



# Past»Present & Future



## Enduring Families: Shivers, Revels & Moss Families

By Rebecca Mormann-Krieger



*Thomas Shivers*  
(Photo courtesy of the author)

### Shivers Family

In 1940, a census taker sat opposite Alga Shivers at his kitchen table asking about his household. I imagine he saw Alga as another 50-year-old black farmer who lived with his younger brother, Edgar, and 80-year-old father Thomas. The census taker was doing his job. He had to collect information from every house in Cheyenne Valley and he did not have time to visit with anyone. He was on a deadline.

If I could travel back in time to be that census taker, I would arrive on a rainy farm day after morning milking. I would spend my day sitting on the porch talking with Alga, Edgar, and Thomas about life in the Shivers family. Their story was one of resilience, courage, and the beginnings of a unique community in Cheyenne Valley near Hillsboro, Wisconsin, about 50 miles east-southeast of La Crosse.

Thomas Shivers was born into slavery on July 15, 1857 near Alamo, Tennessee. His father died before he was born. His mother, a household slave on the

plantation, raised three children on her own: Thomas, Ashley, and Mary. Their owner, noticing Thomas' intelligence, decided Tom should attend elementary school. Tennessee was one of a few slave states that allowed people of color to obtain a free public education, though it wasn't widespread.

At the age of 5 in 1862, Thomas walked five miles to and from school every day. Few people can imagine the tenacity of a five-year-old walking ten miles round trip daily in all kinds of weather.

The Shivers children were orphaned when Thomas was seven. They were cared for by a slave woman named Charlotte who later married Edmond Harris, a Freedman fighting with the Union Army. When Edmond Harris returned to Tennessee after the Civil War, he and Charlotte adopted the children.

After the Civil War, Tennessee moved forward with social equity, but not civil rights. The family tried to make their livelihood there, but found Jim Crow laws difficult to overcome. They made the decision to move, but it took them two years to walk north from Tennessee to Wisconsin. They arrived in Cheyenne Valley by 1879.

On the 1940 census Alga Shivers reported he and his brother Edgar worked a 75-hour week. Thomas, his 80 year old father, was retired. They owned their farm, the original quarter-section purchased by Thomas' adoptive father, Edmond Harris after the Civil War. Thomas bought additional land when he became owner after Edmond died in 1880.

## *Continued...Enduring Families: Shivers, Revels & Moss Families*

By 1900 Alga said his dad had the “largest negro-owned farm in Wisconsin”. He had constructed a large frame house to replace the log cabin originally built on the property. During World War I, he piped water from a hillside spring to the house and had the first hot and cold indoor plumbing in Cheyenne Valley. Most noticeable on Tom’s farm was the round barn Alga had designed and built. As time went on, Alga Shivers became widely known in southeastern Wisconsin for his skill in the design and construction of round barns. Most were constructed between 1890 and 1930.



*Alga Shivers*  
(Photo courtesy of the author)

Alga Shivers and his wife, Flora (Revels), lived their entire lives in Cheyenne Valley. They never had children, but many young people living in the valley called their farm home. Alga’s brother, Ashley, and his wife Ellen (Waldon) did the same thing in La Crosse and later Madison.

Alga attended George R. Smith College in Sedalia, Missouri and served in World War I, returning to Wisconsin to run his farm. He was the kind of farmer who read all the farm books and magazines he could find. First to have a tractor in Cheyenne Valley, he understood many of the latest trends in farming. Farmers and county farm agents came from miles around to talk with Alga about farm news, seeds, germination, and breeding.

At least fifteen round barns near Cheyenne Valley were designed and constructed by Alga Shivers. The wind resistant design of round barns placed the silo and hay chute in the center of the structure allowing for an efficient feed distribution and a spacious dairy, with cow heads facing the silo. Most of the round barns in the United States are in Wisconsin, and most are in this area.



*Round barn built by Alga Shivers*  
(Photo courtesy of the author)

Thomas Shivers lived to be 101 years old, 21 years past the 1940 census. A slave as a child, he witnessed the Civil War, then walked to Wisconsin with his siblings and step-parents. Together they built a farm on land of their choosing. As a single dad, Thomas raised his children on the same land, saw his children find success in a diverse community, and grew old to see the day that Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a bus in 1954. Thomas Shivers was a remarkable man.

