



Re-Visioning the Whitewater Historical Society's Local History Museum

Exhibits, Storage, Collections Management



Pre-Restoration Conditions

Exhibits



Storage



Collections Management

2

FH (1) Furniture Settee

FH (2) Furniture Chair - Rock Bottom Rocker

L (3) 3 Jumps (Pat. Whitewater Tenn. 1885)

A (4) (2) Corn Planter

A (5) (2) Steel yards *another one # 632*

L (6) 6th Picture Parrot of Early Whitewater

L (7) 7th Picture Parrot of Log House *by Wm. H. card?*

A (8) (2) Chair

W (9) 9 Child's Sleigh *found on log house*

W (10) 10 Trunk U.S. Army

W (11) 11 Trunk

FH (12) Furniture Book case

FH (13) Furniture Cupboard

FH (14) Furniture File case

FH (15) Furniture Desk

FH (16) Furniture Dulcimer (Nov 26 1945)

3

Donor	Owner
Cravath family	Cravath Family
Cravath Family	Cravath Family
(also # 633)	
Elmer Fish	Donor
Mrs. A. W. Alcock	Mrs. David Whithead
Mrs. J. C. Core	Mrs. R. G. Trappe
Mrs. J. C. Core	Mrs. J. C. Core

Burgett, Raymond W.

L 2229 Scrapbook - Items of 1862 Civil War
W 3013 Dress (black, heavily beaded) worn by
Edyth Wheeler at her last concert
W 3014 Coverlet (hand woven, navy blue) white
fig. used to cover piano by E.W.
W 3015 Scarf
L 2524 1837-
L 2525 Photo
L 2526 - 2530
L 2531 2 pos

