

2026  
ISSUE



# Calumet County Historical Society Museum

Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00  
or by appointment

*“The museum does not charge an admission and is funded mostly from the generosity of current and past society members”*

## Major Upgrade!



For many years, members of the Board of Directors of the Calumet County Historical Society have been concerned about maintaining the condition of the more sensitive items in our collection being jeopardized by the humid conditions in summer and the freezing temperatures in winter. We have done our best to properly store these artifacts some in off site locations, but only so much can be done to protect them from the extremes of Wisconsin weather!

We received a great surprise from a **Generous Lifetime Society Member!** Michael Engler (along with his wife, the late Kathy Engler) have provided funds to construct a climate-controlled building on the society grounds! This will allow us to properly store and display original photos, vintage newspapers, **Continued on page 3**

## Karen D. Gerhartz 1940-2025



*Karen was involved with every part of the historical society and always made a positive impact at the museum for as long as anyone can remember. She committed her time, talent, and treasure to support our mission for more than 20 years.*

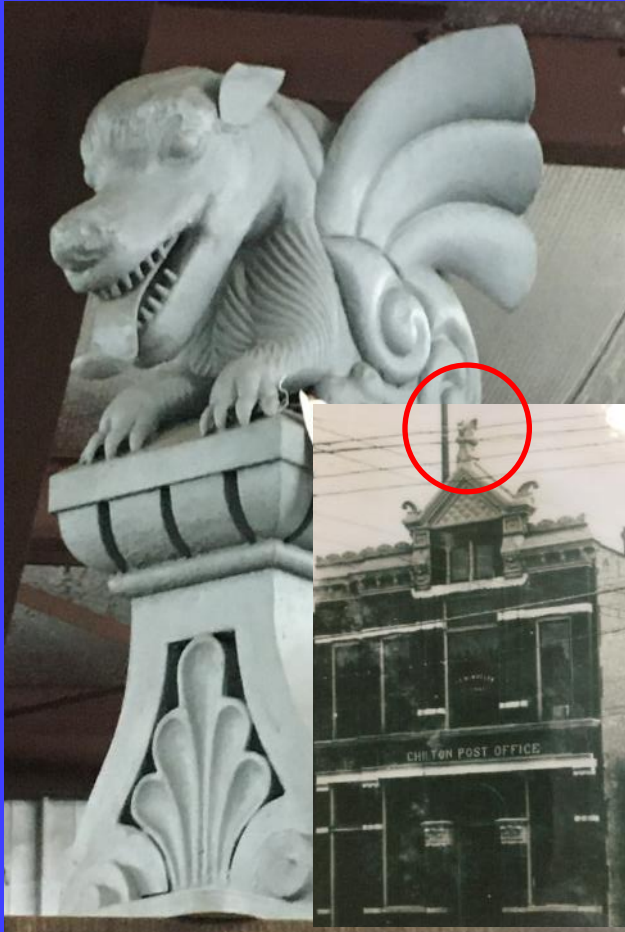
Karen was a long-time, active board member of the Calumet County Historical Society... **an extremely active member!** Karen donated countless volunteer hours on Sundays at the museum, supporting the annual brat fry, and working at the annual clean-up day in the spring. She was a board member and treasurer for many years. “Karen was the first person I **Continued on page 3**

## Open House 2026— June 14th —5th Annual

Our open house will have a major upgrade this year. Our new building will be physically complete but not yet set up with all the objects and the documents that will be stored in it. So, we will have a wide-open space that is climate controlled and weather protected. It’s a perfect place to move our pie sales as well as our local historical societies and historians.

**The open house is a great way to start our summer season on Sunday afternoons!**

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## Chilton's Gargoyle

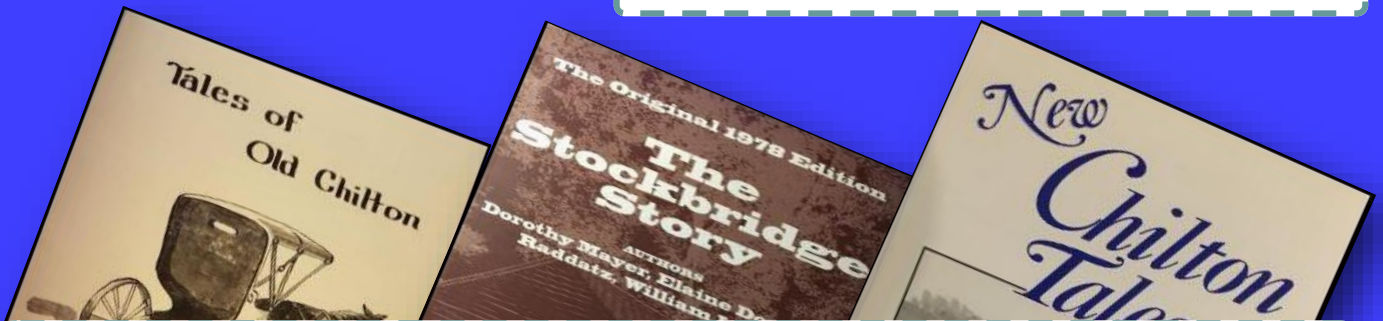
Gargoyles have been around for centuries. They come in many designs and are used to drain water off roofs.

