

THE BRIDGE



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

Vol 12 # 4

Official Newsletter of Theresa Historical Society
Theresa, Wisconsin

July August
2026



Theresa Historical Society
Presents

THERESA'S 180TH BIRTHDAY

EIN PROSIT!

OOMPAH!



**Music Food
Beer 2-9pm**



The Return OF Theresa's **Pioneer Beer**
Saturday August 15th, 2026

2 Big Bands In The Downtown Biergarten



Dorf Kapelle



Die Freistadt Alte Kameraden



MUSIC FOOD FUN BEER

Sunday August 16th, 2026
Picnic in Solomon Juneau Park

Old Fashion Fun, Music, Games, Story Tellers, Juneau House & Museum Tours

Check Us Out
On Facebook



No Carry-Ins

**Bring Your
own Chairs**

Free Admission!

THERESA

NO COVER CHARGE- Bring a Non-Perishable Food Item For T.C.C. Food Pantry
Gates Open At 1 P.M.

The Best Days of Summer!

Help Us Keep History Alive!

Volunteer with the Theresa Historical Society

The Theresa Historical Society (THS) is seeking dedicated volunteers to bring our local history and community outreach programs to life. As we prepare for a landmark year, we invite you to help us learn, preserve, and celebrate our rich heritage.

How You Can Make a Difference:

Museum Docents & Greeters: Welcome visitors to the Solomon Juneau Historical Homestead during our regular Open House events (typically the last Sunday of the month from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM).

Preservation Teams: Lend your time and talent during museum work days and "spruce-up" sessions to keep our historic buildings and grounds beautiful for the community.

Special Event Support: We are currently seeking a team of enthusiastic volunteers for our upcoming 250/180 America/Theresa Birthday Augtoberfest Celebration!

We are saddened by the loss of one of our long time members and business supporter, Joel Bernhard. Known as Chef Joel, his *Confections For Any Occasion* food & candy shop is a popular destination for locals and visitors in downtown Theresa. Joel faced many physical and medical challenges all his life, far beyond that of most people. He overcame those challenges and became a kind, genteel and hardworking successful businessman in our community. Joel's courage, his faith in God and people, his humor, and his sweetness is a legacy that lives on. Joel's love of the community and people is a blessing to all who knew him. He will be missed.



Joel N. Bernhard
November 8, 1978 - June 30, 2026.

Come and Visit in 2026 THS HISTORICAL PARK MUSEUM

Solomon Juneau House

John Schiefer House

Beck Tourist cabin

Reklau Log Cabin

2026 Open House

Dates Sunday, July 26

Sunday, August 16

Sunday, August 30

Sunday, September 27

THE BRIDGE

Published By Theresa Historical Society

Rob Bowe: President

Bob Beck: Vice President

Cindy Bowe: Secretary

Kathy Benter: Treasurer

Jim Polster: Museum Curator

Email contact: famousrobbo@gmail.com

Mailing Address c/o

Theresa Historical Society

P.O. Box 224

Theresa, Wi 53091

Goodness Sakes! Summer is flying by, and I am finding my stride not only as the editor of this publication but also as the recently elected President of the Theresa Historical Society (THS).

There are so many exciting happenings within our organization right now. While we are experiencing some natural growing pains our team is working constantly to improve our campus and preserve history bring it to life through our community outreach programs, regular newsletters, and our museum open houses. We truly enjoy hearing from all our friends who stop by; your comments and personal stories are a vital part of the history we strive to preserve.

Recently, members of the Langenecker family visited our museum and presented us with a fascinating pictorial history of the Theresa Implement Co., which was established by Phillip Langenecker in 1946. We are incredibly grateful to receive such donations and information about Theresa's past, and we thank the Langenecker family for this wonderful addition to our archives. You will find a selection of photos from that pictorial featured later in this issue.

We are also hard at work putting together "Augtoberfest," a special celebration honoring both America's 250th birthday and Theresa's own 180th anniversary. Please mark August 15th and 16th on your calendars—we want you to come home and become a part of Theresa's living history!

Finally, we are officially launching our Brick Memorial fundraising program. This is a beautiful way for folks to leave a lasting mark on our community. You can find more information about the program and how to order a memorial brick later in this issue, or you can visit us in person at Augtoberfest for more details.

So, please, sit back and reminisce through history with us.
Rob Bowe President & Editor, Theresa Historical Society, Bridge



Happy Birthday to one of our dearest and most dedicated long-time members and volunteers!
Micki Polster, 90 years young-July 10.

What's a Docent?

