that doubled as an event-and-picnic park two miles north on Lathrop Avenue, where it intersects with Republic Avenue (today's Oak Park). The commencement of work was duly announced in the *Racine Daily Journal*, October 12, 1903. Just at that time, however, Racine's Athletic Park with its state-of-the-art ball park and cycle track had to be razed to make way for residential development. The *Racine City* map from the 1908 *Atlas of Racine and Kenosha Counties* shows the Athletic Park area one-and-a-half blocks south of Washington Avenue, defined by Grange, Flett and Holmes Avenues, plus one half block more towards Boyd Avenue. It is already a fully developed residential area. Before construction on his own race track even began, the *Racine Daily Journal* for September 28, 1903, announced that Klinkert was proposing to rebuild the doomed ball park alongside his own race track, using the bleachers and grandstand from the older park. As duly recorded in the same newspaper article, he also negotiated with the Milwaukee Electric Light and Railway Company for a rail track to run from downtown to the event and ball park (the land from that track is now a county bike trail). The combined race track and ball park was named the Klinkert Park, and this is where Klinkert raced Miss Brown.

Klinkert's Saloons and the Hostile Foreign Brewers

In town, Klinkert was also spreading his wings, so successfully that by 1902 he had no fewer than twenty "places" (saloons, hotels, and suchlike) in Racine alone. And in the previous year, in Corliss (now Sturtevant), he had built the Klinkert Hotel, a restrained wood-framed building (that burned down within a few years to be replaced by an attractive brick Queen Anne). He was also selling beer in Chicago by invitation, and built himself a modern ice house there, too, to store his shipments. This went down well with Racinians but it incurred the hostility of the "foreign" brewers, who also had their eye on Racine as a market. These were the Milwaukee brewers, Pabst, Schlitz, and Miller. In 1902 they had, between them, about 76 "places" in Racine to Klinkert's 20. Total number of licenses in Racine that year was 124.

The *Racine Daily Journal*, July 9, 1902, recorded with some outrage on Klinkert's behalf that these foreign breweries were doing all they could to crowd Klinkert out. Noting Klinkert's "usual even tenor" as he held his ground, the journalist explained that, initially, these brewers had tried to force him into partnership to sell at inflated prices. Then they sought to undercut him, and now they were using the districting laws to prevent proprietors opening saloons if they proposed to sell Klinkert's beer instead of Milwaukee beer. On 16th Street, for example, there is a nice little Pabst Castle at 1300. Next door to it at 1224 is a little Queen Anne style saloon. It was built in 1902 with a view to selling Klinkert beer. Pabst invoked the districting laws to force the proprietor to seek countless signatures from the local businesses approving his new saloon and beer. It could not be done and Klinkert's beer was never sold from that premises.

Improvements on Main Street

That same year, Klinkert was involved in major improvements on Main Street, where he owned contiguous plots on the east side between State and 2nd Street. He began by commissioning

architect W. F. Burfriend for a large hotel (the Budar Hotel, later the Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Hotel) on the north corner, and from time to time proposed to flank it to the north with a public park , vaudeville theatre or bowling alley. On the south corner, his property was occupied by a junk dealer: in 1904 Klinkert gave notice to vacate and replaced those tatty premises with a men's boarding house and sample-rooms. All this was greatly lauded by the *Racine Daily Journal*.

A Circus and a Burglary

At about this time Klinkert went to visit family out of state, leaving his two adult daughters in the mansion. They got up a party to go to one of the great historic circus institutions, *The Great Wallace Shows*. On return with their escorts and friends, they discovered a back window broken open and their pre-prepared elegant dinner eaten by uninvited guests. The burglars had taken their time, folded the napkins and used the toothpicks, and then proceeded leisurely to ransack the house for its silver. The case remained unsolved, but the *Racine Daily Journal* attributed the theft to a band of thieves known to follow that circus and burgle houses while the owners were out for a predictable length of time. While researching this circus, however, I came upon an interesting snippet to the effect that Mr. Wallace would collect "silver items" while his circus was on its travels. Afraid of having these stolen, he shipped them home to Peru, Indiana, in crates marked "nails". I feel forced to wonder if perhaps the thieves were not so much opportunists following the circus as collaborators with Mr. Wallace!