### **Revels Family**

The Revels family was part of a migration of African Americans and American Indians beginning in 1820 from Georgia and North Carolina. Free and cheap labor forces of slaves and indentured servants had allowed both states to remain top producers of cotton, but demand for land meant American Indians were forced to relinquish their fertile croplands to speculators.

Mycajah Revels left the Tallahatchie River Cherokee reservation with his wife Morning Star Jacobs in 1820. Before leaving for Newton, Alabama near the Georgia border, they were married in the native way. Later when Mycajah became a Methodist minister, they were married in North Carolina in a Christian wedding. Mycajah kept his Cherokee ways, but never spoke the language. In North Carolina Mycajah and Morning Star met Ishmael and Silvia Roberts. As elders of very large families, these two couples would lead their groups from North Carolina to Lick Creek, Indiana.

Two governmental decisions influenced Lick Creek’s founding. In 1830 Congress passed the Indian Removal Act. American Indian lands were opened for speculation once Native Americans were removed. The Five Civilized Tribes brought their case to the court and in 1831 and 1832 the Cherokee Nation won

## *Continued...Enduring Families: Shivers, Revels & Moss Families*

two Supreme Court cases, *Worcester v. Georgia* and *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*. Legal precedent set by these cases stated American Indian tribes were “sovereign nations” and the United States could not interfere within their boundaries. But President Andrew Jackson disregarded the ruling, and between 1830-1835 forcibly removed Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee people (and any African freedmen and slaves who lived among them) from their traditional lands in the Southeastern United States. Over 16,000 men, women and children were forced to walk thousands of miles to Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Approximately 4000 people died on what became known as the Trail of Tears.



*Mycajah Revels (left) & Morning Revels (right)*  
(Photo courtesy of the author)

State legislators placed additional restrictions on the civil and legal rights of Free People of Color after the Nat Turner Rebellion in 1833. Free born persons and freed slaves, American Indians, or indentured servants were restricted in their movements, business practices, rights of assembly, and marriages. As a result, a committee of forty Quakers was appointed by the North Carolina Society of Friends to examine laws within free states. They recommended that Free People of Color settle in Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois because of better economic and educational opportunities.

Shortly thereafter in 1835, Lick Creek Settlement or Roberts Settlement was established in Orange County, Indiana by free blacks of mixed heritage. A dozen families traveled there from North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. They fled slavery and laws infringing on their social and legal freedoms, seeking new opportunities for their children. Several run-away slaves from the South left with them. Along their route to Indiana they established a trail for the Underground Railroad.

As Roberts Settlement prospered in Lick Creek, its members shaped community life based upon their cultural makeup. Black Codes did not allow slaves and freedmen to openly receive an education, so this became a priority. Mycajah Revels' family, a sizable portion of the group, came from the Cherokee Nation. As the first American indigenous people to have a written language, education was an important part of the Cherokee community.

African American and American Indian spiritual leaders were often involved with the social and political welfare of their communities. The role of the Society of Friends and Wesleyan Methodist Church also had a strong influence upon the settlers. It became a natural fit for the settlement's school and church to serve as both community center and place of worship. The African Methodist Episcopal Church grew out of this history and these relationships.

“In the late 1840s the Roberts community church became affiliated with Wesleyan Methodism, an emerging Methodist sect initially distinguished by its staunch opposition to slavery and vocal support for racial equality.”

“Although African-American landowners tended to purchase contiguous tracts of land with one another, non-African-American ownership of land within the settlement was typically intertwined.” (United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Hoosier Nation Forest, Lick Creek African American Settlement)

In 1850 the United States Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act. Lick Creek Settlement was only thirty miles from the Kentucky border, and without freedmen's papers the fear of slave catchers was real. Records show Ishmael Roberts, Sr. was able to secure his freedman's papers. But freedman papers were almost impossible to obtain five states from where you were born, and most people in Lick Settlement did not have them.

