

THE BRIDGE



Connecting the Past to the Present where the Rock River meets the Yellowstone Trail

Vol 1 #1

Official Newsletter of Theresa Historical Society

January 2025

Theresa, Wisconsin

Greetings In The New Year!

Welcome! The members of The Theresa Historical Society look forward to having all of you visit our campus this year during our open house. Our first open house is June, 7 2025. 9AM—3PM .

The Theresa area is alive with an intriguing history that goes back thousands of years and came into the modern era in 1833 when Solomon Juneau, the founder of Milwaukee opened a fur trading post with the Native Americans on the Rock River at what is today downtown Theresa. Juneau was instrumental in the early days of Theresa and would establish a summer home here in the late 1840s and became a permanent resident in the 1850's. His home has been preserved by the Theresa Historical Society (THS) and anchors our Theresa Historical Society Campus in downtown Theresa.

Our last meeting of the year was in mid-December and a lot of exciting ideas are in the works. Jim Rodell drew up and presented plans for a new improvement to our current wagon pavilion on campus grounds. The membership approved moving the project into the first stages of development and look to develop a fund raising project to advance the project.

Other ideas discussed were developing an authentic old small farm shed for display of pioneer farm tools etc. and further work on a realistic pioneer home interior in the Reklau Cabin. Proposals and ideas were also shared on developing and display ideas for the many artifacts we now have in storage. THS also approved publishing a newsletter as a part of our community outreach program.

The Theresa Historical Society is looking forward to an exciting year in 2025. Join for the fun and help us to preserve history.



Interested in History? Come join us

The Theresa Historical Society!

We'd love to have you as a member!

Email: famousrobbo@gmail.com



Downtown Theresa 1922 Yellowstone Trail paved.

YELLOWSTONE TRAIL DAY 2024

Saturday, June 1st, 2024 marked the opening day of historical tours and open house for 2024 season at the Theresa Historical Society Campus. Our society along with the Byron, Lomira, & Slinger Historical Societies joined as we celebrated "Yellowstone Trail Day". The Yellowstone Trail was the first transcontinental automobile highway in the United States through the northern tier of states from Washington through Massachusetts. The Yellowstone Trail followed what is now state 175 through Slinger, St. Lawrence, Addison Center, Nenno, Theresa, Byron to Fond du lac and then northwest all the way to Yellowstone Park and the Pacific northwest.

Even though it was a rainy day we had a nice turnout with the many folks stopping by our campus located on Highway 175 in downtown Theresa.

Vice-President Jim Rodell is already working on coordinating Yellowstone Trail Day-2025 on with other participating area historical societies. The date for Yellowstone Trail Day is June 7, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 3 pm . Be sure to mark that day and join us for a trip back in time

"It Happened In Theresa" was a history column by the late Les Beck in the old Mayville News (Now Dodge County Pioneer) We will be featuring bits & pieces from his notes. In each issue..

Feb 9, 1934, G. Weber Brewing Company puts out first beer since beginning of Prohibition in 1919.



Solomon Juneau at age 64, shortly before he died.

Solomon Juneau was the 1st mayor of Milwaukee and founder of Theresa. The village and township are named after his mother Theresa.

Early family names in the township included Budahn, Fellwock, Sasse, Christian, Miller, Polster, Tesse, Oberly, Beck, Schiefer, Dobberpuhl, Benter, Reklau, Braasch, Jago, Steinbach and Zimmermann

The 1850 US. Census showed 151 households and 764 people living in the township. Less than 100 were in the Theresa Village. By 1860, the population of Theresa township would grow to 2,248

Solomon Juneau, a fur trader from Milwaukee, his business partner Martin Morgan, along with Jahiel Cass, a farmer were the first land owners in Theresa Township. Juneau established a trading post at the site of the present day Village of Theresa in 1833. In 1844, Juneau purchased 350 acres, and Morgan 80 acres from the US Government at the cost of \$1.25 an acre. Cass came in 1845,

The cheap land would soon open the floodgates to migrating farmers from New England and German speaking immigrants from northern Europe, along with a few French Canadians associated with Juneau & Co.