Perhaps these had been the best years for Ernest Klinkert. In 1907 his wife Sophia died of complications following an operation, and he did not remarry for 14 years. The rate of public announcements abates a little from this time. Yet in 1909 he built a modern bowling alley to stand next to the Budar Hotel. And in 1910 he proposed and built the first Majestic Theatre.

The First Majestic Theatre

This first Majestic Theatre currently seems to have slipped beneath the radar, as it was replaced in 1928 with the Majestic Theatre we know today. Klinkert owned much of the land at the junction of Ann Street and Washington Avenue. He certainly owned the plot between Ann and Junction, and certainly the plots and stores on Washington that faced Ann and continued north towards his brewery. He built the first Majestic Theatre at 1430 Washington, directly opposite Ann: it was a single-story, modern theatre, set between two stores. Within a year, the local businessmen had asked him to add a story to contain an assembly hall. The Journalist was confident that Mr. Klinkert would oblige, but so far I have not discovered whether or not he did. Oddly, although the building stages of the theatre are recorded in the *Racine Daily Journal*, the theatre does not actually appear in the directories until 1925.

First Majestic Theatre, "Columbia Corners", Washington and Ann (Uptown), 1910

III 1920 to 1936, Decline Following Prohibition, which Deprived him of his Major Income

Prohibition

Prohibition probably did not come as a thunderbolt out of the blue, but its effect must have been as absolute. The brewery was closed immediately, and Klinkert instantly set about converting his saloons to business premises and a few soft-drinks parlors.

Grant Furniture, 500–504 Sixth Street

In 1921 Klinkert remodeled premises on Sixth Street. He owned three contiguous stores from 500 to 504. Two of these had been saloons, although one of the saloons had been incorporated into a double-store for Grant Furniture in 1914. Grant Furniture was a long-established chain, and its opening event including giving away 42-piece dinner services with every piece of furniture bought. In 1921, when the saloon at 500 had to be closed, Klinkert remodeled the entire building to the great approval of the *Racine Daily Journal*, whose journalist felt that Klinkert had made a major improvement and upgrade to that end of Sixth Street. The three stores were run together and given a consistent façade of red wire-cut brick with contrasting pale stone trim, strong surface texture and generous windows: his characteristic taste in building style. The journalist made particular mention of the ground-floor wrap-around plate glass windows with copper moldings and central entrance that can still be seen today. The building also had heating and elevators – and Grant Furniture remained in it and had a grand opening on October 21, 1921, marked with a double-page spread in the *Racine Journal News*, whose tagline reads: *Grant's New Home, a Credit to Racine*. One month later, Grant adopted a new tagline that it never abandoned: *The Store That Has Grown With the City.*

The "First Klinkert Building," 615–617 Sixth Street

The "First Klinkert Building," 615–617 Sixth Street, is on the end lot before Sixth Street joins Washington at City Hall. In 1914 the *Racine Journal News* records that Klinkert had permission to build a new premises there, which is the building we have today. Although so many of Klinkert's buildings have been razed, those that remain show a typical taste, and this building is an excellent example: red wire-cut brick with contrasting pale stone trims, a sturdy rectilinear aesthetic, strong texture and generous windows. These belong to the later Beaux Arts style as it began to anticipate modernity by reducing architectural details to geometric planes and favoring strong material texture. The buildings are well-built and give a visually satisfying overall impression.

Stores on Washington Avenue

In 1922 Klinkert remodeled one of the two stores flanking his (first) Majestic Theatre. Again we see his characteristic taste: a darkish strongly-textured brick in contrast with pale stone trims, a rectilinear design, and large windows.

