

Friends of Cedarburg History Museum

The Friends of Cedarburg History Museum's mission is to help serve and strengthen the Cedarburg History Museum through volunteering in the areas of greeting visitors, general maintenance, community involvement, programming, project development, education, and fundraising.

Membership Benefits:

- Discount on gift shop items
- Priority registration for all classes and select events
- Invitations to exhibition previews and members only events

New members are always welcome. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Friends, please complete the form below.

Send form and payment to:

Friends of Cedarburg History Museum
N58 W6194 Columbia Road
Cedarburg, Wisconsin 53012
262-377-5856

Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Type: _____

Individual- \$25/ year Family- \$50/year
Business/Org.- \$100/year Lifetime-\$200/year

Endowment Donation \$ _____ Date: _____

List any interest in involvement: _____



Christiansen Collection

Roger Christiansen, a Cedarburg resident, collected the great variety of mercantile items on display as a tribute to his father's grocery store in Green Bay. Many Cedarburg residents and tourists to our city were invited to see the displays that he originally set up in his home. After Roger's death, the collection was entrusted to the Cedarburg Landmark Preservation Society, History Museum and Cultural Center. His long dream of having his collection viewed and appreciated by all had come true.

The Christiansen Collection is displayed throughout the building and items rotate as the exhibit themes change. However, the General Store is where the bulk of that collection can be viewed. The items on display were produced from the 1900-1950's.

Chudnow Collection

Avrum Chudnow's family emigrated to Wisconsin from Russia at the beginning of the 20th century. His father was a secondhand goods peddler and it was this interest which started his lifelong collecting hobby. He expanded his interests to the activities and occupations of early immigrants. Mr. Chudnow was a regular attendee at antique stores, flea markets, and rummage sales. Cedarburg's Maxwell Street Days was one of his favorite "picking" places.

The Chudnow Collection of over 100,000 items, constitutes the backbone of this museum. Although Abe was a 1937 graduate of Marquette University Law School, most of his career was spent as a residential builder and real estate developer. He served as a port battalion longshoreman in World War II and participated in the landing at Normandy.

Our pharmacy exhibit is where the detail of the Chudnow Collection can be seen. Jars, ads, papers, notes and tools were all preserved for future generations to appreciate.

Jepson Collection

In 1985, Cedarburg resident, Judy Jepson and her husband, Noel, began collecting Cedarburg memorabilia. Almost anything that was made in Cedarburg, had the word Cedarburg on it, or was known to be a part of Cedarburg's history. The collection represents the story of Cedarburg's business, labor, commerce, community, and more. It's the history of the people who lived here when the city began and the history of the people who lived here through the decades that followed.



Cedarburg History Museum

www.cedarburghm.org
N58W6194 Columbia Rd.
Cedarburg, WI 53012
262-377-5856

Hours: Wed-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m.-4 p.m.

Free Admission
Donations Appreciated

Visit Us on Facebook



Inside the history museum you will find the collections of the late Roger C. Christianson, of Cedarburg, and Avrum M. Chudnow, of Milwaukee, as well as other galleries offering glimpses of Cedarburg, Milwaukee and Ozaukee County history through rotating exhibits. The building also houses a gift shop and the Cedarburg Visitor Center to assist you with suggestions and information helping to make your visit a memorable one.



• A Proud and Rich History •

Starting in 1842, Cedarburg began as a fresh start in America and has grown into Wisconsin's #1 Small Town. Located just 20 miles north of Milwaukee, with gently rolling hills, Cedarburg was settled by German immigrants escaping religious persecution. Building flour and textile mills to harness the hydropower of Cedar Creek, Cedarburg's first settlers established a rural trading center by 1846, while harvesting limestone from local quarries for functional houses and businesses. Faith centered lives meant many churches with religious schools and strong public schools. First families such as Groth, Hilgen, Schroeder, Boerner, Wittenberg, Wirth, and Dobberpuhl envisioned a well-planned out business district with manufacturing and a robust retail service industry to support residents, travelers, and businesses. Cedarburg grew and prospered.

