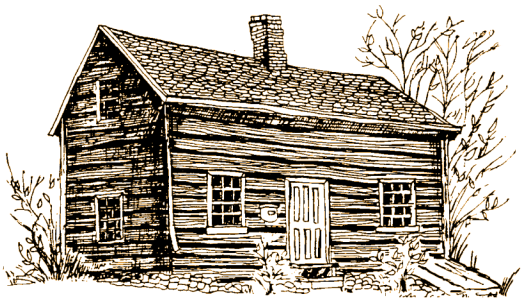
Dedicated to the four Rs…
Rescuing … Recording …
Restoring … Re-creating …
the *authentic*
New Berlin history

NEW BERLIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



November 2026

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MUSEUM OPEN DATES — 1-4 pm
The 2nd Sunday of each month

ANNUAL MEETING & PROGRAM AT THE NEW BERLIN LIBRARY
Monday, November 9th

6:30pm: Annual Business Meeting & Election of Board Members

7:00pm: "Nathan Hatch, Revolutionary Soldier" By local speaker Professor Stephen Hauser.

Board Member Elections

At the Annual Meeting the membership will elect four members to fill three-year terms. The Nominating Committee will present the following Slate of candidates: Peggy Ament, Sue Hemmen, Rip Edmundson and Jim Liska. Information on each candidate is included. Please familiarize yourself with these candidates and attend the meeting so we meet the required quorum.

Annual Meeting Speaker Presentation

This year, in honor of our country's 250th birthday, a local professor, Dr. Stephen Hauser of Brookfield, will introduce us to Nathan Hatch a Revolutionary soldier and one of the few Revolutionary soldiers who are buried in Wisconsin. We will learn about how the war started and what type of citizens were willing to join the fight to create a new type of nation.

Historic Day And Applefest

Historic Day started out a bit wet, but by early afternoon the sun came out, and we had a very good crowd.

There were antique cars and tractors to see, a blacksmith to watch and great music by *KR Bluegrass* to enjoy.

Our **Applefest** Open House had many visitors buying unique apples from the Weston Orchard. The kids rode the barrel train and petted the miniature horses. They also had a chance to press apples for cider, and shell corn.

Everyone enjoyed the food and desserts while listening to the music of the *Bluegrass Allstars.*



Joe Sedso, AKA "Half Twisted Half Knot" delighted the children with his balloon creations.



Museum Projects

The Martin House: A Journey to the Historical Park

The Church-Winton-Martin House is the formal name of the white house on the Historical Park grounds. Named for the families who lived in it over the years, the house is informally known as the "Martin House."

Looking at the house today, one might think it has always stood in its present location. That, however, is not the case. In 2001, following Herculean efforts by the New Berlin Historical Society volunteers, the house was moved to the Historical Park.

Fortunately, members of the NBHS documented this remarkable undertaking with photographs and video footage.

Using these resources, Wes Grueninger created a ten-minute movie chronicling the preparation for the move, the relocation itself, and the early stages of restoration.

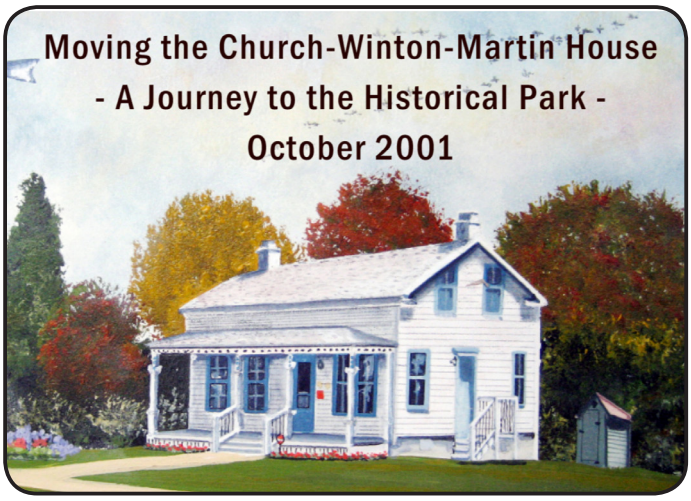
The movie will be shown at the museum through the remainder of 2026 and is available to view during our Second-Sunday museum events. Come discover the remarkable story of how the Martin House found its home at the Historical Park!



Original Studebaker dealership sign on the museum (Note the "Lark" is one of the models sold.)



Brenda Baudo, Miss Wisconsin Scholarship Org. representative, admires the 1959 Studebaker Lark.



Moving the Church-Winton-Martin house

Our Newest Acquisition: A 1959 Studebaker Lark

Most of our members know that our museum building once served as a fire station before the New Berlin Historical Society moved in. But before it became a fire station, the building was home to a Studebaker and Fiat dealership.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Prospect Motors operated from the building and was, at the time, New Berlin's only automobile dealership. The original sign still exists on the building today, hidden beneath the History Museum sign.

Over the years, many members felt it would be fitting to document Prospect Motors' place in New Berlin's history by displaying a Studebaker at the museum.

That opportunity finally arrived when a 1959 Studebaker Lark in very good condition became available for sale locally at a once-in-a-lifetime price. We decided it was an opportunity we couldn't pass up, and the car became the newest addition to our collection.

The Lark arrived at the museum just in time for Applefest and was displayed on the lawn in front of the building. It was an instant hit with visitors, providing many opportunities to share the story of the building's automotive past and the Historical Society's ongoing efforts to preserve New Berlin's history.

The Board will be discussing the best location for the vehicle as we consider how to incorporate this exciting new acquisition into our museum displays.