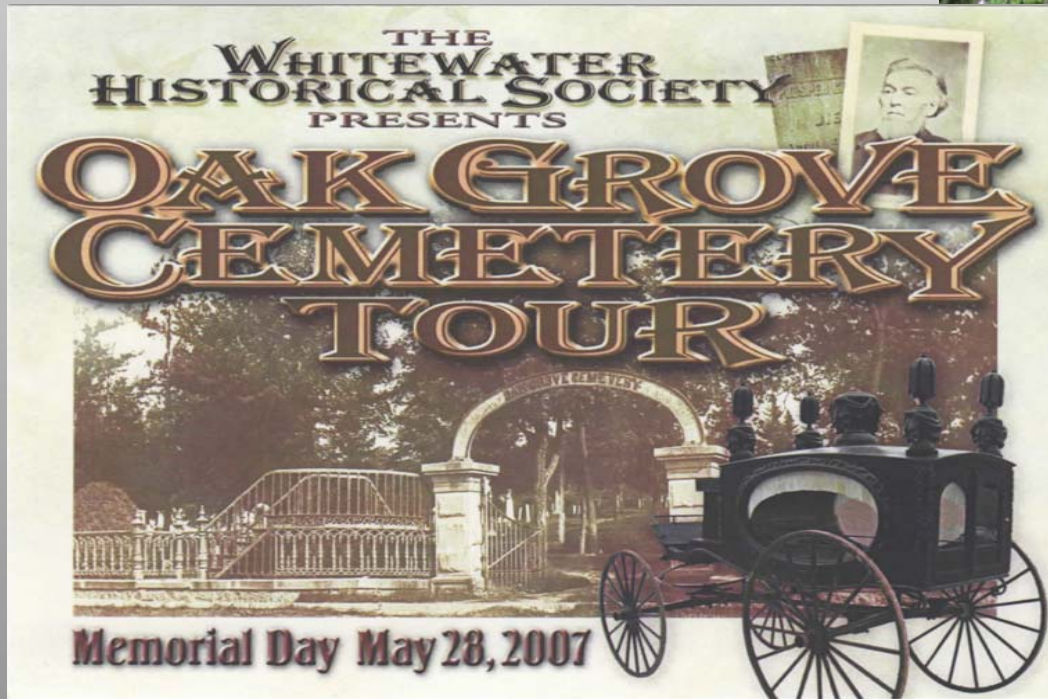
L 2229 Scrapbook
Civil War items, 1862

Donor: R.W. Burgett



Pre-Restoration Positive Observations

Raising our Profile in the Whitewater Community





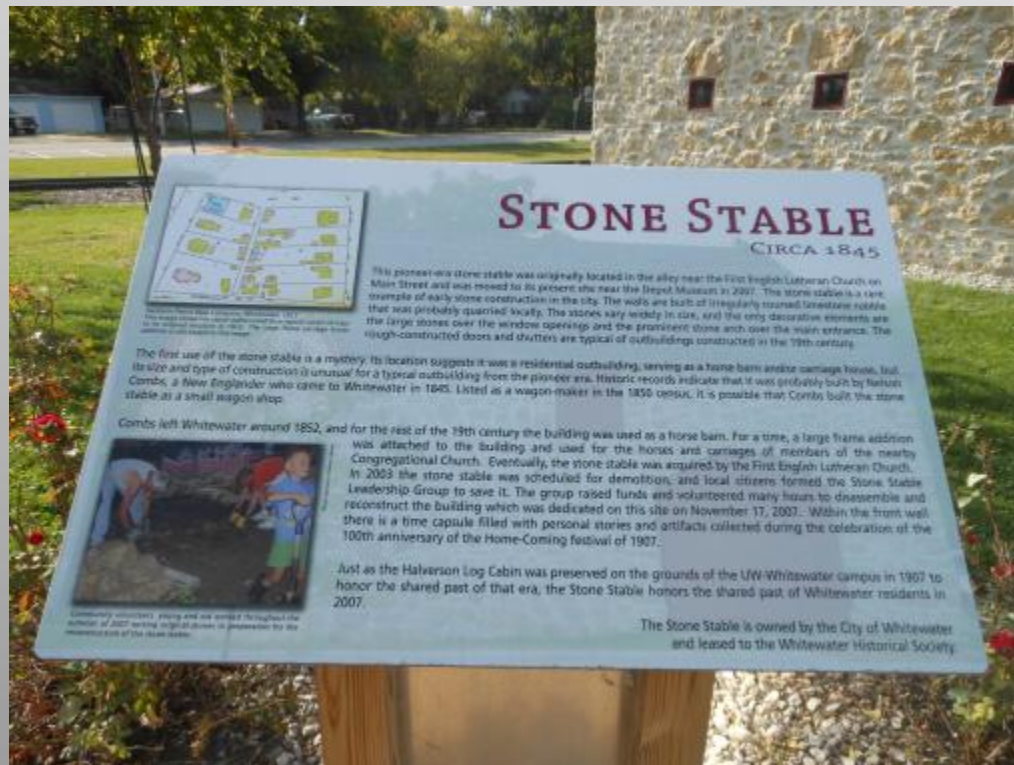
History brought to life



MATT SCHWENKE *Whitewater Register*

Top, Walworth County Genealogical Society member Diana Bird of Harvard, Ill. demonstrates a chalk technique to help read or photograph tombstones during a cemetery tour in Whitewater that followed the Memorial Day service Monday at Calvary Cemetery. Above, the cemetery tour included narrated stops at certain graves by members of the Whitewater and Walworth County historical societies, the WCGS and the Fort Atkinson and Delavan-Samuel Phoenix chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution.

Outdoor Interpretive Panels





Flat Map of Whitewater, 1877

Much of the enhanced yellow shading shows the extent of the Trippe family property as late as 1877. Marked in red on the map are the Mill (the Old Stone Mill) and the Paper Mill, built on the original site of Trippe's 1841 sawmill.

DR. JAMES TRIPPE

1795 – 1844

Upon his arrival in Whitewater in 1839, Yankee settler Dr. James Trippe built a dam and erected a gristmill on Whitewater creek. The dam formed a millpond, later named Cravath Lake. The mill site united the pioneer farming community by reducing the distance area farmers traveled to have grains ground into essential flour and meal. In 1841 Dr. Trippe built a sawmill upstream on the east side of the creek, forming the upper pond named in his honor - Trippe Lake. The subsequent development of the Whitewater community is largely due to Trippe's early investment in mill power.

James Trippe graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Albany, New York in 1817. He practiced medicine until 1835 when his interest turned to farming. In 1837 he migrated to Wisconsin with his wife Rosepha Ann Comstock (1802-1881). Trippe owned large tracts of the early town site and generously donated much of his land for community use, including land for Oak Grove Cemetery. He was one of the first settlers to be buried there.



Pencil Sketch of Dr. Trippe's First Residence by W.W. Card, 1858

Trippe's log and frame home was located on the west side of the lower pond near the Wagon & Agricultural Implement Manufactory (see Map). "Near the old log house, a stone oven had been built, and the trainings of the gristmill in 1839 was the occasion of its first trial... all repaired to the house, where a well-provided repast, gotten up in Mrs. Trippe's most inimitable style, awaited them." *Early Annals of Whitewater*, p. 33.