By 1854, Indiana felt it necessary to identify all freedmen within the state. All blacks and mulattos were required to report to their county seat to register, bringing a white neighbor as a character witness. This was the beginning of the end for the Lick Creek Settlement. Only half of the people in the



## *Continued...*Enduring Families: Shivers, Revels & Moss Families

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settlement reported to the county seat. Within seven years half the acreage owned by African Americans was sold to outsiders. By 1880 only six African American families were left within the community.

Mycajah and Morning Star Revels left Lick Creek Settlement with their children and their families in 1854. They headed for Wisconsin because it offered available farm land with rich soil, an anti-slavery stance, and free public schools for all children. They had heard Wisconsin offered voting rights to African Americans males and challenged the federal government about the constitutionality of the Fugitive Slave Act.

The Revels family first settled near Madison, while Mycajah headed south to Bad Ax and stayed the first winter in Hopeful Valley (the first name for Revels Valley/Cheyenne Valley). The entire family arrived in the late 1850's.

Mycajah and Morning Revels were half Cherokee Indian, but Southern governments defined their family as black or mulatto. In North Carolina and Georgia, they had been subject to the same laws as freemen of color and slaves. In Wisconsin these discrepancies showed up on censuses. Sometimes the Revels were identified as "Indian" and other times as "Black" or "Mulatto." During the Civil War, some of the men in Cheyenne Valley served with white regiments and others with colored regiments, even though they were blood relations.

Eleven of the Revels children married into seven

different families from Lick Settlement. Three of Revels children would marry into the Roberts family. The valley became populated with double cousins. Mycajah and Morning's other four children married newcomers within the valley.

Over their many years of marriage Mycajah and Morning Revels had 15 children, and their children had 10-15 children of their own. Other families joined the Valley, but this extended family formed the nucleus. By 1900 descendants of all the founders of the valley had intermarried with freemen, former slaves, and American Indians and Europeans from other nations. They were tri-racial in genetics and heritage. Most of the people in the valley today carry last names of the original inhabitants somewhere in their family tree.

Part Two of Enduring Families will appear in September and will highlight the Moss Family living in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Our story would not be complete without making connections between the Revels, Moss, and Shivers Families. Zachariah Lewis and Mary Moss moved to Wisconsin from Virginia by way of a packet boat on the Mississippi. The Moss family were barbers and entrepreneurs living in La Crosse. Their son, Zachariah Henry Moss, married Revels Valley native Emily Waldon, granddaughter of Mycajah and Morning Star Revels. Her sister, Ellen Waldon, married Ashley Shivers. These families are deeply connected to Cheyenne Valley and the history of La Crosse.



### Online Collections

*By Amy Vach*

Since March 7, 2017, I have been a fulltime employee at LCHS as the Collections Specialist. I interned with LCHS as an undergrad and continued as a volunteer after I graduated from UW-L with an archaeology degree. My position is funded by a grant from the La Crosse Community Foundation for one year.

My daily work involves cataloging and updating records for the thousands of artifacts that belong to LCHS. So far, I have surveyed dolls, furs, portraits of mayors of La Crosse, and buttons. The La Crosse Community Foundation also provides funds for LCHS to purchase software to create an online collections database. While I am updating catalog records, I am also making them accessible online so that anyone anywhere can view La Crosse's history.

Individual records contain all of the information that we have about the artifact. Sometimes we know where

## Continued...Online Collections

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the artifact was used, made, or who owned it. All of the records contain at least one image of the object. The “Notes” and the “Provenance” sections have information about research as well as any additional historical background about the artifact.

Every week new entries are being added to our online database. Right now, we have over 600 records online and that number will keep steadily growing. There are “Popular Searches” on the homepage that keep changing based on new records. The permanent popular search icon is dedicated to the “Things that Matter” column that is in the La Crosse Tribune every Saturday. Every week I add the catalog record for the object that is featured in the newspaper.

An online collections database is important to LCHS because it provides an avenue through which people can see artifacts that are not regularly displayed. Artifacts are on display at Riverside Museum as well as Hixon House, but those artifacts are such a small percentage of the entire collection. This online database does not replace a physical museum. It is another way to share local history that the public usually does not get to see.