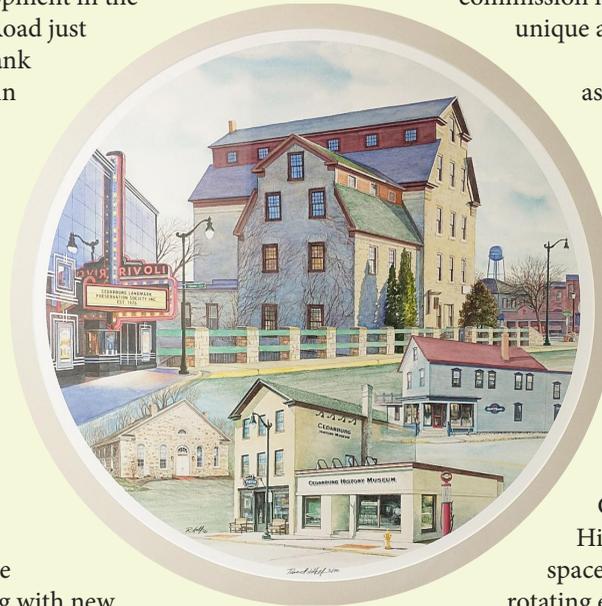
Before electricity, the river was a source of power. Mills soon dotted the small but fast flowing Cedar Creek. While the river was an advantage for power, clean drinking water was just as important. Breweries such as Weber and Cedarburg Brewing locally supplied thirsty residents. So too did natural springs such as Ritter's Victoria Springs or those at Hilgen Spring Park. The Cedarburg Covered Bridge, originally named the "Red Bridge" spanned the creek to the north of the city so farmers could buy and sell wares. It is now the last covered bridge in the state. If the industry and markets weren't enough of

an attraction for out of city dwellers, the Hilgen Spring Park drew in many visitors from throughout the state as well as from Chicago. Food, music, and an ever-changing entertainment scene to the summer resort attracted vacationers.

Modern transportation followed Cedarburg's rise in population and development in the later 1800's with Green Bay Road just east, in Hamilton, a wood plank road in Cedarburg, and a train line stop in 1870. By 1908 electric rail service went through Cedarburg from Milwaukee to Sheboygan that transported travelers and functioned as a commuter line too. Rail Service continued through Cedarburg until 1948, when the construction of automobile highways and car ownership became very popular.

A post- World War II baby boom also led to more families moving to Cedarburg with new housing subdivisions ready for them to move in. The migration out of the cities and into the suburbs and surrounding areas, helped Cedarburg's population grow 84% from 2,810 in 1950 to 5,191 in 1960. While many towns "tore down the old and put up new" in the 1960's and 70's, Cedarburg saw the value in preserving its old buildings and thriving downtown. In 1972, Jim Pape and Bill Welty helped save the Woolen Mill from demolition and jump started the revitalization of Cedarburg. Using the Cedar Creek Winery and shops as a backdrop in 1973, the Wine and Harvest Festival began, followed by the February Winter Festival and then in June 1985, the Strawberry Festival. These festivals brought a sense of pride and tourism to

Cedarburg, with the downtown named to the National Historic District in 1986. After Washington Avenue, the residences and businesses along Columbia Road became the second National Historic District in the city. Containing more stone buildings than any other Wisconsin community, Cedarburg's own landmarks commission helps identify and preserve unique architecture.



Additional activities such as Maxwell Street Days, Summer Sounds Concert Series, The 4th of July Parade, Ozaukee County Fair, Oktoberfest and Christmas events in November and December make Cedarburg a year-round destination.

We are housed in the historic Hilgen & Schroeder Mill Store at the corner of Portland and Columbia roads in downtown Cedarburg. The Cedarburg History Museum creates unique spaces for permanent installments, rotating exhibits and interactive technology. Built in 1846 from cream city brick,

Frederick Hilgen and William Schroeder utilized the building for possibly 50 years as a retail store for the flour ground at their mill across the street. In the late 1800's it was converted into a tavern. In 1941, Walter Barth, grandson of Frederick Hilgen, purchased the building and opened W. J. Barth's tavern. With the help of his son-in-law, Palmer Krueger, and family the business operated into 2001 as the popular Barth's at the Bridge restaurant. The building was eventually purchased by M D "Mal" Hepburn and thoroughly restored. In 2015, Mal and Jill Hepburn donated it to the Cedarburg Landmark Preservation Society as a place to house the Cedarburg History Museum.



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Our underlying goal is to collect and preserve the history of the Cedarburg area. Foster better understanding and appreciation of the values that built our city and our area's heritage. And our hope is to locate, identify and research appropriate materials for the purpose of sharing with our community and its visitors these collections, through exhibitions and educational programs.

The Friends of Cedarburg History Museum's Main purpose is to provide support and assistance to the Cedarburg History Museum in areas such as:

- Education/Exhibitions
- Facility/Artifacts
- Finance
- Fundraising/Gift Shop
- Membership
- Programs/Calendar
- Public Relations/Website
- Volunteers/Staffing