That's an interesting question we recently received from one of our readers. Actually the truth be known most us at THS didn't know what a docent was until recently when it surface as part of the the lingo used by a new member who was also active in another Historical organization.

So what is a Docent? A docent is an guide or teacher. Here in the U.S.A. the term most commonly refers to trained, often volunteer educators who lead tours and interpret exhibits at museums, zoos, and historical sites.

With that being said our dear docent friend Micki (pictured above) is one of the best around and will be glad to guide and share all the stories about local history and wonderful historic artifacts on display when you visit Theresa Historical Society's Solomon Juneau house and our THS campus Museum. Do you love local history like Micki does? We are always looking for passionate volunteers to join our team as docents. No prior experience is needed—we provide all the training you need to share Theresa's rich history. Contact us today or visit our Facebook page to learn how you can get involved!

Visit THS Facebook Site



Koepsell Funeral Home

Mayville

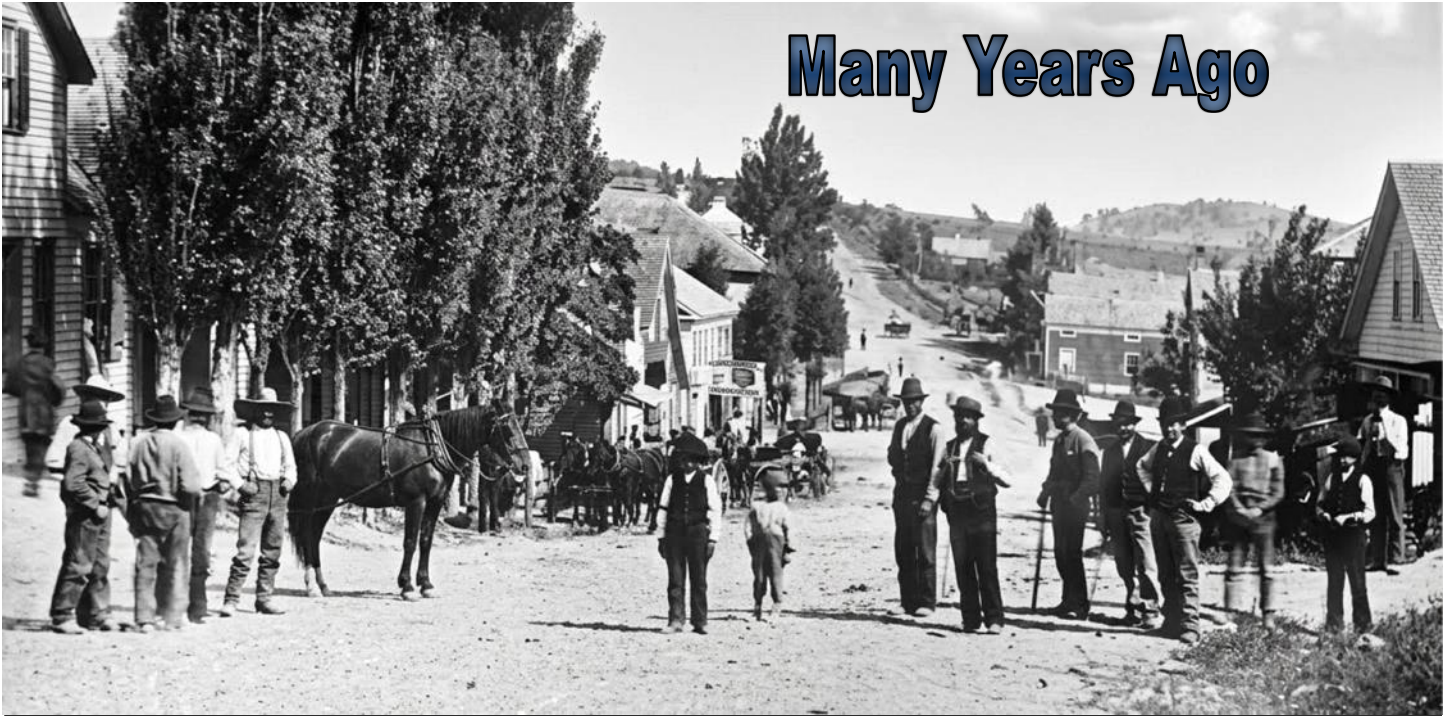
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Wind Access Engineering

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Many Years Ago



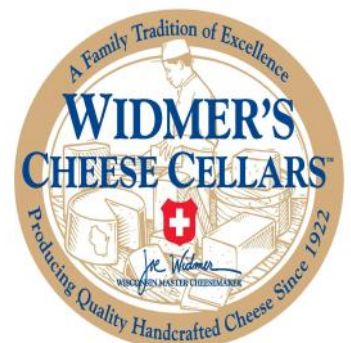
The oldest known photo of Theresa, dates to the late 1860's according to early local historians. This group of pioneer folks appear to be standing in the middle of what is now Milwaukee Street at the intersection of Henni St. We are looking north and in the distance the dirt road now STH-175 rises up the hill past what is today Union Cemetery .