I invite you to explore LCHS’s collections by going to: <http://lchshistory.pastperfectonline.com/> (There is also a link on our website, [www.lchshistory.org](http://www.lchshistory.org). From there select “Collections” from the dropdown menu across the top of the page, and then select “Online Collections.”)

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## Preparing for the Future at LCHS

*By Candace Brown, President, LCHS Board of Directors*

Your LCHS board has been working on a strategic planning method produced by the American Association for State and Local History called the Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs). This work has been a long time coming and is intended to prepare our organization for continuing its mission into the future, immediate and long term. The board has had two in-service sessions and has achieved the Basic level of twelve Performance Indicators so far.



The purpose of StEPs is not to produce a long range plan, but to build our organization’s capacity as a strong, professional community asset. It won’t necessarily result in a long range plan, but it will prepare us to not only dream big, but to also have a strong foundation of policies and procedures, based on museum best practices, that will assure we are able to make those dreams a reality.

Our goal is to address and achieve the Basic levels of all six areas in the next year. We have started working the Mission, Vision, and Governance section, in which we have readdressed our mission statement and also created a vision statement. These will be published in each edition of the newsletter as well as the website and other publications. We are creating One Year and Long Term goals and plans. Other sections are Audience, Interpretation, Stewardship of Collections, Stewardship of Historical Structures and Landscapes, and Management. We feel especially confident that in the Stewardship areas, we may be able to achieve one or two levels over Basic.

If you would like to know more about StEPs and how we are using it to become a stronger organization, please contact us by email or phone. We welcome the input of our members, and the day is coming when the question of LCHS’ future and its role in the community will be addressed as part of a new long-range plan.

### **The LCHS Vision:**

*Enriching lives through engagement with the history of La Crosse County*

### **The LCHS Mission Statement:**

*La Crosse County Historical Society discovers, collects, preserves, and shares the history of La Crosse County, Wisconsin.*

# ED Report: Building Programming

By Peggy Derick

There's a lot happening at LCHS this year. We are increasing programming, maintaining quality of existing programming and working to develop the financial support to underpin this growth. All this, plus a renewed dedication by the Board of Directors to develop our capacity and professionalism, is combining to bring a powerful dynamic of change to your Historical Society.

**Online Collections** - LCHS collections are going up online for viewing on the Internet. It is especially valuable for us right now as we have no galleries for rotating exhibits and our space at Riverside is extremely limited. With the help of a large grant from the La Crosse Community Foundation, we have added a third person to our staff. Amy Vach is now our Collections Specialist. Her position is funded for one year, and our goal is for her to build the online catalog, which is at our website, while continuing the process of updating all records in the database.

**Public Programming** - Public programming this year includes two new events, "Night at the Museum" and "Folk Life La Crosse." "Night at the Museum" took place at Riverside Museum, and was designed for families with young children. Around 100 kids came, brought their parents with them, and had a fun time trying out activities and exploring the museum from a kid's perspective. The Ho Chunk Nation and Mississippi Valley Archeology Center had representatives there with interactive displays that made it even more interesting. As I watched our large crowd of visitors that night the things I kept hearing from the adults were *"I never knew this place was here,"* and *"We should come back, there's cool stuff here."* Just what we wanted when we planned the event!



*Young children and their families enjoyed activities and displays at "Night at the Museum," at Riverside Museum.*

**StEPs** - The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) has a program they call "StEPs," which stands for **Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations**. "StEPs" is a self-directed series of workbooks designed to lead an organization through a process of evaluation and development to improve and implement policies that reflect museum best practices. The "StEPs" program provides support and national standards benchmarks, but this is a major undertaking for an organization, and will take at least a year to complete.

Your Board of Directors has committed to take on this large effort in order to make us a stronger, more professional organization. The goal is to position LCHS as a more professional entity, with capacity for growth and expansion of services. Board President Candace Brown will be giving you updates on what they are working on, and her first article is in this issue of the PPF.