Rosepha Comstock Trippe outlived her husband by 37 years, during which time she continued his legacy of good deeds and community service. They are both honored for their determined commitment to building the Village of Whitewater. James and Rosepha Trippe are also remembered as the great-great-grandparents of Whitewater native and renowned historian and presidential biographer, Stephen E. Ambrose (1936-2002).



The Old Stone Mill, 1870s
The frame building on the right is the original gristmill built by Dr. Trippe in 1839. William Birge added the larger stone structure in 1856.

"On the 27th of June (1839), the frame to the mill was raised. It was a raising in which every one felt interested. Men came from Lima, Johnstown, Richmond, LaGrange, and the Fort, for they felt scarcely less anxious than the home population for the success and speedy accomplishment of the work." *Early Annals of Whitewater*, p. 33.



Photo Courtesy of the Whitewater Historical Society

Whitewater Paper Mill, Wm. M. Mitchell, Photographer (1865-66)
This paper mill was built on the site of Dr. Trippe's original sawmill (1841) on the east bank of Trippe Lake.

Panel funded by Fred Kraege and the Whitewater Historical Society

THE LEGACY OF GEORGE ESTERLY



Illustration of George Esterly's reaper machine, circa 1860s.
 About 1860, George Esterly, who lived in Whitewater, Wisconsin, designed this reaper machine. It was a combination of a reaper and a mower, which was used to cut and stack grain. The machine was made of wood and was pulled by a team of horses. It had a large wheel at the back and a smaller wheel at the front. The reaper machine was used to cut and stack grain in the field. It was a very important invention in the history of agriculture.

In the 19th century, George Esterly's agricultural inventions and entrepreneurial spirit was important in the growth of Whitewater. Soon after his arrival in Walworth County in 1827, Esterly began developing a wheat harvesting machine to improve efficiency and profit. His first reaper, patented in 1844, won awards while competing with the designs of Cyrus McCormick, who is credited as the inventor of the mechanical reaper.

Esterly began making his reapers on the farm, and then built a factory in Whitewater in 1856. His shops manufactured reapers and other agricultural equipment: seeders, binders, mowers, harvesters, and cultivators, most based on his patented improvements. An ancillary factory produced furniture, sleighs, and coffins. He employed hundreds of workers, many of whom lived in close proximity to the factory in an area that would come to be known as "Reaperville." At the height of production in the 1880s, Esterly's investment in the community brought renown and prosperity to Whitewater.



THE ESTERLY FACTORY, WHITEWATER, WI., 1870s.
 Taken from the front of the factory. It was a large, two-story building with a gabled roof. The factory was made of wood and was surrounded by a fence. It was a very important building in the history of Whitewater.

Esterly's sprawling factory complex was built starting in 1856 and the intersection of present-day Milwaukee and Newcomb Streets.



BROADCAST SEEDER AND CULTIVATOR

On display is an 1870s seeder and cultivator manufactured in Whitewater by the Esterly Machine Company.

Prior to the invention of machines to broadcast seed, grains were sown by hand and then covered with a plow or harrow. Esterly combined the function of a seeder and a cultivator in this machine, acquired by the Whitewater Historical Society in 1957. It incorporates patents awarded to Esterly in 1868 and 1872.



GEORGE ESTERLY (1826-1890).
 George Esterly was an inventor, farmer, and businessman. He was born in New York State and moved to Whitewater, Wisconsin, in 1827. He was a very successful businessman and inventor. He was the first person to design a reaper in 1844 and won a gold medal at the Chicago Mechanics Institute in 1849.

WHITEWATER PASSENGER DEPOT 1890-1891



LAST PASSENGER TRAIN LEAVING
WHITEWATER, November 29, 1951



POSTCARD, c. 1900

This postcard, showing the depot from trackside, illustrates how little the depot has changed over the years. A renovation project in 2012 restored the building exterior and rehabilitated the interior space to better accommodate the depot's adaptive reuse as a museum.



FREIGHT HOUSE, photo by Fran Achen, c. 1970
When the passenger depot was completed in 1891, Whitewater's first depot became the railroad's freight house. After being vacant for many years, the building was demolished in 1990.



The Whitewater Passenger Depot is owned by the City of Whitewater and leased to the Whitewater Historical Society. www.whitewaterhistoricalsociety.org

The Whitewater Passenger Depot was built in 1890-91 for the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad, later known as the Milwaukee Road. It replaced the original frame depot, which was erected in 1852 when the railroad first came to Whitewater. The old depot was converted into a freight house, which stood next to this building until the late twentieth century.