Chilton's whimsical gargoyle sat high atop 13 E Main Street in Chilton for many years. It was donated to the Calumet County Historical Society in 1971 by Bill Mollon who owned the building at that time. Although we do not know when it was added; we do know that the building was built in 1889. Today in 2026 that building has the business of **Studio One Three Fitness**.

The building was originally the German Exchange Bank. It later was turned into restaurants, retail stores, and the post office. The gargoyle was eventually taken down during the remodeling for a Sears Catalog Store.

The inserted picture was taken when the building was Chilton's 5th Post Office.

**Open House 2026— June 14th**



### Check out Our Online Bookstore

Books have always been an important way to learn and understand history. We are lucky to have three wonderful books available. They can be found on our website year-round and at the museum during open hours in the summer. Stockbridge and Chilton are well researched and documented in the books The Stockbridge Story and Tales of Old Chilton. Both books were written many years ago. The Stockbridge Story was written in 1978 and updated in 2008. The Tales of Old Chilton was written at about the same time and reprinted several times. We also have a limited supply of the book New Chilton Tales which was published in 2001, please contact us for availability.

Stop back often! We want to add more books from Calumet County and as we find books related to our history we will at least add the details and a link to learn more about them.



SCAN ME

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written family histories, some with pictures, and sensitive articles of clothing, and rest our concerns about them slowly deteriorating. This wonderful addition to the Calumet County Historical Society Museum will be officially opening in 2027. We cannot thank Michael and Kathy enough for this amazing donation!

Another subject worth discussing is manning the museum during the Summer. As you all know, our normal hours are Sundays, June through September, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Some days are quieter than others, so

we never know how many visitors we will have on any given Sunday. Yes, some visitors will walk through and leave, but most will share their remembrance about a particular item or two, and the conversation starts. Memories will be shared and the discussions that follow can be quite informative and enjoyable.

One does not need to have even a broad knowledge of the contents of our collection to volunteer on a Sunday afternoon. There will always be an experienced volunteer on site, so helping out for 3 hours may be more rewarding than you think. If any of you are interested in trying this experience for a day please contact us at [info@CalumetCountyHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@CalumetCountyHistoricalSociety.org)



**If you don't have the time to join another group or civic organization, but would still like to donate a few hours from time to time**

***We are your group!***

**We have a lot going on, and frankly we could use your help.**

Maybe it is computer work at home, or maybe it could be cutting the grass, being a greeter during Sunday museum hours, helping to maintain the museum grounds, or documenting what we have, all hands are appreciated.

**Please call 920-216-7461 and let us know what interests you!**

**Karen continued from page 1** met when I stopped by the museum to check it out one Sunday," said Mike Pichee, now a member of the board of directors. "I knew Karen from Stockbridge, she was the one that got me started with the museum." Another Board Member, Debbie Barany said, "I had the pleasure of spending many Sunday afternoons out at the historical society working/visiting with Karen and enjoyed our lovely conversations."

"On my first clean-up day I saw Karen on the cement floor working on a stain in the cement. She was at the stage in life where she should have told me to do it. I tried, but she would have none of that!" said Pichee.

She also knew what was historically important to our county and what needed to be put into our museum; she had a great eye for important objects and would not hesitate to load them into her car and add them to the museum collection. She was excellent at everything she did for us.

**Lifetime Member since 1996  
Board Member & Treasurer 1998 to 2020**

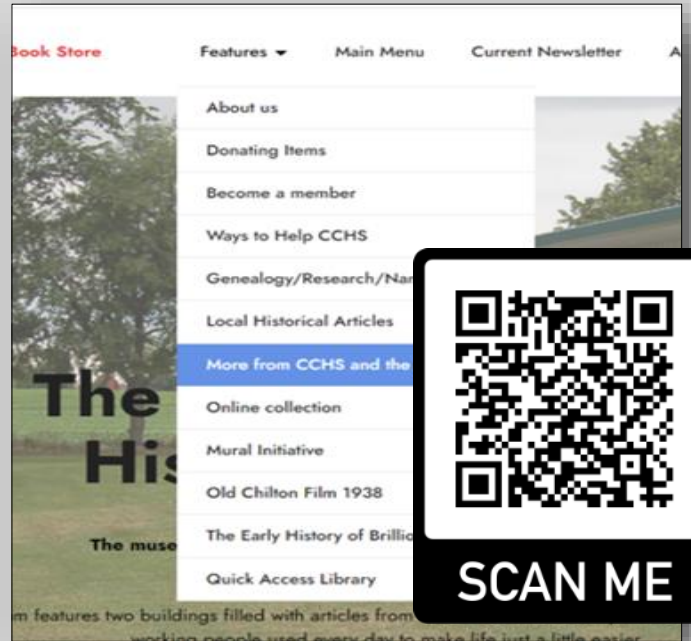
## Website Features... Always Adding More

There is a lot of county history that people have worked on over the years. If you hunt for it, you can find it in many posts and websites. We have been working to make finding local history easier by putting documents, videos, and links in one place on our website.