The first wave of German speaking immigrants were from the Prussian provinces of Pomerania and Brandenburg. Others soon came Bavaria, Rhineland, Alsace, Loraine, Thuringia, Switzerland, Baden, and Saxony



Marie & Michael Zimmermann 1868



Christian Grewing about 1870 Johanna Grewing

1846 immigrants from Pomerania & Brandenburg, Prussia.

THE BRIDGE



Published by Theresa Historical Society

105 Schnitzler Dr.

Theresa, WI 53091

Rob Bowe Editor Email Contact: famousrobbo@gmail.com

Jim Polster: President

Jim Rodell: Vice President

Alice Mirk: Secretary, Museum Curator

Micki Polster: Corresponding Secretary Kathy Benter: Treasurer



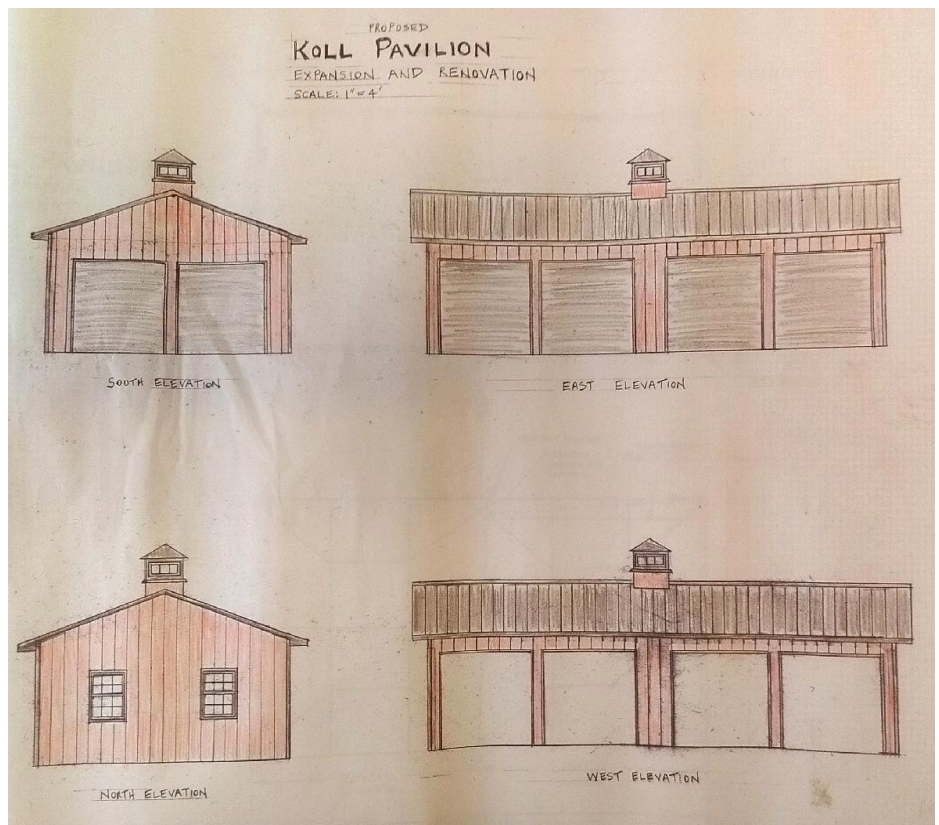
The Solomon Juneau Homestead, the Beck tourist cabin and the Reklau Log Cabin along with the great Theresa Wall greet folks as they drive through Theresa on Hwy 175 which was once a part of the original Yellowstone trail. Hwy 175 follows the route of the old Native American trail from Milwaukee to Fond du lac and points north. Starting out as a dirt road in the pioneer era, gravel paving started with the advent of the automobile. The State Of Wisconsin designated the road Wi. Hwy 15. Concrete paving of Hwy through the Theresa came in 1921. Later Wi. Hwy 15 would become US 41.

Renovation and Expansion Plans unveiled

At our December meeting, Vice President Jim Rodell presented preliminary plans for the expansion and renovation that would double the size of the Koll Wagon Pavilion.