This building's use as a depot came to an end when the railroad terminated its passenger service to Whitewater in November of 1951. During the 1960s, the building was home to Walenton's Feed and Garden Supplies store. In 1973, the City of Whitewater purchased the building and leased it to the Whitewater Historical Society for use as a local history museum. The Depot Museum opened to the public in July of 1974.

The unusual architectural style of the building is called High Victorian Gothic. Details of this style can be seen in the building's polychromatic red brick and tan stone exterior, and in the gothic-influenced decoration on the projecting gables. These details give the building a distinctive appearance that can largely be attributed to the skill of J. T. W. Jennings, the noted Midwestern architect who designed the depot.



DEPOT GABLE

Detail from architectural plan by J. T. W. Jennings, July 14, 1890. The builders skillfully executed the architect's original depot design.

Correct *J. T. W. Jennings*
Architect

*C. M. & S. P. R.
B. & B. Depot
Station for Whitewater Wis.
Scale 3/8" = 1' - 0"
Milwaukee July 14, 1890
J. T. W.*

Approved


Drawing No. 2673

1890 B & B

Storage Improvements



Policy, By-Laws, Forms Updates

 WHITWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. Box 149 Whitewater, WI 53190	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Whitewater Historical Society</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Temporary Receipt of Deposit</h3>
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Donor(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip/Code _____
 Telephone: (____) _____
 E-mail: _____
 Reason for Deposit: _____ Donation _____ Transfer: _____ Other: _____

Description of Property:


Condition of Deposit

If the Whitewater Historical Society, upon completing its consideration of the above-listed property, decides **NOT** to accept any or all of the property into its collection, it is the Donor's/Depositor's intention that:

(Depositor shall initial new choice below)

☐ All property NOT accepted shall be returned to the Donor/Depositor
☐ All property NOT accepted shall be given to the Whitewater Historical Society to be transferred, awarded, or otherwise disposed of at the discretion of the Whitewater Historical Society.

Signature of Donor(s) or Authorized Agent(s) of Donor	Date	Signature of Authorized agent of the Whitewater Historical Society	Date
Printed Name		Printed Name	



**WHITWATER
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
P.O. Box 149
Whitewater, WI 53190

Whitewater Historical Society

Deed of Gift Form

Association Number: _____

I, we, _____ the undersigned, on this _____ day of _____ 20____ do hereby
 relinquish all residual rights to, and do make the following unconditional gift to the Whitewater Historical Society.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION


I (we) hereby certify the Whitewater Historical Society has (I am/we are) the lawful owner(s) of the above described item(s) of
 personal property and that I (have/we have) absolute authority to, and hereby do, effect transfer of ownership thereof to the
 Whitewater Historical Society.

Donor Signature: _____

Address: _____

On behalf of the Whitewater Historical Society, I accept the above-described item(s) of property this _____ day of
 _____, 20____.

Signature: _____
 Authorized Agent of the Whitewater Historical Society

 <p>WHITWATER HISTORICAL SOCIETY</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Whitewater Historical Society</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">Photographic Reproduction Agreement</h3>
Name _____	
Organization _____	
Address _____	
City/State/Cp _____	
Phone _____ E-mail _____	
Fax _____	
Object Description _____	
<p>I have read the Rights and Reproduction Policy of the Whitewater Historical Society printed on the reverse side of this form and agree to continue set forth in the policy:</p>	
Date _____	Date _____
Authorized Agent of the Whitewater Historical Society _____	Date _____



