



A NEW EXHIBIT DEBUTS AT THE RIPON HISTORICAL SOCIETY WITH A FRESH FOCUS ON FAMILIES & CHILD EDUCATION



Our exhibits not only tell a story, they invite interactive learning within a visually appealing and immersive atmosphere.

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<https://riponhistory.org/become-a-member-of-the-ripon-historical-society/>

The Ripon Historical Society opened a new exhibit in July with a focus on personal accounts from significant individuals in Ripon's history and child education.

PERSONAL ACCOUNTS

Throughout the space, visitors will encounter personal accounts that range from excerpts taken from family letters and interviews to a soldier's letter home during the Civil War, and a young man's journal while attending college.

"THIS BAG HAS HISTORY!"

Visitors who purchase a household subscription for \$30 will receive a free tote bag for each child in their family. This fun, bright yellow tote features the catchy phrase, "THIS BAG HAS HISTORY!," because it serves as a shopping bag for children's story cards.

STORY CARDS & QUESTIONS TO PONDER

As parents and children tour the exhibit space, they will find baskets containing full color story cards for kids. They will also find an activity center with drawers containing "Questions to Ponder" about the story cards.



PEDRICK LAWSON HOUSE PORCH IS GETTING A MAKEOVER

The Welcoming Face of the House

The Pedrick Lawson House was built in 1856 by Marcellus Pedrick (1828-1899), an early Ripon pioneer. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its unique grout block construction. The house is 170 years old and, as with many historic houses, requires periodic maintenance.

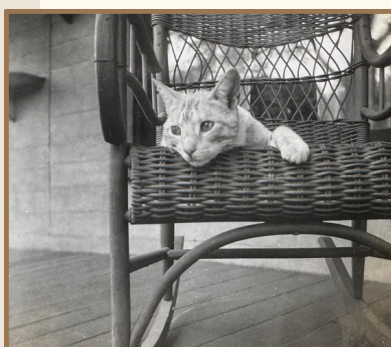
This year, the Society's Board of Directors decided that the front porch is in need of some attention, as it is the welcoming face of the home. Carpenter, Kevin Schippman is currently replacing the front steps, and repairing areas of wood rot at the base of the porch posts, the lattice work, and the railings. The porch floor boards are also being replaced. Work is expected to be completed by mid-October.

Come Celebrate With Us!

Louisa LaBelle "Belle" Lawson (1874-1973) lived in the home for over 50 years, much longer than anyone prior. Belle bequeathed the home to the Society upon her death. She was a good friend to the Ripon Historical Society and was once honored by the Society on Sunday, Oct. 27, 1968 for her 94th birthday. A special event was held in the afternoon called "Belle Lawson Day." So, it is only fitting that we should celebrate the Pedrick Lawson House porch renovation with **Belle Lawson Day** on the front porch, Saturday, October 24 during the Society's open hours from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Please join us for some birthday cake, and a tour of the Pedrick Lawson House! To support the ongoing cost of upkeep for the Pedrick Lawson House, there is a recommended \$10 donation for this event.



Left: Lorraine Foat Holmes and Belle Lawson (left) standing on the porch of 515 Ransom St. in 1968, the year of Belle's 94th birthday. At that time, there was a storm door enclosure around the front door to the home.



Left: On the front porch, Belle Lawson's cat, Sandy, relaxes in the rocking chair that belonged to her father, Charles Lawson. The rocker is currently on display in the Pedrick Lawson House.



Above: Adult & Teen Services Librarian, Susie Menk, and David Sakrison speak with a tour group as they view the Society's new exhibit, "Dear Ripon: Stories in Their Own Words."

SUMMER WALKING TOURS IN JULY AND AUGUST EXPLORED HISTORIC WATSON STREET

Ripon Historical Society, Ripon Public Library, and Ripon Historic Preservation Committee collaborated for summer walking tours of downtown Watson Street.

The walking tour began at the Ripon Public library and ended at the Ripon Historical Society, where guests were treated to a tour of the new exhibit by Director, Caron Sisko, followed by cookies and lemonade. Interested guests were then taken by bus, courtesy of Diverse Options, to the Little White Schoolhouse for a tour. The Ripon Historical Society assisted by providing photographs and historical research on the Watson St. buildings featured on the tour.