Milwaukee St. looking south. On The left Juneau's old trading post (A private home now, next to Erv's bar with a Pioneer Beer sign. About 1951.



Passenger Train Arriving at Theresa Station in 1908.
Old Postcard



Steger Tech Services
202 Mayville St
Theresa, WI

Courtesy Of
Mayville Savings Bank



Odd Artifacts At The Museum

You've probably heard the old saying: "Build a better mousetrap, and the world will beat a path to your door." For hundreds of years, inventors have been obsessed with outsmarting the common house mouse. In fact, the U.S. Patent Office has granted over 4,400 patents for mousetraps, making it the most invented gadget in American history. But long before most of those patents existed, a 21-year-old explorer built a trap in the wilderness that beats them all.

In the fall of 1814, Solomon Juneau—the future founder of our village Theresa, Wisconsin—was exploring the wild, unmapped forests of the territory. During his journey, Juneau ascended a huge cliff overlooking a beautiful bay on Lake Michigan. Today, that spot is the city of Milwaukee

During this expedition, Juneau sat down and began tinkering for reasons unknown. Perhaps he was annoyed by field mice raiding his food supply, or maybe he had too many rodents scurrying through his living quarters. Regardless of his reason, he pulled out his knife started whittling and inventing.

Juneau carved a heavy, wooden block-crushing mousetrap. The deadfall design was simple but brutal: a mouse nibble on a bit of cheese on the tiny trigger released a heavy wooden block, instantly crushing the mouse underneath. Before using it, he proudly carved his initials and the date into the wood: "S.J. 1814, Solomon Juneau."

Years later, Juneau became famous as a founding

father of Milwaukee, serving as its very first mayor. In 1833, Juneau established a trading post in Theresa, built a home here in 1847, and eventually moved to our town permanently.

Throughout his lifetime, Juneau never threw away his very first invention. Today, this 212-year-old gadget is preserved and on display at the Theresa Historical Society in Theresa, Wisconsin. Unless someone digs up an older one, it stands officially as the oldest surviving mousetrap in the state. Juneau's Mouse Trap is on display at his 1847 home on the Theresa Historical Society campus.



THS ARCHIVE FLASHBACK: This about 1975. Darryl Koll demonstrates how the Juneau Mousetrap works to a museum visitor. The late Ralph Widmer looks on.
Jim Widmer photo



Solomon Juneau's 1814 Mousetrap on display at Solomon Juneau's Home on THS Museum campus.

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More Odd Artifacts At The Museum



Today, big bowling centers may have 40 lanes or more along with computer scoring. But in the 1880s and 1890s, bowling in Theresa was much simpler. Theresa and Theresa Station each had just one bowling lane. Perhaps nearby towns had larger alleys with 2, 3, or 4 lanes, but at least there was bowling in Theresa township. At Theresa Station, August Luhn Sr. built a one-lane alley inside Joe Kopf's saloon. It soon became a popular place. Train travelers on the Wisconsin Central railroad stopped in for a quick game because the Saloon was across the track from railroad depot. Local farmers bowled while they waited for their grain to be ground at the elevator next door. It was a fun way to pass the time and socialize.

In Theresa village, another one-lane alley was installed inside the old American Hotel & Saloon at the corner of Milwaukee and Henni Streets. The old hotel/saloon alley saw many strikes and gutter balls before it was torn down in 1910 making way for the new Theresa State Bank building. Over time, that building also served as Village Office and jail. And today, it is still home the Village Police Station and jail.

The old bowling alleys in Theresa township are gone now, but one special piece of bowling history remains at the 1849 John Schiefer House on our THS museum campus where visitors can see a wooden bowling ball once used on those early Theresa bowling alley lanes. It was carved from solid wood and is the only known piece left from that time. It reminds us when neighbors gathered around those one lane alleys to cheer a strike or groan at a split or a gutter ball. Stop by and see this unique artifact the Schiefer House on the THS Museum and hear more stories about our founders. Better yet, come to our next meeting and help us keep our history alive!