Preparing for the Restoration

Inventory

BOX #	OBJECT #	OBJECT	DATE	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS	DONOR
T-1	2010.3.3.1	Dress, Wedding	1954	white satin, netting overlay, 1-piece skirt/bodice	worn by Joan Henderson Kraege, married Fred Kraege, 9/11/1954, Whitewater	Fred Kraege
T-1	2010.3.3.2	Veil, Wedding	1954	white netting	same as above	Fred Kraege
T-1	2010.3.4	Pillow, Ring Bearer's	1954	white satin	associated with above	Fred Kraege
T-1	EW1969 A2044	Dress, Wedding	1933	3-piece, white lace	worn by Emma Goodhue, married Howard Hackett, March 1933	Emma Goodhue Hackett
T-1	EW1965 1273	Dress, Wedding	1910	cream [cotton + scarf/bonnet?]	worn by Braudon Haughton	Burgett Estate
T-1	NA	Dress, Wedding	1872	cream [cotton] skirt, bodice, skirt drape, chemise and necklace	worn by Ezzie B. DeWolf, grandmother of donor	Helen Kinzer
T-1	EW1969 A2043	Dress, Wedding	1894	3-piece, cream satin	worn by Emma Coe, mother of Emma and Florence Goodhue	Hackett-Goodhue
T-43	EW1974 74.41	Dress, Wedding	1905	2-piece, navy blue wool skirt & bodice, blue velvet collar, black buttons	worn by Suzanna Blomily, married John L. Duffin, 3/16/1905, Hart Prairie, Wis.	Lenna Hulce Estate
T-43	EW1969 1688	Dress, Wedding	1885	royal blue & gray striped silk, 1-piece skirt/bodice	worn by Mary Ida Caroline Farmer, married Frank Prugger, 1885	NA
BOX #	OBJECT #	OBJECT	DATE	DESCRIPTION		
T-2A	W-99 DR-1 7/26	Skirt and Bodice	1890s	brown, cuffs		
T-2A	NA	Skirt and Bodice	circa 1890	cream, cuffs		
T-2A	NA	Skirt and Bodice	?	brown, cuffs		
T-2A	EW1969 A2042	Petticoat	circa 1890	ecru, cuffs		
T-2A	NA	Skirt	circa 1890	sheer, cuffs		
T-2A	EW1969 2051.2	Bodice	circa 1890	yellow, cuffs		
T-2A	W-99 SK-2 7/26	Skirt	1895-1900	black, cuffs		
T-2A	EW1969 A2058	Skirt	circa 1900	black, cuffs		
BOX #	OBJECT #	OBJECT	DATE	DESCRIPTION		
T-2B	EW1965 1268	Dress Coat	circa 1890	1-piece, lace		
T-2B	EW1968 1527	Dress	circa 1890	1-piece, challis		
T-2B	EW1968 1579	Dress	circa 1900	2-piece, yoke		
T-2B	EW1969 1689	Dress	circa 1900	2-piece, yoke		
T-2B	NA	Dress Coat	circa 1900	2-piece, lace		