The Koll Pavillion is currently a roofed open-sided structure in need of repair and the structure does not provide adequate protection from the elements for preserving and protecting our 100 year old plus horse-drawn vehicles namely the Widmer Cheese factory delivery wagon, a bob-sled/log skidder and a high-wheeled buckboard.

The retro-rural design will feature will feature roll-up doors on the south, east and west sides which open during events and tours allowing easily access and viewing. Future plans include possible farm tool and other exhibits as well as housing the Doctor's Langenfeld cutter sleigh. As a non-profit organization with limited funding, Theresa Historical Society is looking into cost factors and fund raising possibilities to move the project forward.



Message from THS President Jim Polster:

Over the past year we have made inroads in preserving the history of our area. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the heritage and history of the Theresa area. Over the last 18 months tremendous inroads have been made with on-going restoration work to buildings and general improvements to the campus proper. If you have not visited us for a while or have never visited us we invite you to come see in the coming year.

Our purpose is to connect people to the past through the preservation of important significant historical buildings and artifacts from the Theresa area and sharing stories with the public. We are working hard to make our organization and campus more available to the public. Because we are a non-profit organization, funding for the preservation of the THS campus is limited. We are grateful to our members, the Village of Theresa and supporters but we need your help to improve and improve our museum/campus. We invite you to join us doing so! You can do that by either becoming a member or considering a donation...or both!

We look forward to hosting you in 2025!

Jim Polster, THS President

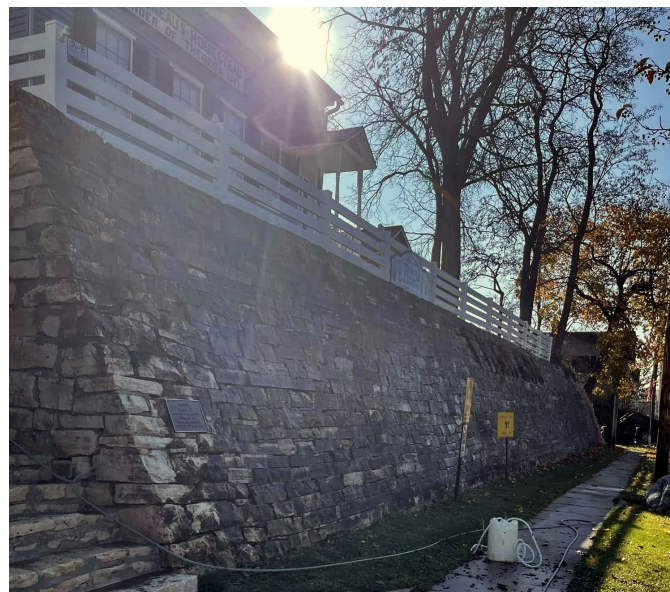


One of the Treasures on the THS Campus is:

The Beck Tourist Cabin. This cabin along with 3 other identical cabins were the forerunners of the Motor Hotel (Motel). Located on the south end of Theresa next to Beck's garage, tourists rented these cabins on their trip along the old Yellowstone Trail (Wi. Hwy 175). THS member Bob Beck, part of the Beck family looks on. The Beck family were instrumental in the history of Theresa.

RESTORING "THE WALL" PHASE 1 COMPLETED!

Restoration improvements to the "Theresa Wall" are underway. "The Wall" was a WPA Project constructed in 1934 and rebuilt in 1994. It is one of the most prominent landmarks in our community. It is also the gateway to our THS campus. The cut limestone came from area quarries and has aged a bit over the years, turning dark gray-black. THS members began work on the project with a chemical treatment followed by a power wash cleaning from our friends at Sparkle Wash. Plans in 2025 are to replace the red "Theresa" letters and adding some lighting!



Above: Before Work Started. Below: After Phase 1 completed



Vice President's Message

As we head into 2025, Theresa Historical Society (THS) has much to look forward to. As the oldest local historical society in Dodge County, organized in 1956, we are one year away from celebrating our 70th anniversary and the 250th birthday of the United States of America!