Old Village Hall/Library Renovation Continues



THS member Jim Rodell removes old suspended ceiling in the village hall. The ceiling was in need of repair is being restored as it was originally built.



Help Us Build a Bathroom!

We do not have serviceable bathroom on our campus. Below is the frame work for the new bathroom which waiting electrical upgrades and plumbing. To finish this renovation we really need your help.

Please Consider Donating Now.



Augtoberfest 2026: Help Us Make History!



Saturday, August 15, 2026

Location: Downtown Biergarten

202 Milwaukee St. Theresa

Time: Gates Open at 1:00 PM

The Return of Theresa's Pioneer Beer, music, and food.

Live Music: 2:00-9.00 P.M.

Dorf Kapelle

Die Freistadt Alte Kameraden

General Info: Admission: Free (No cover charge).

Donation: Bring a non-perishable food item for the T.C.C. Food Pantry.

Rules: No carry-ins allowed. Bring your own chairs.

Facebook: Follow THS-Theresa Historical Society for the latest updates.

Sunday, August 16th, 2026

Location:

THS Campus Solomon Juneau House

201 Milwaukee St Theresa.

Time 1PM-4PM

Old Fashion Family Fun, Games, Music, Bake Sale ,Story Telling

Solomon Juneau House & Campus Museum Tours

To make this celebration a success, we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help us out. If you can help

Contact us: Email:

1847THS@gmail.com or famousrobbo@gmail.com



Together, let's make Augtoberfest a weekend to remember!

OLD FASHION WAYS AND SAYINGS

The pioneers of Theresa were guided by hard work and pride in the land. In the township and the village the individual churches were the social as well as the religious centers of the pioneers. Hard work, honesty and pride in the land was what one lived. Many lived by old country folklore traditions and superstitions before the era of people attending high school and college.

Many of the traditions of Christmas and Easter in Dodge county originated in northern Europe, including the Christmas tree (Tannenbaum) & gift giving, St. Nicholas day, Easter eggs and St Valentine's Day, the day for lovers, also originated among the northern Europeans.

People tended to be a bit superstitious. Common superstitions were "Don't start work on Friday the 13th, otherwise you'll have bad luck." That saying is still with us and many folks at least privately subscribed to it, others joke about it."

"If a bird taps on a window with his beak, someone will die in that house within a year."

"Dropping a spoon or fork meant company was coming. Dropping a knife mean a man will visit."

"A horseshoe hung over a door means good luck."

Never toast (Prost, ein Prosit) with water. You are wishing death of all your drinking buddies.

Weather prognostications: When Hogs shake the stalks of corn, it often indicates rain. When they run squeaking about, and throw up their heads with a peculiar jerk, it is a sign of wind.

"Red sky at night sailor's delight, Red sky in morning sailors take warning."

"If a rooster crows at night, there will be rain by morning."

"When the cat lies in the Sun in February, she will creep behind the stove in March."

When building a barn or a house, a small pine or fir tree was hoisted and mounted on the roof peak for good luck. A friend's family lore has that one enthusiastic farmer in the Theresa area did a hand stand on the peak of his roof.

The old German pioneer when wishing someone good luck didn't cross their fingers, rather they pressed the thumb with the fore finger forming what most people see as the OK sign today.

Then there were the quant sayings;

"Ich drücke dir die Daumen!" I will press my thumbs for you". To wish someone luck.

"So jung kommen wir nicht mehr zusammen." We're not so young anymore.

"Verstay Jungen/Junge " Do you Understand Young boy/young girl?

"Nein ja" or "Nuh ya". No-Yes, as maybe agreeing or not, acting wishy-washy or I don't know.

"Due bist verstopft " You are constipated. Slang meaning you are full of...waste.

"Aus dem augen Aus dem sinn" Out of Sight...Out of Mind

"Schweine wei" Pig like, to be messy or smell like a pig. Especially referred to children who were messy eaters or sloppy.

"Oben hui! unten pfui" A careless person may dress fine but the underwear is soiled and dirty and smelly.

"Das ist allus kaput!" This broken. This does not work.

"Herr, wirf etwas Verstand vom Himmel herab —

oder Steine, solange es seinen Kopf trifft.

Lord, throw some brains from the heavens —

or stones as long as it hits the mark the head

"Du bist verrückt" You are crazy

Unter aller Sau - Being beneath pigs

Du sprache eine henne glucke!" You speak like and old hen clucks

"Machts gut Auf Weidersehen"

Be good until we meet again.