The Second Majestic Theatre

Second Majestic (now Uptown) Theatre, 1928

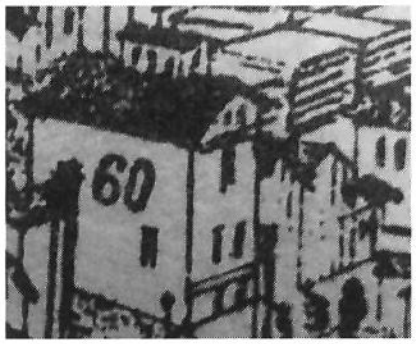
It is not clear when he decided to replace that original Majestic Theatre. It was donated to the City in 1928. In 1927 Klinkert had announced that he would donate a $200,000 theatre on Douglas Avenue, but this seems not to have been built under his auspices. Instead, we find him selling his farm and barn to Wallace Piper and his son Howard in 1928, and announcing the new Majestic Theatre commissioned from architect

B. Wade Denham, the same year. It was magnificent: a red-brick exterior with contrasting white stone trim carved with Gothic niches, and a textured upper story with his signature recessed panels. Sadly, those Gothic niches were removed early in the 2000s and the traces have been painted over. Inside, it was a visual feast of color and shape from all periods: painted classical figures floated above classical coffering that arched between tiers of Gothic tracery. Baroque vaulting swooped above the seating, and plaster busts were set into crocketted pediments over the doors. It is all now tragically decaying, although its new owners have a strong track record of bringing historic buildings back to their former beauty: we wish them every success!

The End of the Brewery

And the brewery? It was closed in 1920 but maintained in meticulous working order for the next eleven years by Klinkert's son Frank, who was the brewery manager. Frank's office was in the bottlery, and the *Racine Review* noted that two or three days a week would see him inspecting and tuning the equipment so that the factory could start up again at a moment's notice. But it never did. In 1928 Ernest Klinkert began to default on his city taxes and in 1931 the brewery was razed to save $1000 a year of those taxes. Two years later, prohibition ended and Frank immediately convened a consortium and incorporated with glorious plans for a bigger, better and brighter brewery. It would be built in the new Art Deco style, similar to the third County Courthouse just then going up two blocks from the factory. It would have double the capacity. And it would cost $400,000. Frank's father never spent that kind of money on his projects, and he was now defaulting on local taxes. The sum was too high and the funds could not be raised. The new brewery was never built, and when Ernest Klinkert died six years later, in 1936, he owed the city $94,000 in back taxes. Frank litigated to persuade the City to accept Klinkert properties in lieu of taxes. Evidently he succeeded. I have still to run the documentation to earth, but almost all of Ernest Klinkert's properties (large or small) have been razed, and many – such as the brewery itself – are now owned by the City. Frank became a realtor.

Pippin Michelli



1883 Bird's Eye View Map, detail of Klinkert's brewery showing wood-frame stage

Photo of brewery from *Racine Illustrated 1893*

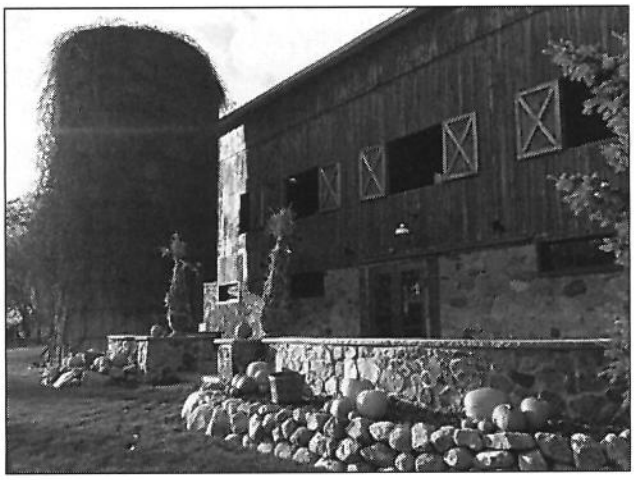
Promotional postcard of 1933 showing proposed new brewery

From "The Hardie Homestead" to "The Farm at Dover," Don't Miss this Treasure in June!