To see what is available, you can go to our website, click on the Features tab, then click on "More from CCHS and the Community". Whenever we find something local, we put it there. (See the picture below)

### Some of the history available

- Calumet Memorial Hospital Opening
- Calumet County Weeklies
- Share a Storied History
- Steege Family's Street Names in Chilton
- The Tragic Service of Captain Hiram Gibbs
- Brillion Early History
- Bridges of Calumet County
- The Wacky History of Spectro-Chrome Therapy
- DEATH BY CHOCOLATE
- Chilton Schuetzenverein
- Chilton Post Office Mural
- Take Me Out to the Ball Game!
- Top Cheesemaker Awards Calumet County Fair
- Bicycle Trip Around Lake Winnebago



**The Calumet County Historical Society has three sources of financial support: your membership, donations and grants.**

**Your membership is an important way for you to help. Membership is a financial donation to the organization, but it is also a way to get involved in meetings and the operation of the Museum. Your participation at meetings and events will help you to make a difference in our community.**

**It takes a lot to keep 2 acres of land and 3 buildings with 10,960 square feet of museum space going. Please help support us with your membership and volunteer time!**

**Donate Right Now!**  
Go to our websites members page to pay online!

CalumetCountyHistoricalSociety.org>  
**Become a Member**



**SCAN ME**

## 2026 Membership Form

Mail 2026

### Membership Levels

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \* \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- \$5.00 Seniors (65 & Over)       \$10.00 Individual  
 \$25.00 Corporate       \$15.00 Family  
 **\$100.00 Personal Lifetime Membership**  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation

**Thank You!**

As a **Lifetime Member** you have already done a lot to support the Calumet County Historical Society.

*No membership dues are required now or in the future.*

**Mail To:** CCHS 110 Oak Street Chilton WI, 53014



# Calumet County Historical Society Museum

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## Tamm Cabin Floor Restoration

**Erin Leverenz** is a Calumet County Historical Society Board Member and her sister **Rachel** provided the research.



**The Finished Floor**

The Leverenz family gathered on May 24th to restore the floor in the Tamm Cabin. The group chose to work over the Memorial Day weekend in remembrance of their ancestor, Carl Tamm's, service in the Civil War. Carl Tamm was born 9/6/1831 in Pomerania, Prussia. His wife Fredericke Timm was born 9/19/1823 also in Pomerania. They were wed on 3/5/1854 in Germany. On 4/2/1856 they boarded the Harburg with their

three month old son, August. Once in America the family initially lived in Waukesha where they had 3 more children. In 1866 they settled in Brillion where their youngest child was born.

Carl served in the Civil War from 12/28/1864 to 7/3/1865 as a private in the 7th Wisconsin Infantry. He was involved in the Siege of Petersburg, the Battle of Hatcher's Run, and the Battle of Five Forks. He suffered a hernia when he jumped a river on 3/20/1865 during the Siege of Petersburg. Upon mustering out of the army Carl returned to Brillion where he continued his work as a farmer. Carl, Friedericke, and all their children (August Tamm, John Tamm, William Tamm, Maria Tamm Kloehn, and Frank Tamm) are buried at Bluff Cemetery in Brillion.



**The Starting Point**

The Tamm family purchased the Brillion land from August Buck in 1866. Buck owned the property for more than 10 years. It is not clear if Buck or Tamm built the cabin. Though the exact build date is unknown, it is believed that the Tamm family likely would have used the building as

their shelter while a larger home was built. After the larger building was completed the cabin would have been transitioned to a kitchen building. In 1969 Russell Tamm donated the cabin to the Calumet County Historical Society. It was removed from the Tamm property in Brillion and relocated to Chilton.

The 12x6 cabin is made of fir and pine wood. There were no nails used in the original construction. The joints were joined using a method called dovetailing. The floor at its original location was dirt. When the building was moved to the Calumet County Historical Society it was placed on a foundation of limestone screenings that was covered by a carpet. After several decades this floor became uneven. Using shovels, picks, and wheelbarrows, the Leverenz family dug out the limestone screenings and topsoil beneath the limestone. They then framed a sub-floor and installed a wooden floor made from white ash that was harvested from Leverenz family property. A vapor barrier was placed below the frame in order to keep moisture away from the wood. The cabin door no longer closed properly as a result of the southern wall bowing. This pushed the wall out approximately 3 inches, causing the corner of the building to not be square. The wall was pulled back to a square position and attached to the newly installed subflooring to prevent future issues. The squaring allowed the door to once again close properly.

**Come on out to see the new floor in person!**



**Carl Tamm (1831-1911)**

**August Tamm (1855-1924)**

**Edward Tamm (1883-1948)**

**Lydia Tamm Leverenz (1912-2010)**

**Fredrick Leverenz (1939-2025)**



**The Leverenz Work Crew**