Courtesy of

Dodge Dental Studio

Miller-Justman-Guelig Post #270

Theresa American Legion

Theresa Historical Society

Meeting Notice

There will be no August Meeting

Next meeting

Monday September 14, 4PM

THANK YOU

Thank You to all our generous sponsors for helping us produce Augtoberfest, also those who have made other general donations, donations in kind and share their time and talents to support the Theresa Historical Society and help us preserve the past and the present for the future.

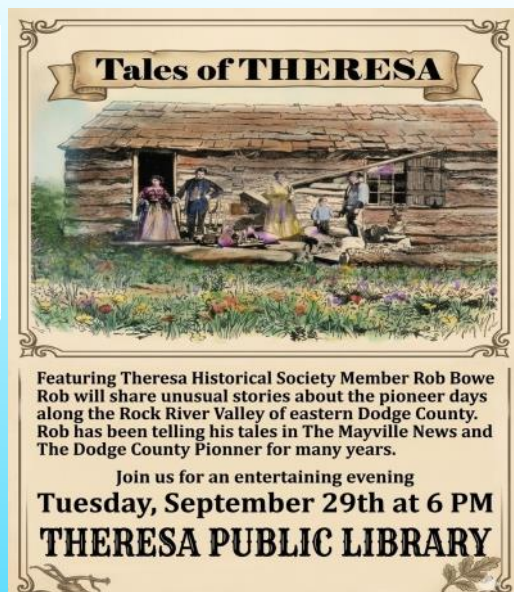
Recent Donations Augtoberfest Sponsors: Theresa Lions Club, Widmer Cheese Cellers, Schmidt Farms-Theresa, American Legion Miller-Justman-Guelig Post #270 –Theresa, Steger Tech Services, Bernard Plumbing, Rick and Diane Steger, Bavarian Bierhaus, Beechwood Sales, Riverview Hills-Andy & Karen Schnitzler, Members the Gebhard Weber Family, Dodge Dental Studios, Pioneer Keg, Aubrey Electric, Elsinger Farms, Hope Senior Living Center, Theresa Mutual Insurance, KIN-X Construction, Bob Beck, James Schaefer, Skyline Improvements, Glorified Salon & Spa, Fred's Beds, Wind Access Engineering, RM Electric, Wayne Wendling, Benter Builders, Fleischman Excavating, Waas Boring & Cable, M&M Truck Repair, Rob & Cindy Bowe, Haak Chiropractic, Mikki Polster, Josh Hessel, Jeffery & Dawn Guelig, Koepsell Funeral Home, Ken Schenning, Dennis & Peggy Proeber, Precision Auto, Mayville Savings Bank, Mayville White Limestone, Cole Oil Co.

Additional support and consideration from Mayville Senior Center, Laura and Mark Bruederle, Jim Rodell, Mikki Polster, Judy Fassbender, Langenecker Family, Dodge County Historical Society-Beaver Dam, Rock River Archelogy, Trinity Community Center, Theresa Public Library, Gloria Beck, Village of Theresa, Dutch Touch Green House.