There is a light at the end of the winter tunnel! Spring is just around the corner and what better way to celebrate its arrival than with a drive to the country for Preservation Racine's June meeting. Tom Hamilton and Juan Carlos Palomino will host the meeting Monday, June 1 beginning at 6:30 pm on their lovely property called "The Farm at Dover," 26060 Washington Avenue, Dover. You may remember the farm as "The Hardie Homestead" from last year's Century Building Program when the house received an award. While all Century Buildings are unique in that they have been cared for and conserved for a hundred years or more, there is something particularly special about this property's character and ambiance. Not only has the farmhouse been beautifully preserved over the years, Tom and Juan, prop stylists and set designers from Chicago, have finished and styled the interior so perfectly that you feel as if you have just stepped into the pages of a magazine. In June you will also have the opportunity to be awed by the recently renovated hundred-year-old former dairy barn that has been transformed into a spectacular venue for weddings and other special events. But before we look forward to June, I want to take you back to last year when serendipity stepped in and ensured that this exceptional property caught the attention of Preservation Racine.

In fall, 2013 Preservation Racine Board Member Jacki Mekemson's son and daughter-in-law toured the house and property while it was up for sale as "Linens & Lace Bed & Breakfast." Although the interior needed extensive updating Jacki, along for the tour, was impressed with the historic style of the house and how well it had been maintained over the years. She thought it would make a great candidate for a 2014 Century Building Award. In January, the committee approved the house, and I, an enthusiastic new member, volunteered to research and write about it. My assignment was pretty straightforward; identify the house's architectural style, age, current owners, mix in interesting details about its history, package it into a pithy 300 words for the newsletter, host my homeowners at the awards program in May and… done. If only it had been that simple.

The property, for sale for many months, closed in December but the records had not yet been filed with the county. No one seemed to know who had bought it and no one appeared to be living there either. Pat Murphy's contacts did produce the attorney for the purchasers who, we learned, were from Chicago, but unfortunately we were unable to connect with them at that time. Weeks went by and, while I was deep into



The Farm at Dover

my research, I still had no idea who the new owner was. During that time I was also on a mission to find a good floor refinisher. One name came up several times and when I called him he said he just happened to be working down the road from me in Dover refinishing floors in a "big old house that used to be a bed & breakfast." Did I want to come and take a look at his work? What a remarkable coincidence! I couldn't get there fast enough. The house, empty, stripped of its heavy window treatments and floral wallpaper was comfortable and solid and still had all of its original floors and woodwork. I couldn't believe I was standing in "my" house. Tim the floor refinisher said the owners were great and had big plans for the farm. He tacked my phone number to the fireplace where he said they would be sure to find it at some point.

By the middle of March my research was done. I knew the house's history inside and out and I discovered that several members of the original Hardie family still lived in the area. I was thrilled to talk with them and incorporate their memories of the house into my story. There were so many Hardies in four generations that I compiled a "Hardie Family Tree" on Ancestry.com to keep them all straight! However I still had not had any contact from the new owners and the newsletter deadline was approaching. Finally on a snowy night in late March, Tom Hamilton, the farm's new owner

called to say he had just discovered my number and yes, they would be honored for their house to be recognized with a Century Building Award. He was very interested to learn about the house and the Hardie family and I was fascinated to learn of his plans to transform the farm into an event venue for weddings and parties. He told me the house was almost finished and later that spring they planned to start restoration of the 6000-square foot dairy barn. The barn would include seating for 150 in the hayloft, a full service catering area and a second story veranda overlooking the woods. The corn crib would be converted into a "groomsmen's getaway" and guests could wander the renovated gardens among the towering old oak trees. It sounded like an absolutely wonderful, brilliant idea. Apparently, I wasn't the only one who thought so. The next weekend as I was about to meet Tom & Juan and see the completed house for the first time, Tom called to tell me that George Hardie's wallet, had just fallen out of the basement ceiling! We all felt it wasn't a coincidence. George approved and he was sending his wallet as a sign!