Photo Documentation

Secure Off-Site Storage Locations

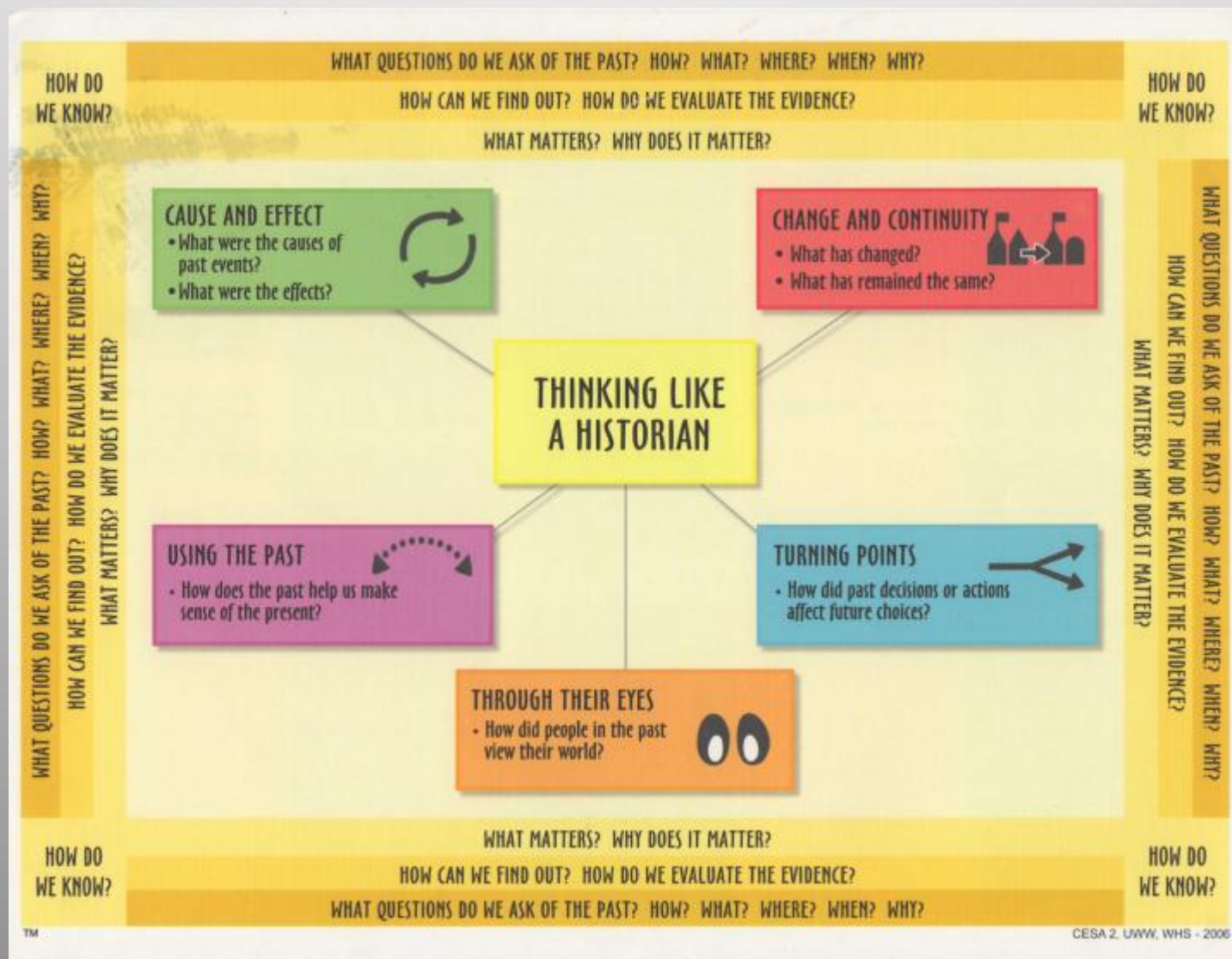
Insurance Issues



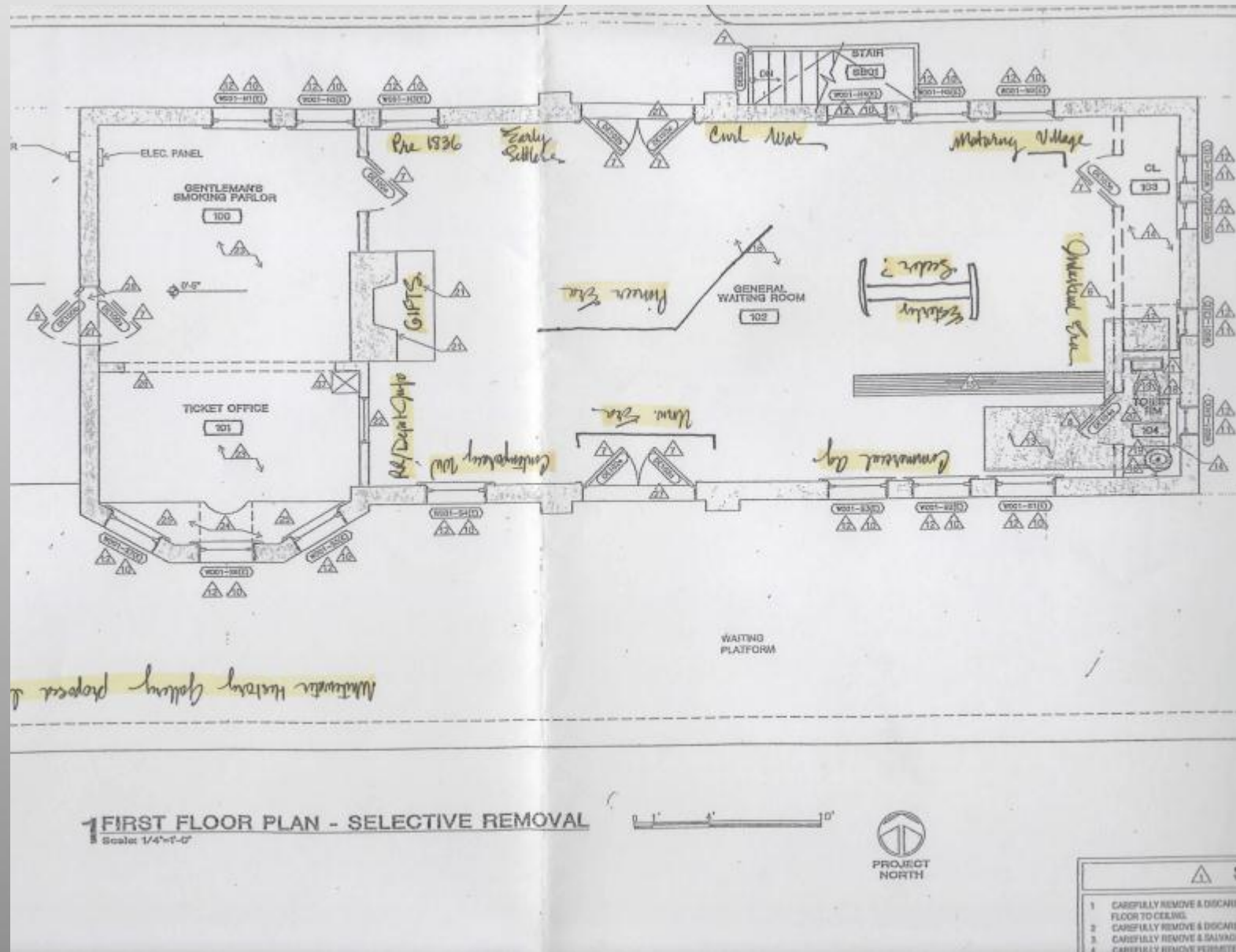


Preparing for a New Museum

Re-Visioning Exhibits



Laying out the Galleries



Re-Thinking Collections Storage



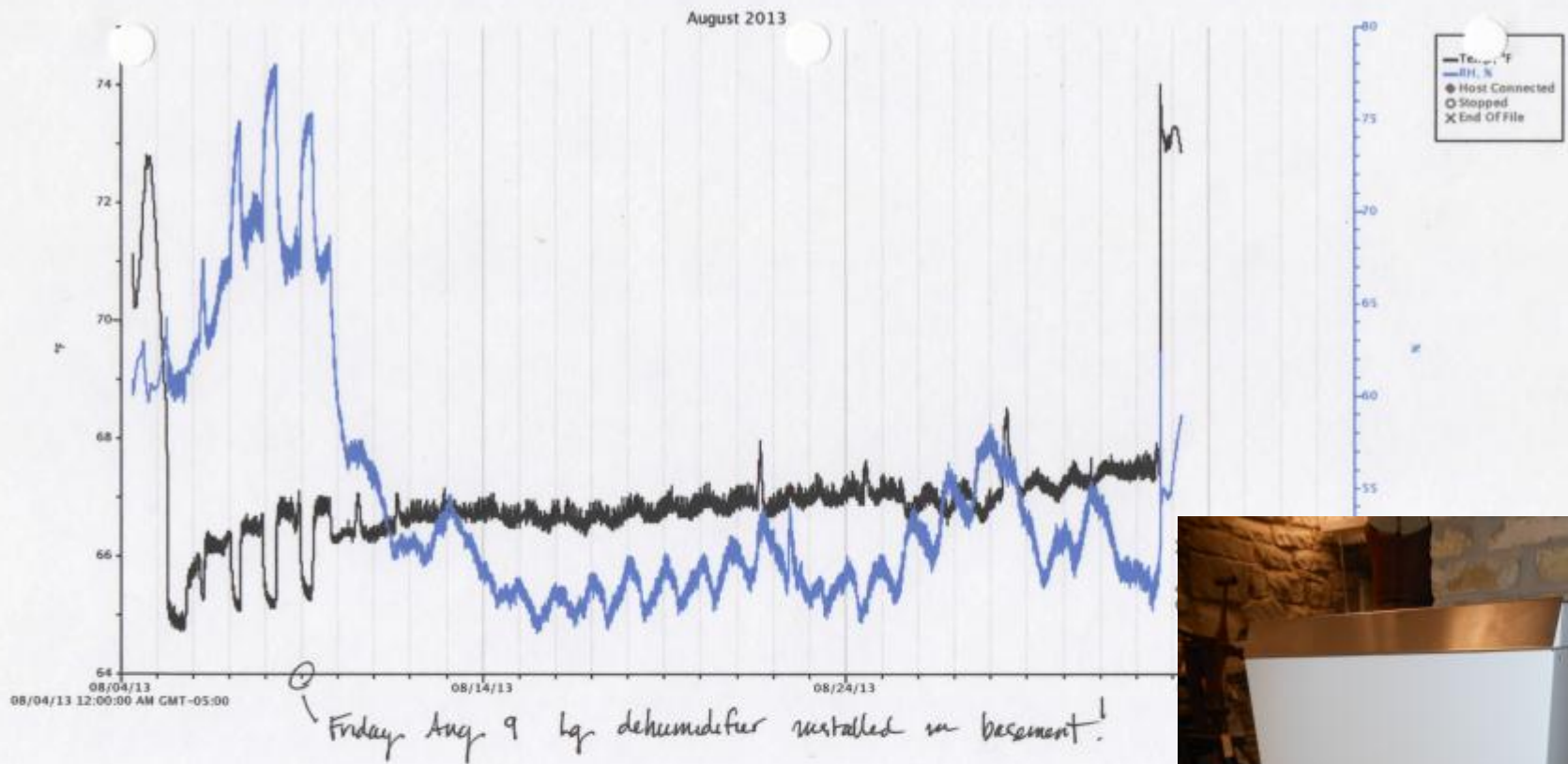
A Cautionary Tale

Environmental Monitoring



HOBOWare data loggers

www.onsetcomp.com



Santa Fe Classic Dehumidifier
www.santa-fe-products.com



Basement August 2013

Selecting Storage Furniture



Steel wire shelving,

www.Uline.com

Vinyl-coated garden fencing

Choosing Storage Methods