## Continued...ED Report: Building Programming

Our other new event is coming up in about six weeks, on **July 9: “Folk Life La Crosse”** is not going to be your typical crafts fair. Practitioners of traditional crafts will be actively demonstrating their skills, and many will have hands-on activities for visitors to try for themselves. Some of the makers at this juried show will also have handiwork for sale

“Folk Life La Crosse” will honor artisans practicing traditional crafts and give the public the opportunity to see them at work. Preservation of artifacts in our collections is important, but the best way to preserve knowledge of a craft is to keep the skill alive. When we knit, or do woodworking, or learn to make a traditional Ho Chunk basket, we are part of a living connection to the past.

The poster features a central title "Folk Life La Crosse" in a large, purple, cursive font. Above the title, the text "LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:" is flanked by two stylized lion head logos. Below the title, the event details are listed in bold, black and teal fonts. The background is a light gray with a faint, repeating pattern of stars and geometric shapes. Various line drawings of traditional crafts are scattered around the text: a sewing machine, a spinning wheel, a wooden press, a basket, and a small wooden structure.

LA CROSSE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:

TRADITIONAL CRAFTS  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
HANDS-ON LEARNING  
CRAFT SALES

**Folk Life  
La Crosse**

**SUNDAY JULY 9TH  
11AM TO 3PM  
AT HISTORIC HIXON HOUSE  
429 7TH STREET N**

TICKETS AVAILABLE DAY OF EVENT  
AND ONLINE!  
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\$3/ ADULTS  
\$2/ STUDENTS  
\$9.00/FAMILY OF  
FOR 4 OR MORE

# Volunteer Spotlight – Diane Breeser

*By Susan T. Hessel*



*Volunteer Diane Breeser, left, and Office Manager Tiffany Lawrence, right, in Riverside Park.*

The first-time Diane Breeser volunteered for the La Crosse County Historical Society, it was as a reenactor in a “Discover the Silent City” event.

“It was the weekend after 9-11,” she recalled. “I remember thinking I don’t know how I can do this. The whole country was in shock, but I remember being in the Oak Grove Cemetery that day and it was so peaceful being away from the television and all those horrible images. It turned out to be a peaceful place to escape the stresses of the time.”

Breeser played Caroline Gund, wife of John Gund, the 19th century founder of Gund Brewery. “It was an escape back into history plus it reminded me when I am in theater and act, you enter into another world and forget the other things going on.”

The office manager for Faith United Methodist Church by day, Breeser has been in theater since her Central High School days. She volunteered backstage for the 1978 production of “Cabaret” at La Crosse Community Theater, which lead to her researching Germany in the 1930s.

“To me theater and history are so intertwined and I am a history nerd,” she said.

The first show in which she was a performer was “Inherit the Wind,” based on the Scopes Trial in which a teacher dared to teach evolution in Tennessee despite the law against it.

“It was a great experience for someone who loves history,” Breeser said. “When I was not on stage, I watched the rehearsals, listened and learned about theater. It was such a great history lesson on the 1925 Scopes Trial and the whole teaching of evolution and creationism.”

Coincidentally, Breeser directed a reading of “Inherit the Wind” in April as part of the Alternative Truth Project, which offers free readings of a powerful play each month in various locations around La Crosse. The mission of the project, created by Anne Drecktrah, Susan Fox and Breeser, is “to inspire political action through the powerful language of theater.”

Breeser helped direct and coordinate 2016’s Silent City event, Remarkable Women of La Crosse. “I was lucky to assemble a wonderful cast of women-- local actors and storytellers-- who added so much to the success of last year’s Silent City.”



## Continued...Volunteer Spotlight – Diane Breaser

She also will be involved with the 2017 event, "Leaving A Mark: Artists of La Crosse". "Discover the Silent City", which features reenactors of residents buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, is held each year the third Saturday in September, this year on September 16th.

"Theater is so good because it brings history into life," said Breaser, who has been in 40 to 50 plays since high school. "You feel history through theater," she said. "History is important because we need to know who we are and why we do the things we do."