Remembering Vern —"The Piano Man"

If you ever played the player piano at the Historical Park, you met Vern. He rarely missed an Open House and always encouraged visitors to try their hand—or, more accurately, their feet—at playing the piano.

Vern grew up in West Allis and was a hardworking man from an early age. At just 12 years old, he began delivering newspapers for the *Milwaukee Journal*. He spent 15 years working at a garage, where he gained a wealth of knowledge and experience. He also served two years in the Army and went on to work at Cutler-Hammer for 41 years. For about three years, he owned a Phillips 66 service station, where his people skills helped him build relationships with his customers.

Vern loved cars, tractors, stock car racing, swap meets, and flea markets. He was also active in local politics and the New Berlin Historical Society, where he painted and installed signs promoting local events.

His warm personality and love of people earned him the nickname “Piano Man.” For many, many years, he could be found at the player piano in the Sprengel House, sharing his enthusiasm for music and encouraging visitors to give it a try. His warm personality and love of people earned him the nickname “Piano Man.”

Vern was always ready to give someone a hug and bring a smile to their face. His friendly presence and welcoming spirit touched the lives of many, and he will be greatly missed.



Vern's "Free Hug Coupon"



Vern Bentley, passed away on Aug. 13, at the age of 92

Discover New Berlin’s Historic Landmarks

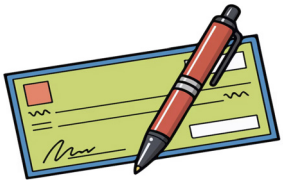
New Berlin is full of interesting historic homes and buildings. See examples on the mural displayed on the Museum door, or scan QR-code markers near historic buildings and cemeteries to learn more.

Visit the City of New Berlin’s website and select the Landmarks tab for information about historic properties.

Along National Avenue, look for Elger’s Store, now Chappel Sports, Uncle Jimmy’s, and New Berlin Center Cemetery. You can also find brown historical markers throughout the city, including those commemorating Cornfalfa Farms, the Hamlet of Calhoun, and the Linnie Lac Dam.

Please remember that most landmarked properties are private homes. Respect owners’ privacy and do not trespass.

Take time to explore and discover the people, places, and stories that shaped New Berlin’s history!



Membership Dues

September is the month that all members need to renew their memberships (unless you are a Life Member). Our Society would be nothing without your support. Please mail in your $15 dues check payable to the New Berlin Historical Society before the end of September.

That small fee covers everyone in your family. A renewal form is included with this Newsletter, or you can just send your check to:

Sue Hemmen
21765 W Edinbourgh Dr
New Berlin WI 53146

Thank You!!…to all our donors since our last newsletter

In memory of Vern Bentley

• Bill & Nicole Bentley	$600
• David McCartel	$250
• Miriah Wright	$250
• Patricia & Curtis Robinson	$250
• M.L. Bundy	$250
• Dave & Joan Totten	$100
• Thomas & Lori Stellpflug	$100
• Cory & Terry Powers	$100
• Gary & Cynthia Kubesch	$75
• Shelly King	$50
• John & Jill Urban	$50
• Janis & Jeffrey Bickle	$50
• Elizabeth Franck & Linda Klindt	$50
• Luanne Reed	$25

General Donations:

• Prospect Lions Club	$1000
• Sheboygan Pasty Co.	$300
• Duane & Judy Miller	$35
• Ken & Julie Derra	$75

Upcoming Events

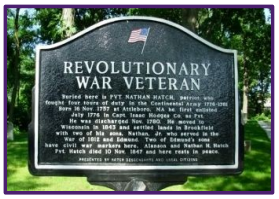
Dr. Stephen Hauser presents

NATHAN HATCH, COMMON SENSE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Imagine being willing to risk everything to help create a new nation—a nation built on the promise of liberty and self-government. Nathan Hatch was one of those patriots, and today, he is one of the few Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Wisconsin.

As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, this presentation will bring us closer to the men and women who dared to fight for independence and helped shape the nation we know today.



Monday, November 9th, 2026 at 6:30 pm
New Berlin Public Library Community Room
15105 Library Lane in the City Center
Free and open to the public Light Refreshments

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER:

Since receiving degrees at both UW-Milwaukee and Marquette University, Dr. Stephen K. Hauser has had a career as an instructor of history at institutions such as UW-Milwaukee from 1988-1996, Mount Senario College, Ladysmith, Marquette University and Lakeland College. Dr. Hauser lectures locally on genealogy and local history. His lecture on Nathan Hatch, a Revolutionary soldier who undoubtedly was influenced by Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" book will remind us of the citizens who were willing to put their lives on the line to create a new type of nation.

Sponsored by the New Berlin Historical Society
(In conjunction with its 2026 Annual Meeting, which begins at 6:30 pm)

Visit www.newberlinhistoricalsociety.org or on Facebook at *New Berlin, WI Historical Society* for more information

Welcome New Members

- Kathy Kilps
- Laura Eastman

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2026 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Anne Marquardt	262-679-5402	Tour Director	Anne Marquardt
Vice-President	Peggy Ament	262-544-4534	Publicity	Sandy Klingensmith
Recording Secretary	Sue Hemmen	262-679-3461	Curators	Peggy Ament Rip Edmundson
Treasurer	Lu Ziemer	262-993-6516	Membership & Programs	Sue Hemmen

Directors: Ken Derra, Rip Edmundson, Mona Fillar, Wes Grueninger, Irene Hawkinson, Sandy Klingensmith, Jim Liska, Marlyene Pfeiffer, Cheryl Shober

Newsletter Editor: Sue Hemmen **Newsletter Layout:** Wes Grueninger

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