Exhibit Furniture





www.SchoolOutfitters.com

Exhibits



Ready-Made Clothing, &c.

New Goods—New Styles,

A T

M'BEATH'S CLOTHING STORE

FOR THE FALL AND WINTER OF

1861.



1860.

Consisting of the latest styles
of French, English and
American

Whitewater Register, March 29, 1861

Demand for uniforms during the Civil War years created size and pattern standards in men's clothing that spurred a men's ready-to-wear clothing industry in the 1860s.

"Wm and I went to W.W. [Whitewater] today ... took down [9] Chickens and 10 lbs of butter ... got 2 cts [cents] per lb for butter and 8 cts for Chickens ... I got me [a] hoop skirt, \$1.25 [and] two yards calico for apron, 1[8] cents per yard."

Diary of Albina Wight, Whitewater, January 16, 1869

COCK, 1857-1886

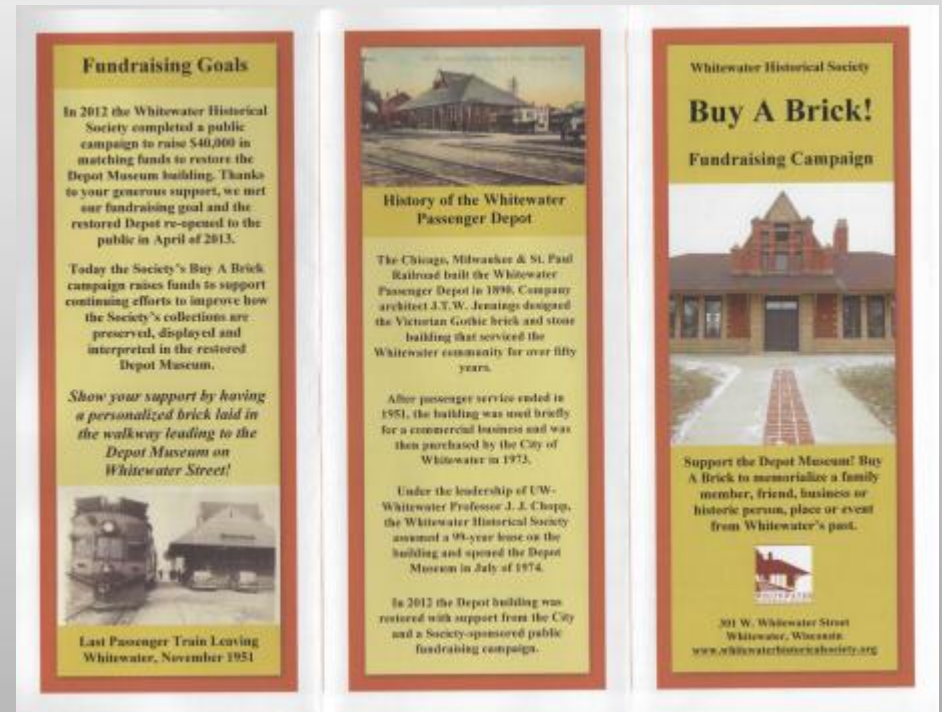
Whitewater, 4 gals, made by C. Hermann & Company

"Mrs. Mead & James [James Mead, age 2 in 1840], Mrs. Magoon and Libby [Elizabeth Magoon, age 1 in 1840] went to Round Prairie to get some shoes for the Children."

October 12, 1840, Diary of Zerah [?], 1875, Whitewater



How Did We Pay For It?



Buy A Brick campaign
One fundraising event
Supportive membership
Goodwill within the community