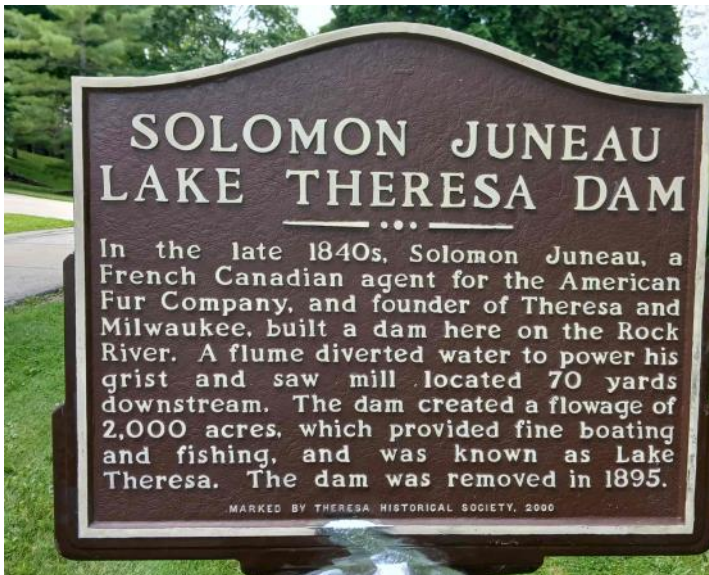
ROCK RIVER SETTLEMENT STORIES



**Free
Programs**



**CELEBRATE AMERICA 250 ! THERESA 180 !
AUGTOBERFEST AUG. 15-16 DOWNTOWN THERESA**

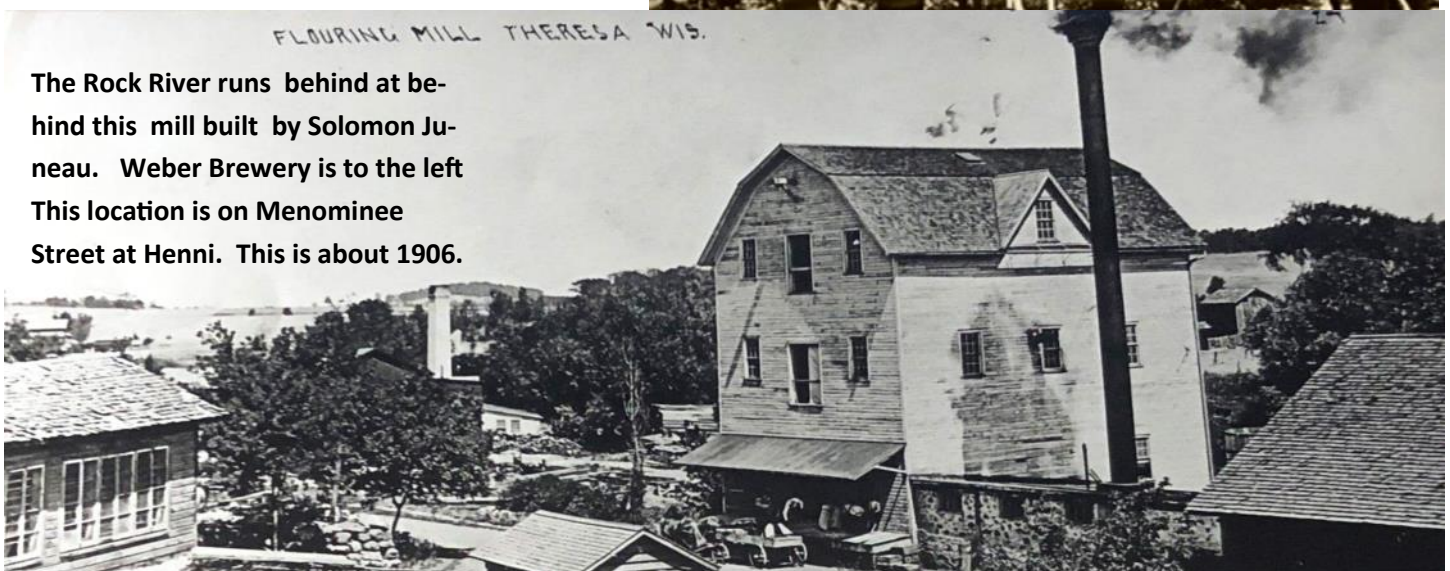


Did You Know?

From the late 1840's until 1895, Juneau's dam at Riverside Park narrows below the old Weber Brewery backed up a shallow 2,000 acres plus acres marshland including present day Theresa Marsh, extending up past Highway 28 and east to within a quarter mile of US 41.

Right : Two men work on laying the grade bed for the Wisconsin Central Railroad across Lake Theresa at what then St. Anthony/Marshville and later Theresa Station.

Bottom Right: 2 surveyors at the Lake Theresa dam (Riverside Park) in the 1890s. The dam was removed by investors who hoped to turn the lakebed into profitable farming land. That proved to be a bad decision. Though some farmland was recovered but most of the lake bottom returned to



The Rock River runs behind at behind this mill built by Solomon Juneau. Weber Brewery is to the left This location is on Menominee Street at Henni. This is about 1906.

Be a Part of Augtoberfest! We Need your Time, Talent and Treasure To Make It Happen!

When folks visit our THS museum campus we often hear, "This feels like a walk down memory lane" or "my dad or my grandparents told about this" and that is exactly what it means to be. A place where you can walk through the history and enjoy the memories of our community. It's a place where people of today can connect the past and understand the sense of community.

That's exactly the thinking the members of Theresa Historical Society had when they spawned the idea of bringing back a community festival to the Theresa area. We need to raise money to preserve our history and needed a way to raise the funds to do that. Hence Augtoberfest was born in the hearts and minds of our Society members. Now we are busting and struggling to bring that event to life. Producing this festival is the biggest fund raising project in our history and we are "betting the farm" on it, literally putting our limited financial resources on-the-line to stage and produce this festival for our surrounding community. We are making progress in meeting our goal having gained the support of several business, benevolent organizations and individuals but we still have ways to go. We have been out talking to organizations and folks about this dream called Augtoberfest and many have responded generously, but we still have a long ways to go. We need more help. To those who have responded Thank You kindly! To those who have not responded to our request or have not received the information. Here is how you can help!