Special thanks to Ripon Rotary member and former President of the Ripon Historical Society, David Sakrison, for leading the July 10th tour and to Susie Menk, Adult & Teen Services Librarian for leading the August tours and organizing this event. The Society would also like to thank the Ripon Historic Preservation Committee for covering the cost of the walking tour brochures, and the Ripon Dough Co. for an array of decadent and delicious cookies and lemonade for the guests at the Society.

WALKING TOUR NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!

If you are interested in a self-guided tour of downtown historic Watson St., the brochure and accompanying images are available on the Society's website here:
<https://riponhistory.org/summer-walking-tour/>



Above, right: Walking tour guests take some time to relax and enjoy some refreshments in the Society's library.



The Death of General Warren at the Battle of Bunker's Hill, June 17, 1775, by American artist John Trumbull (1756-1843), 1786 (Public Domain)

In celebration of America's 250th, the Ripon Historical Society, in partnership with the John Scott Horner Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), will be hosting a Hillside Cemetery tour honoring individuals with direct lineal descent from a patriot who fought for or aided American independence during the Revolutionary War.

There will be two 45 min tours on October 18 at 2:00 PM and at 3:00 PM. This is a ticketed event, as we expect this event to be popular and spaces are limited. Tickets are \$10 per person. They are available through RSVPify via the following links:

Tour 1 at 2:00 PM: <https://revolutionarywartour1.rsvpify.com>

Tour 2 at 3:00 PM: <https://revolutionarywartour2.rsvpify.com>

JAMES MCCUNE

One stop on the cemetery tour will be the grave of James McCune. James was born in 1791, a son of Thomas and Mary McCune. James married Hannah Maria Kirkwood in 1823, in Ohio. Hannah died in 1849, and James died in 1875, in Ripon. Per the 1855 Wisconsin State Census, James and his family lived in Ceresco. According to historian Sam Pedrick, James and his sons assisted in raising the first buildings in Ripon.



Photo by Wendy O.

James' father was **Col. Thomas McCune (July 12, 1756 – 1842)**, an American Revolutionary War soldier who served as a Private, Guard, Staff Officer, and Quartermaster in Captain Thomas Askey's Company, under Colonel James Young's Regiment within the Pennsylvania militia. Born in Delaware, he moved with his parents, James McCune and Elizabeth Rotherham, to Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1774. Post war, he relocated to Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, in 1783. He later moved to Warren Township in Jefferson County, Ohio, where many Revolutionary War veterans settled on land grants.



Reeds Corner Cemetery, Photo by Lara Grant

MEMBERSHIP MEETING & PRESENTATION

This year's Membership Meeting will be held on November 19 at 6:30 PM.

The Membership Meeting is for members only. There will be a brief report about the overall health of the organization followed by the election of board officers.

The meeting will be followed by a presentation at 7:00 PM by Lara Grant, titled, "Stories in Stone."

Ever wander through a cemetery and notice artwork on the different gravestones? The old man with a carving of a flag at the top of his stone, the young woman with a broken rose on hers, or a lamb on the top of a young child's. The meanings of these and other cemetery artwork will be the focus of the presentation, "Stories Carved in Stone" by Lara Grant, focusing on the beginnings of artwork on gravestones and how the art changed over time, with a particular look at the stones in the Ripon area cemeteries.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

October 18th, Sons & Daughters of the American Revolution Hillside Cemetery Tour, 2:00 and 3:00 PM. Ticketed event.

October 24th, Belle Lawson Day, Pedrick Lawson House, 515 Ransom St., 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Recommended \$10 donation to attend.

The month of November: Ripon Historical Society special display at the Ripon Public Library, "Learning Through Play: Educational Toys from the Past."

Our special display will feature educational toys and games from years past, showing how toys have helped children explore, create, solve problems, and learn new skills. Stop by the library this November to see these fascinating pieces of the past.

November 19th, Membership Meeting & Presentation, Pickard House, 508 Watson St., 6:30 PM and 7:00 PM.

FRIENDS

The Ripon Historical Society would like to thank the local businesses & organizations that have become FRIENDS of the Ripon Historical Society.

RIPON HISTORY ADVOCATES \$250

Alliance Laundry Systems

Diedrich Jewelers

Golden Rule Community Credit Union

Hy-Vee

BELLE LAWSON SUSTAINERS CLUB \$500

Butzin-Marchant Funeral Home

Ripon Rotary