As I finished my article (now almost 900 words) it suddenly struck me that while this was the end of one chapter in the story of this house, it was also the beginning of a new one and that the Hardie family should be a part of the transition. So on a beautiful Sunday afternoon last April Tom and Juan welcomed several members of the Hardie family back to the "The Hardie Homestead" for a wonderful lunch, tours and an exchange of photos and memories. It was truly an enchanting, memorable afternoon, one that Jacki and I were very happy to be a part of. At the program in May Tom, Juan and members of the Hardie family proudly accepted the Century Building Award together.

Later that month renovation began on the barn and would take six months to complete. Recently Tom told me that although they are thrilled with the outcome, the restoration ballooned into such a huge project that had they known the true scope of it from the beginning they never would have started it. He is quick to credit Julie Anderson, Racine County Director of Public Works and Development Services for guiding them through the process. "The county was our full partner in this project from day one," he says. "They provided assistance on everything from our business plan to the massive 9,000 gallon sprinkler system." I can understand why people don't end up opening a business, there are just so many hurdles to contend

The space can accommodate up to 150 people for formal dining

with. The biggest challenge they faced was maintaining the barn's historical integrity while complying with the numerous state codes required of a public venue. Burlington Architect Tom Stelling and Bob Nash of Sawfish General Contracting in Waterford were crucial to that process, assuring state compliance without compromising Tom & Juan's vision. In October the partners unveiled "The Farm at Dover" at a festive barbeque for family, friends and those who worked on the project. Having seen the barn in its "before" state I was astounded at the transformation. It is a remarkable combination of art, engineering and history. I feel very fortunate to have played a small part in uncovering the farm's history and in being able to watch its rejuvenation over the last year. I know that Tom and Juan (and George Hardie) look forward to sharing it with you in June.

Carrie Bergs

"The Hardie Homestead."

George William Hardie was a Scottish immigrant who settled in Dover in 1844. He married Mary Ormiston and by 1887 they were the proud parents of six children and the stewards of a prosperous 430 acre farm, one of the largest in Dover. A cornerstone from one of the barns is dated 1874. Son John Milton and his wife Mamie inherited the farm after George's death in 1895 and built this house on the farm in 1904. In 1920 son George and his wife Marion moved into the house and would call it home for the next 50 years. It is his wallet that fell from the ceiling. The house remained in the Hardie family until 1990 when it was purchased for use as a bed and breakfast. Tom and Juan purchased the property in December, 2013.

Upcoming Preservation Racine Membership Meetings

Preservation Racine generally meets on the first Monday of the month, with the exception of no meetings in January, September or October. The August Membership Meeting is held on the last Monday of the month to accommodate distribution of Preservation Racine's Tour of Historic Places materials. The July meeting may be scheduled to avoid conflict with July 4th celebrations. Our meetings are open to the public and guests are welcome.

Monday, March 2, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
Dewey's Restaurant
600 Main Street (southwest corner of 6th and Main Streets), Racine
This corner of Downtown overlooks Monument Square, formerly known as Haymarket Square, which has experienced many changes over the years. Barbara Walter and Pippin Michelli will present "The History of Monument Square."

Monday, April 6, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
River Bend Nature Center
3600 North Green Bay Road, Racine
Suzi Zierten, Executive Director of the Caledonia Conservancy, will give us an overview of the mission, accomplishments and goals of this group.