THS is in the enviable position of being recognized as a valuable member of the Theresa community. Our historic building campus centered around the Solomon Juneau House perched above the landmark THERESA limestone wall is an essential part of what defines Theresa, Wisconsin. In the last two years much has been done to improve our facilities. Completed projects include relocation and restoration of the Beck tourist cabin, interior and exterior renovation and painting of the Solomon Juneau House and Schiefer House, as well as exterior renovations to the Reklau log cabin. Other improvements include replacement of the boardwalk with antique brick street pavers, outdoor lighting, and cleaning of the THERESA limestone wall and steps.

Looking into the future, our plans include expansion and renovation of the Koll wagon pavilion, improvement of exhibits in the Schiefer House and the Reklau cabin, along with development of the old Village Hall second floor into a more useful exhibit and meeting space. A special thank you to Alice Mirk for the leadership and efforts she provides for improving exhibits as curator.

Along with staffing our museum buildings for Sunday afternoon visitors during the summer, we have a very special event on the calendar for 2025 Yellowstone Trail day. Yellowstone Trail Day is scheduled for Saturday, June 7. See the flyer in this issue of our newsletter for more information.

Yellowstone Trail Day is a cooperative effort of the historical societies of Byron, Lomira, Theresa, and Slinger (all communities along the old Yellowstone Trail). All 4 museums will be open on the same day, providing an interactive experience for visitors as they drive the historic route between these 4 communities. We need plenty of volunteers for June 7 to keep things running smoothly as we expect many visitors that day.

More opportunities for events and programs abound, but every new project requires effort to achieve success. Are you willing to become part of the team? This newsletter is a great step in the right direction.. If you are reading this and have not yet joined Theresa Historical Society, please consider becoming a member.



One Big Project !



We each have different talents, and your talent can be used to help Theresa Historical Society as we strive to bridge the gap between past and present by sharing the history of Theresa with others. The possibilities are endless, the opportunities are numerous. Let's have fun working together.