Breaser has been a trolley and bus tour guide for LCHS. She enjoys that work because people come from all over the country and world when the paddle wheeler the American Queen and four other boats come through La Crosse. One day, a couple of visitors from Australia on a bus tour were puzzled when she referred to herself as a "Cheesehead." She had to explain to them that it was a reference to a Wisconsin resident who is an ardent Green Bay Packers fan.

"We are so fortunate to have such a rich history of places and people here in La Crosse. There are fantastic resources to locate artifacts, research information, and bring that history to life at our La Crosse County Historical Society" she said. "I can't imagine life without History!"

## LCHS Publications

*Prices include shipping and handling. Discounts available by arranging for pick up at our office*

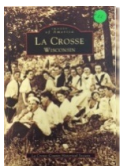


### A History of La Crosse, WI in the Twentieth Century

Susan Hessel and Gayda Hollnagel

750 pages

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_



### Images of America

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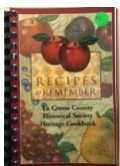


### The Hixon House

Susan Hessel and Catherine McNamara

91 pages

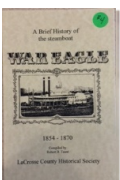
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Robert Taunt

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### Summer Refreshments Set 2

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145 West Ave. S La Crosse, WI 54601

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## Summer Brown Bag Talk Series

### “Many Peoples, One Place: La Crosse’s Multi-Ethnic Heritage”

For the third year, La Crosse County Historical Society will be sponsoring a series of free talks this summer. These are “Brown Bag” talks, scheduled over the lunch hour. The presentations will start on Tuesday, June 13th, and continue the popular “Many Peoples, One Place: La Crosse’s Multi-Ethnic Heritage” theme of last year. Each one will be about the history and heritage of a different group of people living in La Crosse County.

The talks celebrate the history, heritage and contributions of five groups (*African Americans, Irish Americans, Hmong Americans, Native Americans and German Americans*) while exploring cultural stereotypes and moving beyond them.

**Where: Riverside Museum in Riverside Park**

**Day & Time: Tuesdays, 12:00pm - 1:00pm**

*(Each Presentation is about 30-40 minutes, with time for audience questions or discussion)*

**ALL ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

**June 13th** - Cecil Adams, co-founder and executive director of La Crosse’s African American Mutual Assistance Network (AAMAN), will talk about the heritage of African Americans in the area, and contemporary programs directed by his organization to assist with education and employment. His talk is entitled “African Americans in the La Crosse Area – The Process”. Touching on past and present challenges, he will also highlight La Crosse’s annual Juneteenth Celebration, explaining its historical and cultural significance.

**June 20th** - Donna Finn will present historical and present day information on the Irish in the La Crosse area. She is of local Irish-American descent, and volunteers as a Hixon House guide and secretary of La Crosse County Historical Society. She will talk about the Irish in Wisconsin and her family heritage, as well as dispel some stereotypes, offering a picture of what it’s like to have an Irish background here.

**June 27th** - Maysee Yang Herr, an associate professor of Education at UW-Stevens Point and speaker for the Wisconsin Humanities Council, will offer an interesting perspective on Hmong culture from a personal viewpoint. Her talk, “Being a Female Hmong Professional,” includes stories and reflections on how she has been challenged by social and cultural expectations and has learned to overcome them. She explains how she has navigated conflict while retaining her dignity as well as that of the Hmong community. The presentation allows time for questions and discussion after the talk.

**July 11th** - Daniel Green, lecturer at UW-La Crosse, will present a talk on “The Over-Consumption of Native American Imagery and the Ongoing Results.” Dan’s Ho-Chunk heritage has given him particular insight into this topic. His talk should offer a truer perspective into Native American heritage than is presented and packaged by the media, dispelling stereotypes and sharing a culture that is both ancient and modern.

**July 18th** - Carol Mullen will talk on “Beyond Beer and Lederhosen: The Germans in the La Crosse area”. She comes from a local German American family, is a retired public librarian, and volunteers for La Crosse County Historical Society. She’ll briefly outline the history of Germans in La Crosse County; touch on some differences between Germans and German Americans, and how German stereotypes and realities are two different things; plus share a few photos/stories of her German family members and their life here, with thoughts on what that heritage has meant to her.