Monday, May 4, 2015 - 6:30 p.m.
The Great Hall at the DeKoven Center
600 - 21st Street, Racine
In honor of National Preservation Month, Preservation Racine will host our annual Century Building Award event. We recognize and award building owners who have maintained, preserved, renovated or restored Racine County buildings that are at least one hundred years old.

Monday, June 1, 2015 - 6:30 p.m.
The Farm at Dover
26060 Washington Avenue (Highway 20), Dover
Last year Tom Hamilton and Juan Carlos Palomino, current owners of this wonderful property, were Century Building Honorees. They have graciously invited us to their renovated barn and grounds to see what they have accomplished.

July 20, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
Racine Yacht Club
1 Barker Street, Racine
Steve Wheeler will give a presentation on historic Racine boats and local boatbuilding. This is the 100th Anniversary of the Racine Yacht Club.

Monday, August 31, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.
Tony Rossi will talk about Racing Pigeons in Racine at a location to be announced.

Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy
Saturday, June 6: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Madison, WI

Wright and Like
Saturday, June 6: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Madison, WI

Frank Lloyd Wright Burnham Street Restoration
2nd and 4th Saturdays: 12:30 p.m. 3:30 pm.; students 16 and under free, Students with ID $5, adults $15
Additional hours during the summer
Layton Avenue and Burnham Street, Milwaukee, WI
Wrightinwisconsin.org

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President's Letter

Winter is almost over. This is a busy time of year for Preservation Racine:

- Nominations for the new board of directors are under way, we elect new members at the April meeting.
- The Century Building awards are in full preparation in anticipation of the May 4 program.
- We will be manning a booth at the Racine Home Expo February 28 and March 1. We will be presenting a workshop on how to do research on your home. Look for the date and time in the Journal Times.
- Work on Preservation Racine's Tour of Historic Places is under way. This event is only seven months away on the last Sunday of September.

In addition:

- This year we are in the early stages of planning a historically accurate porch addition to the Blake House. Watch for more information in the next few months as we start the fundraising campaign.
- We are also working to more clearly define the role of Preservation Racine.
    - How can we better serve our members/community?
    - What programs should we offer to the members/community?
    - Should we expand the tour to include more activities?

We could not do everything we do without the help and support of the members of Preservation Racine. If there is something you would like us to look into doing, let me know. Preservation Racine is our organization, we need to work together to make it better. I look forward to seeing you at our meetings and talking with you about your ideas. You can leave me a message on Preservation Racine's voice mail – 262.634.5748, or send me an e-mail – preservationracine@gmail.com.

Don Schumacher

Mailing Notice

Preservation Racine's Newsletter Committee would like to ask members who forward their mail when leaving town to please notify us so we can hold your newsletter for pick up at future membership meetings. The USPS does not forward bulk mail. When bulk mail is returned, Preservation Racine is required to pay first class rates for those returned newsletters. Kindly call Newsletter Chairperson Vivian Merlo at 634-0734 to have your newsletters held. Thank you!!

Century Building Awards 2015

Preservation Racine will celebrate National Preservation month this May. This community event recognizes and awards building owners, who have maintained, preserved, renovated or restored Racine County buildings that are at least one hundred years old. The committee has selected twelve buildings to be researched; they will be announced and reported on in our next newsletter.

Members of this year's committee are Carrie Bergs, Jan Carter, Colleen Christenson, Karri Hemmig, Janet Kuhl, Jacki Mekemson, Vivian Merlo, Pippin Michelli, Pat Murphy, Donna Newgord, Sherry Pecarelli, Marcia Pfost, Charles Vallone, Barbara Walter and Maria Zumach.

The celebration will take place on Monday, May 4, in the Great Hall at the DeKoven Center. The reception honoring the building owners will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation of the buildings and awards at 7:00 p.m.

Preservation Racine members are the hosts for this event and are asked to please bring an appetizer or dessert for the reception. Beverages will be provided. If you would like to help with any part of this great event, please contact Jacki Mekemson 939-6300 or Carrie Bergs 878-1609.