Jim Rodell, THS Vice President

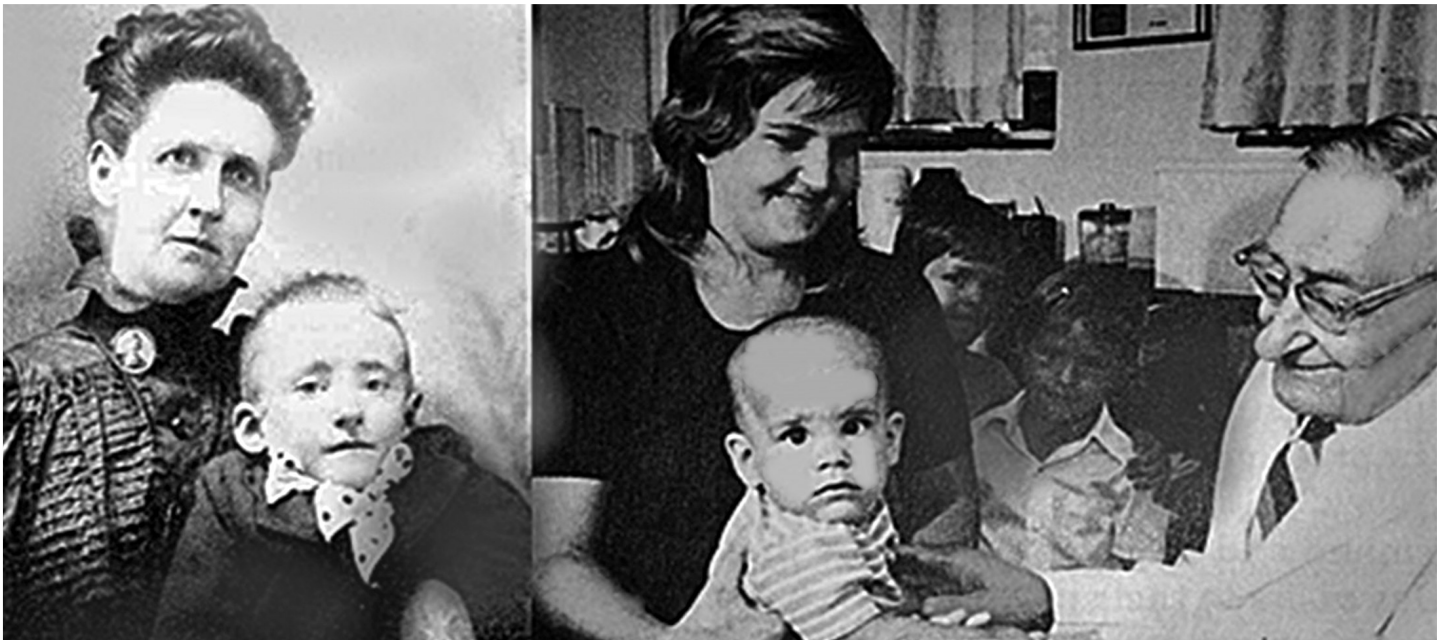
Les Beck's: It Happened In Theresa

1849: Dr. Valentine Miller an immigrant from Prussia, opened his medical office in Theresa. Dr. Miller also served as town clerk for 25 years

MEMORIES



Its 1988: The Theresa Historical Society holds a meeting at the historic John Schiefer house (built 1848) on the THS Campus. Seated L-R Jim Widmer, Russ Bandlow, Fred Bandlow, Les Beck, Evangeline Koll, John Bodden, and Peggy Langenfeld are seated. Standing is Lester and Evelyn Unglaub. All of these members played an instrumental part in preserving history in our area and most were descendants of the early Pioneers. Most of those pictured were founding members of THS in 1956



Theresa Quick and her son, Arman J. Quick., Quick was born in Theresa in 1894. His father was a hardware store merchant in Theresa and his mother was housewife. As a young child Arman suffered from Potts Disease (Tuberculosis of the Spine) which impair him with a hunched back. Arman became a doctor went on to an illustrious career in medical research at Cornell and Marquette Universities (Medical College of Wisconsin.) He developed the prothrombin time blood test (also known as the Quick test), which is used in the regulation of blood-thinning drugs. He also developed the prothrombin consumption time test, which became useful in diagnosing hemophilia. **On the right:** Quick in his senior years doctoring a child and mother at Marquette University. Be sure to see the Quick exhibit when you visit the Theresa Historical Society campus.



Theresa Settlement Stories

By Rob Bowe

Ellsworth Burnett and Col. James Clyman were men on a mission, trying to get ahead and make a buck in the new Wisconsin territory in 1835. Clyman was originally born in Virginia in 1792, moved with his parents to Kentucky. Burnett hailed from Michigan. They were previously land surveyors, met in Milwaukee and became friends

Burnett had a bit of money, and the pair decided they would search the wilderness for dam sites to build saw and grist mills. They left Milwaukee guided by Solomon Juneau's son Narcissus Juneau during the first week of November 1835 and went northwest toward the Rock River. Shortly after embarking Juneau's son was tracked down and told to come back to Milwaukee at the behest of his mother who fear no good would come out of the trip.

On the 2nd day out they arrived at the Rock river near the present village of Theresa. Here they found a Winnebago woman home alone in a wigwam and attempted to purchase a bark canoe from her. The woman declined the offer and. Burnett basically blew her off in a short argument, tossed her a half dollar and took the canoe, leaving the woman sputtering. He and Clyman set off down the Rock River to the west.

Shortly thereafter the native woman's husband, Ashekapawe, and his son, Ushoma came home. Ashekapawe upon hearing about the situation flew into a rage about the incident. The two took off after them, hell bent on recovering the canoe

Meanwhile down river a bit down, Burnett and Clyman came upon an old trapper's hut and pulled up to spend the night. While Burnett prepared the hut and started a fire, Clyman went to gather firewood in the surrounding forest. When the two Winnebago's arrived, the son Ushoma entered the cabin, confronted Burnett, and shot him dead.

