

Historical society

Historic campus

Besides the Lincoln-Tallman House and the Helen Jeffris Wood Museum, other historic structures on the RCHS's main campus (located on 3.5 acres in the 400 block of North Jackson Street in Janesville) include:

- The Charles Tallman House, 430 N. Jackson St. (Charles Tallman was a grandson to William Tallman). Completed in 1915, this building became the new home of the RCHS archives and research center last year.

- The Carriage House. Constructed behind the Lincoln-Tallman House in 1857, it was used to house the Tallman family's car-

riages, tack and horses.

- The Greek Revival-style Wilson King Stone House. Originally a residence built by James P. Knowlton in 1845, the home was moved to campus in 1964 and currently houses the archives of the Rock County Historical Society and the Rock County Genealogical Society. Over 12,000 photographs, thousands of primary sources, newspapers, probate records and maps are included in the archival collections.

Special events

RCHS hosts and sponsors many special events each year. This summer and early fall, events include:

Continued from page 54

- June 1: To kick off the summer opening of the RCHS campus, a Civil War re-enactment group will be on hand for a special flag ceremony.

- June 14 and repeated Aug. 24: Murder & Mayhem Bar Crawl. Tour downtown Janesville's bars and saloons while hearing gruesome and scandalous stories from Rock County's past. This adults-only event, which begins at Janesville's old "Corn Exchange" building (199 W. Milwaukee St.), runs from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets for this event are sold only in advance.

- June 20: Summer Solstice Showcase fundraiser. See historical society website for more details.

- Aug 5: 61st Annual Tallman Arts Festival. The juried festival draws artists from throughout the Midwest to display fine arts and studio crafts in a variety of media and styles. The annual celebration of art, culture and entertainment from Rock County and beyond will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. As a special facet of the festival this year, there will be a Civil War battlefield hospital re-enactment.

- Sept. 4: Alternative Facts and American History. From the historical society's description of the program: "Did George Washington really chop down a cherry tree? Did the pilgrims eat turkey at Thanksgiving? Many stories in American history aren't always the real story. Learn the hard



A "Story Wall" inside the museum center showcases dozens of stories from interesting Rock County residents. (Photo by Jason Francis)

truths about mythical American stories and discover forgotten tales from American history. This free program also includes a discussion of how we can fact-check stories and think critically about information today."

The event, running from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Hedberg Public Library (316 S. Main St.), is part of RCHS and the library's celebration of "Fake News Month." Other features of the celebration include social media posts, a book club and book displays.

- Sept. 16: Sunday Dinner – A Farm to Table Feast. See historical society website for more details.

- Sept. 29: Pokémon Go Historical Walk. Hunt for Pokemon while learning a bit of local history, as you walk around the Courthouse Hill neighborhood in Janesville. Tour begins and ends at the Hedberg Public Library. No registration necessary for the all-ages event,

which runs from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- Oct. 3-19, Wednesday-Friday: Chill at Oak Hill Cemetery Tour. Gravestones and ghoulish tales await you at Janesville's largest city of the dead. Tour the cemetery and learn some interesting stories about people from Rock County's past. Led by local expert Sherry

Thurner and the Rock County Historical Society staff. Tickets must be purchased in advance. This event runs from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

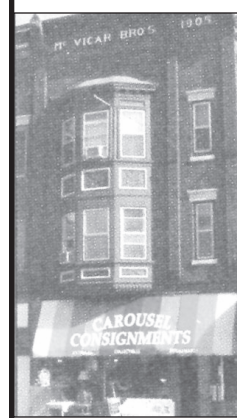
More information

For more on the society's programs, events, exhibits, facilities and offerings, visit www.rchs.us or call RCHS at 608-756-4509.



RCHS's exquisite "Crafting Excellence: The History of Pauline Pottery & Pickard China" exhibit has been refreshed, with new pieces being added this spring. (Photo by Jason Francis)

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