Theresa Historical Society thanks you for your support to produce Augtoberfest

Your are helping to continue & preserve the history of our area.

1. _____ \$1000 or more "Augtoberfest Hero"
2. _____ \$500 "Founders"
3. _____ \$250 "Pioneer "
4. _____ \$200 "SPONSOR A KEG of Pioneer Beer"
5. _____ \$100: "Quarte Barrel "
5. _____ \$ 50 "Pony Barrel"
6. _____ Other? "Pretzel/Schnitzel"

Please check the appropriate lines in number 1-7 above .

Total Enclosed _____

Name _____

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Make Payment & Check payable to Theresa Historical Society

Theresa Historical Society is 501(c) 3 nonprofit education organization

Mailing address: Theresa Historical Society

P.O. Box 224

Theresa, Wi. 53091

The Mystery of the Man in the Cadillac

By Rob Bowe

The shrill blast of an automobile horn pierced the stillness of a cool early morning hours of a September morning in downtown Theresa.

At first, no one paid much attention. But the horn didn't stop. It echoed through the darkness in long, mournful blasts, waking families who lived along Milwaukee Street. Curtains were pulled back. Bedroom lights flickered on. Curious residents stepped onto their porches, wondering who would be making such a racket before sunrise on September 15, 1920.

As neighbors cautiously walked toward the sound, they stumbled upon a scene no one would ever forget.

A large Cadillac sat motionless near the Wagner home. Slumped over the steering wheel was a dead man. His lifeless body rested against the horn button, causing the eerie, continuous wail that had awakened the entire neighborhood.

Who was he? What had happened? And why had he died in Theresa?

For decades those questions lingered, becoming one of the village's greatest unsolved mysteries.

Fortunately, the story survived because one man believed every local story—no matter how strange, tragic, or seemingly insignificant—deserved to be preserved.

That man was Les Beck.

For much of the twentieth century, Les Beck was Theresa's unofficial historian. Had it not been for his curiosity and determination, many stories that shaped the community would have vanished with the people who remembered them.

Beck was not alone. Lester and Evelyn Unglaub devoted countless hours to genealogy and family history. Werner Steinbach became another respected researcher, while Jim and Ralph Widmer, Evangeline Koll, and members of the Bodden and Polster families all helped preserve pieces of Theresa's past. Together they became the guardians of the community's collective memory.

Born in 1914, Beck attended school in Theresa before gradu-

ating from Mayville High School in 1932. After studying mortuary science, he returned home to join the family's furniture store and undertaking business. During World War II, he served with the U.S. Army's famed 32nd "Red Arrow" Division in the South Pacific before returning to Theresa, where he spent more than sixty years serving families in both life and death.

History, however, was always his true calling.

Inspired by his mother, Beck developed an insatiable curiosity about the people who settled Theresa. He asked questions, copied old records, clipped newspaper articles, interviewed elderly residents, and filled notebooks with stories that otherwise would have been forgotten.

Before long, if someone had a question about Theresa's past, the answer was almost always the same: "Ask Les Beck."

As a founding member of the Theresa Historical Society, Beck became one of the area's greatest collectors of local history. During the 1980s and 1990s he shared many of his discoveries in his popular *It Happened in Theresa* column in The Mayville News.



Les Beck (1914-2009) was a founding member of Theresa Historical Society and noted area historian.

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Beck Con't.

A few years back while sorting through the Theresa Historical Society archives, this author came across several pages of Beck's handwritten notes. Yellowed with age and written in his familiar handwriting, they contained stories that had never appeared anywhere else. One of them told the remarkable story of the man in the Cadillac.

According to Beck's notes, investigators concluded the dead man had been one of two burglars attempting to rob the Fellenz & Bartlett General Store during the night. Somewhere during the burglary, his partner accidentally shot him.

The surviving burglar managed to carry his wounded companion back to their waiting Cadillac before leaving him near the Wagner home. There the dying man slumped over the steering wheel, his body pressing against the horn until the strange sound drew half the village into the street.

The gunman fled south out of town on foot.

Along the way he stopped at the Ernest Bodden farm, asking for something to eat. According to Beck's notes, the stranger admitted he had accidentally shot his partner during the attempted robbery and had left him back in Theresa.

Once the man continued on his way, Bodden quickly notified authorities. Search parties combed the countryside but found no trace of the fugitive.