Clyman, hearing the gun shot and commotion, came running out of the woods to find the son's father, Ashekapawe standing near the hut, who tried to inform him that Burnett accidentally had shot himself and was wounded. Clyman saw through this ruse and took off into the woods when Ashekapawe started to raise his gun. He shot at Clyman, wounding and breaking his left arm. The son, Ushoma then grabbed Clyman's gun which had been propped up by the hut

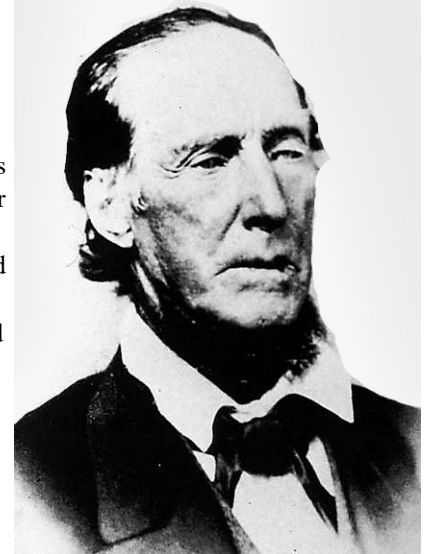
door and took off into the woods after Clyman firing at him and Clyman took some buckshot in the backside,

Clyman escaped into the woods and hid under a fallen tree. Under the cover of darkness, he bound up his wounded arm, escaped and found his way several days later to a friend's homestead near Cold Springs, Jefferson County and then back to Milwaukee where he recovered.

Some accounts have Solomon Juneau, who was also an Indian agent, questioned the native attackers. Accordingly, the attackers revealed that they had been short-changed on the sale of the canoe and claimed it was in fact stolen. A group of volunteers from Milwaukee set off to investigate the campsite and its carnage. They found blood and signs of a struggle, Burnett and Clyman's traveling packs, Clyman's fired gun, but Burnett's body was missing. The group destroyed Ashekapawe's lodge and returned to Milwaukee. US Government Troops came from Chicago joined by Milwaukee volunteers, tracked the fugitives north, capturing them near Green Bay without further incident.

Incarcerated in Green Bay, Ashekapawe confessed, stating he was responsible for the shootings and his son, Ushoma, had nothing to do with it. He said had hidden Burnett's body under a cattail bog in swamp land along the river. The body was not found. Ashekapawe and Ushoma were brought to stand trial in Milwaukee. It was the 1st murder trial in the Milwaukee District. Clyman testified at the trial refuting part of Ashekapawe's confession and implicated his son, Ushoma. The two defendants were convicted and Ashekapawe was sentenced to hang.

After the trial, Ashekapawe and his son, Ushoma were pardoned by Territorial Gov. Henry Dodge in a political move to offset the escape of two white criminals from custody who had murdered a Native American in Milwaukee. After their release, Ashekapawe and his son Ushoma were not seen again. Burnett's skeleton was finally found in 1854, 19 years after his death, in a cattail bog not far from the actual murder site. In 1840 Clyman moved to Danville, Elba Township, Dodge County, Wi. went west in 1844, guiding wagons trains and eventually ended up as a mountain man in Utah and Oregon retiring to California. He died in 1881. His published memoirs and diary cover his journeys and life story. Burnett and Clyman townships in Dodge County were named after Ellsworth Burnet and James Clyman.



James Clyman in his later years

Les Becks: It Happened In Theresa

Population of Dodge County 1840 67

Population of Dodge County 1842 149



Yellowstone Trail Day

Saturday, June 7, 2025

The Yellowstone Trail began in 1912 when a group of South Dakota businessmen worked to establish a route from Boston to Seattle for early automobile tourists to travel cross country and visit Yellowstone National Park. In southeast Wisconsin, the Yellowstone Trail followed the route of Hwy. 175 in Washington, Dodge and Fond du Lac counties. Many businesses catering to the influx of automobile tourists sprung up along the trail. The Yellowstone Trail Association provided maps, marked the trail with signs and painted yellow arrows, and promoted the route until the 1930's. The YTA again promotes the Yellowstone Trail as a fun and historical auto route today.

Learn more about local history and the Yellowstone Trail on Yellowstone Trail Day!

**Byron, Lomira, Slinger and Theresa historical societies will be open to welcome visitors
Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Start at any of the locations and get your free Yellowstone Trail tour guide to begin your time travel experience and see landmarks from the era still here today! Visit multiple historical societies in one day! Enjoy a fun day on the road with other vehicles, old and new, celebrating the history of
"A Good Road from Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound".