Dues are Due

It is time for most members of Preservation Racine to renew their memberships in March unless the mailing label on this newsletter indicates a life ("L") or a date later than "MAR 15." Please use the form that accompanies this newsletter and indicate in which Preservation Racine activities you are interested. Dues may be paid at any membership meeting or mailed to Preservation Racine, Inc., P. O. Box 383, Racine, WI 53401

Preservation Racine, Inc.
P.O. Box 383
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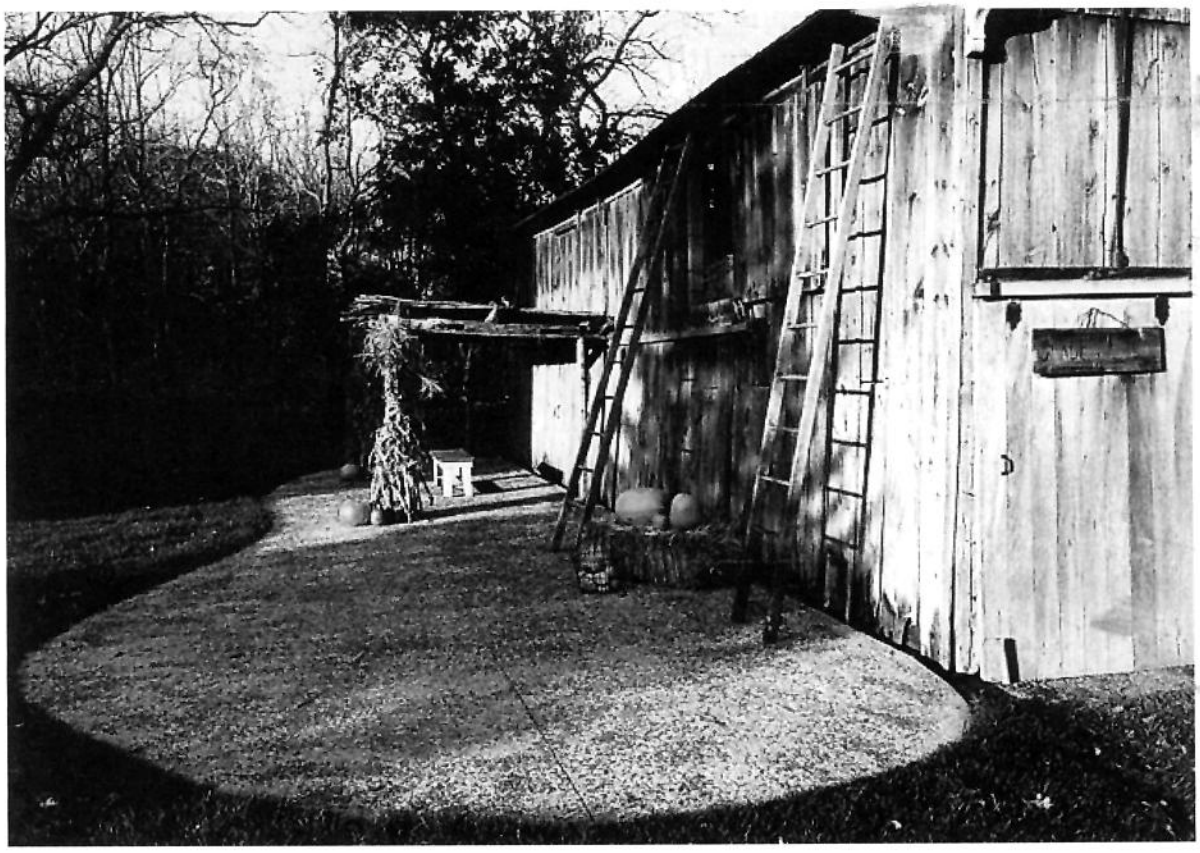

The Farm at Dover