Meanwhile, the unidentified victim was taken to the Beck Furniture Store and Undertaking. There was nothing in his pockets to identify him.

Hoping someone might recognize the stranger, the body was placed on public view the following Sunday at the Beck Furniture Store/Funeral Home. A steady stream of curious residents filed through the undertaking parlor, but no one could put a name to the face.

Days passed, then another week. Still, no one came forward. Eventually, according to Beck's notes, the body was transferred to a Milwaukee medical college where it became a cadaver.

Years later, the mystery was solved—but only in part. A prisoner in Washington State confessed to accidentally shooting his partner during the attempted burglary in Theresa. Wisconsin many years earlier. Since he was already serving a lengthy sentence for other serious crimes, Dodge County officials decided not to extradite him, and the case was officially closed.

Yet one question remains unanswered to this day. Who was the man in the Cadillac? His identity has never been discovered.



Advertising sign for Les Beck's father Fred Beck's Funeral business on display at the THS Museum. *Leichenbestatter* is German for Undertaker/Funeral Director

Stories like this show why local historians matter. Without Les Beck's curiosity and lifelong commitment to preserving overlooked stories, this remarkable mystery likely would have faded from memory.

Instead, more than a century later, it still echoes through Theresa's history.

As Les Beck liked to conclude his newspaper columns...
"It happened in Theresa."

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Reaching Out To The Community



Special Events



School Tours



NEW!

**OUT & ABOUT!
POP-UP
Museum Displays**



Community Programs

"Rock River Settlement Stories"



Photos by Laura Bruederle



Museum Tours

New Brick Memorial Pioneer Pathway Program

We announced in our last issue that we had requests and had received **some memorial donations** honoring pioneer families, friends and others who were a part of area history. As a result, Theresa Historical pleased to announce a drive to upgrade our campus and we are going to create a permanent memorial tribute honoring these recent and all future *designated* memorial donations. We are currently designing and creating a plan to integrate engraved memorial bricks and enhance our pioneer paver walkway and THS campus access. To make this dream a reality, we need your help to make it happen brick by brick!

These engraved bricks will honor and pay tribute to those who have pioneered, built and supported the community and the surrounding area. Your memorial donation of \$150 or more will create a lasting tribute to an ancestor, loved one, friend, organization or perhaps an important event with an engraved personalized memorial brick commemorating that event and supporting their efforts. Your memorial brick will become a lasting tribute and permanent part of our historic community. This is a unique opportunity for members, families, community, and friends of the club to become a lasting part of our legacy by purchasing personalized engraved bricks that will be proudly displayed as a part of our Pioneer Memorial Path. You will find complete information and order form on the next page. If you any questions contact us. **1848THS@gmail.com 920-583-0291**





Theresa Implement Co. 113 N. Milwaukee St. AKA *Langenecker's* was established by Phillip Langenecker 1946. Langenecker, sold MM-Minneapolis Moline tractors and implements and serviced farm tractors and ag equipment. They were also one of the many gas station into Theresa at the time. Pictured-Upper right: A group of Theresa area farmers gathered for coffee inside Langenecker's. L-R unknown, Robert Hartman, William Sellnow, Halrey Sellnow and Proprietor Philip Langenecker. Today the building is gone and is now the site of TSB Financial/Empeople Credit Union. Theresa Implement moved from this location north a half mile on STH 175 in 1975 where Philip and his son John Langenecker continued the business until 1980. Today that location is the site of Serwe Implement Municipal division.



Theresa Village Band Village band gets ready to perform one of its regular Saturday afternoon concerts in front of the Bandlow House at the corner of Milwaukee & Henni Streets in about 1908.

**Courtesy of
Elsinger Farms**

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THERESA LIONS ANNUAL TRUCK AND TRACTOR PULL

Saturday August 29, 2026

THERESA FIREMAN'S PARK

Want to be a friend of Theresa History?

Maybe Join? Volunteer? Donate?

Contact US: DO IT NOW!

Here is How You Help The Theresa Historical Society

Your can help to continue & preserve the history of our area. Here's how .

1. Become a Member 2026 THS Historical Society memberships:

\$ 15 Individual____ **\$25 Family**_____

\$50 Business Sponsor membership _____

2. Donations to THS Historical Society \$100_____ **\$50**_____ **\$25**_____ **Other**_____

3. I would like to volunteer time or others talents to help the society._____

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

Please check the appropriate lines in number 1-4 above

Total Enclosed_____ **Total Enclosed**_____

Name_____

Address_____ **City**_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____

Phone_____ **Email**_____

Make Payment& Check payable to Theresa Historical Society

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