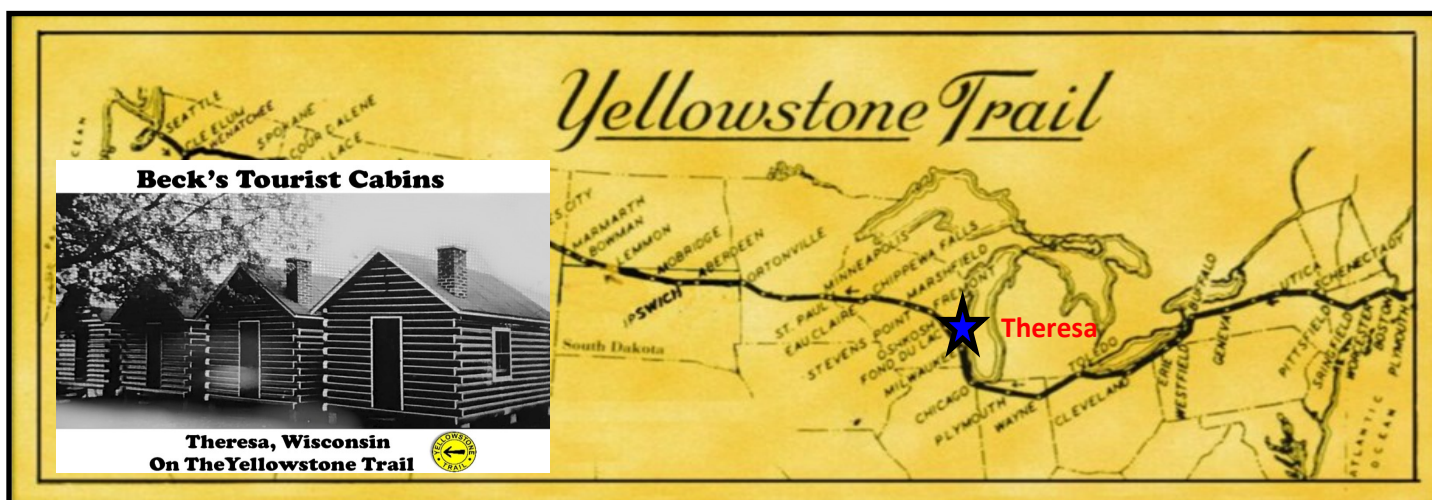
Byron Historical Society
Byron Town Hall
N3097 Highway 175
Byron, Wisconsin

Lomira Historical Society
Silver Leaf School at Sterr Park
Pleasant Hill Ave.
Lomira, Wisconsin

Slinger Historical Museum
414 Kettle Moraine Drive S.
Slinger, Wisconsin

Theresa Historical Society
Soloman Juneau House
210 S. Milwaukee St.
Theresa, Wisconsin

For more information, contact Jim at 262-224-9734



Band waiting to march on Yellowstone Trail, Milwaukee Street, Theresa Wi

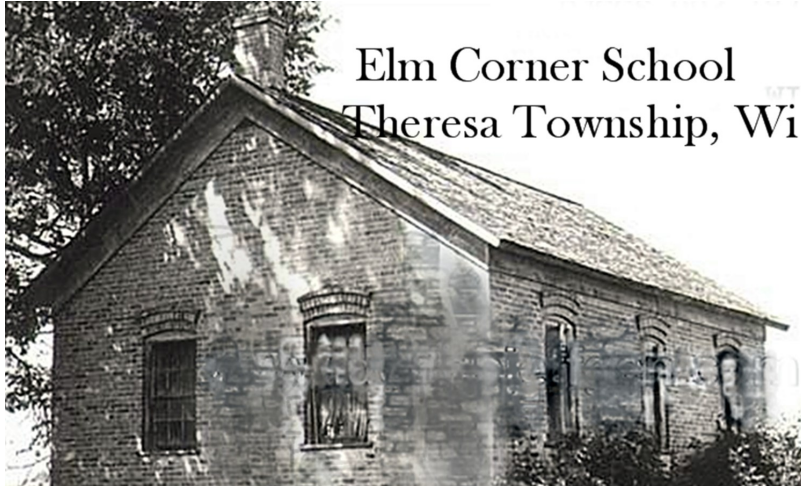
Les Beck's : It Happened In Theresa 1919

Medicine Show at Arndt's Hall. A half lady shown.