La Crosse County Historical Society is pleased and proud to, once again, be offering this series of talks free to the public. For further information, check the La Crosse County website at [www.lchshistory.org](http://www.lchshistory.org) or call 608-782-1980.



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*Peggy@lchshistory.org*

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*Tiffany Lawrence*

*Tiffany@lchshistory.org*

## Why you should come to the Annual Meeting

By the time this newsletter is in the mail we will be just two weeks away from the LCHS Annual Meeting. If you received this in the mail, you are probably an LCHS member, and you should come to the Annual Meeting.

Why? Because the La Crosse County Historical Society is a member-governed nonprofit corporation. Our members elect the Board of Directors to govern the organization. Members also ratify any changes to the By-Laws, and the Annual Meeting is your opportunity to meet your leadership—the Board of Directors, which was elected by you, or at least by those of you who come to the Annual Meeting.

Two Directors were appointed since the last Annual Meeting, and their positions will be ratified at this Meeting by the members present. An Annual Report will be presented as well.

**When:** Thursday, June 15

**Where:** The Freight House Restaurant

Cocktails at 5:30pm & dinner served at 6:00pm  
(*The meeting starts immediately afterwards*)

(*If you have not RSVP'd, don't forget to do so by calling the office at (608) 782 -1980*)

## The La Crosse County Historical Society

*To join, please complete and return the following information with your payment to:*

***La Crosse County Historical Society, 145 West Avenue South, La Crosse, WI 54601***

*You may also reach us by phone: (608) 782-1980 or e-mail: admin@lchshistory.org*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Past»Present & Future

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Historical Society  
(608) 782-1980  
www.lchshistory.org

Readers are invited to submit  
articles for publication; however,  
the LCHS reserves the right  
to edit for clarity, brevity, and  
accuracy. Articles should pertain  
to La Crosse County history or  
the LCHS organization.

Mail articles to 145 West Ave.  
S., La Crosse, WI 54601, or  
email to admin@lchshistory.org

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La Crosse County Historical Society  
145 West Avenue South  
La Crosse WI, 54601

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## Museums

The La Crosse County  
Historical Society owns  
and operates two museums  
conveniently located in  
downtown La Crosse,  
Wisconsin.

### Hixon House

429 7th St. North  
(Corner of N 7th and Badger  
Street)

#### Hours:

Memorial Day - Labor Day  
Tues. - Sat. 10 am - 2 pm  
Closed Sunday & Monday

### Riverside Museum

410 East Veterans Memorial  
Drive  
Riverside Park  
(in the La Crosse Area  
Convention & Visitors Bureau  
building)

#### Hours:

Mon - Sat 9:30am - 4:30pm  
Sunday 10:00 am - 4 pm

Note: Group (10 or more) tours  
at both museums are available  
year-round by appointment.

## Upcoming Events!

### Historic Hixon House

Memorial Day, May 29

*(Open for tours through the summer)*

Tuesday - Saturday

10am to 2pm

**\$10-adults | \$8-seniors | \$6-students**

Members get in **FREE** with their membership card

### Folk Life La Crosse

Sunday, July 9

11am to 3pm

*(on the Hixon House grounds)*

See flyer on page 7 for  
more information.

### LCHS Annual Members Meeting

June 15 @ 5:30pm at the Freight House

Tickets for the dinner are **\$35**

*(If you have not RSVP'd, don't forget to do so by  
calling the office at (608) 782-1980)*

### Discover the Silent City

Saturday, September 16

11am to 3pm

This year's theme: *"Leaving a Mark;  
Artists of La Crosse."*

### "History in a Bag," speaker series at Riverside Museum

*Five free presentations on the many different  
ethnic and cultural groups living in  
the Coulee Region*

**June 13 through July 18.**

*(See full schedule on page 10.)*

### Eat Out to Help Out:

Tuesday July 18th- 5pm- 7pm  
at the Mormon Coulee Rd Culver's  
(Southside La Crosse)

*A portion of all sales from 5-7pm will  
be donated to LCHS- bring a friend!*