Haessely & Stevens start Theresa Canning Co.

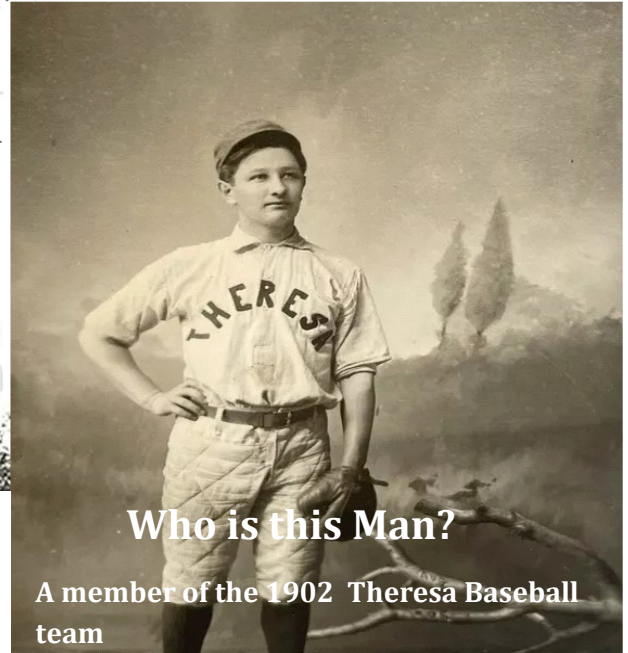
May 30th First Airplane flies over Theresa. Rides \$10

Oct 5th Magic lantern movies shown at Village Hall



Elm Corner School
Theresa Township, Wi

One of eight one-room schools in Theresa Township was located at the corner of CTY AY & Zion's Church Rd.



Who is this Man?

A member of the 1902 Theresa Baseball team

Theresa Montage

Building Theresa Public School 1910. St. Peters Lutheran Church is on the horizon. Milwaukee Street-Hwy175 is in between.



Idyllic post card view of *The Bridge* over the Rock River at Theresa from the dam in the 1920s.



RIVER VIEW, THERESA, WIS.

The Theresa Historical Society Needs Your Help!

You can help us to continue & preserve the History of our area.

Here's how you can help !

1..Become a member: 2025 THS Historical Society membership:

\$ 15 Individual _____ \$ 25 Family _____

\$100 Individual Lifetime _____ Name will be carved on gold plaque at the museum.

2. Donation to the THS Historical Society:

\$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other \$ _____

3. I would like to volunteer time for the society _____

4. I have artifacts to donate. Please contact me _____

Or: Call 920-583-0291 email: famousrobbo@gmail.com Please put *Bridge* on subject line.

Please check the appropriate lines in numbers 1-3 above

Total enclosed\$ _____

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email _____

Payment & Checks: Theresa Historical Society

Mailing Address RBowe 105 Schnitzler Dr. Theresa, WI 53091

Thank You For Supporting The Theresa Historical Society



Solomon Juneau's Trading Post

As editor of the THS Newsletter it has occurred to me that we as historians & historical societies can help each other with our surplus artifacts and needs. How? Establish an information "Trading Post" as way to communicate between societies who may have excess artifacts historic pictures, memoirs and packed & stored away taking up space in our archives. That are looking for a home. What do you do with them? Case in point; THS has 3 antique pump organs.. That's two more than what we have use for. Somewhere out there, some organization or individual might have a need for one and at the same time have information or an artifact appropriate for another area of Dodge County & surrounding area . As editor of the THS Newsletter, I am willing to coordinate a non-commercial barter/information exchange "trading post" for those interested. Just a simple way to communicate between societies & area historians who have an interest in acquiring or disposing of unneeded and surplus items If you have an interest in participating in the information exchange, Please let me know.

Rob Bowe famousrobbo@email.com