



# News from Friends of the Saxonia House (FOSH)

## SENATOR DAN FEYEN TOURS SAXONIA HOUSE

FOSH board president Alan Pape invited Wisconsin Senator, Dan Feyen, to tour the Saxonia House and hear about FOSH's history and vision last March. Board members in attendance were Greg Zahn of Manitowoc County; Jon Scott (Plymouth); Rhonda Hare (West Bend); and Fred Klessig of Chicago. Other attendees included Marcia Theusch, Town of Farmington Historical Society and Tower Heritage Center, and Diane Schacht (Town of Farmington). Alan Pape was unable to attend.



## SAXONIA HOUSE BEAMS TWO LIGHTS FOR TOMORROW

*Two Lights for Tomorrow* is a nationwide initiative to commence the celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America. The famous ride of Paul Revere occurred overnight on April 18 – 19, 1775. *Two Lights for Tomorrow* originated out of multi-state collaboration at *A Common Cause to All* in Williamsburg and uses the imagery of that shining light 250 years ago as a uniting call to action today for our fellow citizens, no matter where they are, to commemorate and remind ourselves that our history is about working together for a better tomorrow.

## THANK YOU JIM DIERINGER!

Jim is moving. He has lived across the street from the Saxonia House since 1964 where he raised his family. He joined the FOSH board when it was first formed in 1997, and for nearly three decades, Jim mowed the Saxonia House lawn, keeping the property looking spiffy. We owe Jim a debt of gratitude for his efforts. You're the best, Jim! Good luck in your new Fredonia home.

## RONALD LANDVATTER GIFT

Ronald Landvatter passed away on March 25th in Milwaukee. Ronald was the son of Wilmer and Veronica Landvatter, the last family to use the Saxonia House as a residence. The Landvatters purchased the house from Art Crass in 1947. They farmed the land. When Ron took over, he and his son farmed it into the 1970s. We learned that in lieu of flowers, donations were directed to the Friends of Saxonia House, "for the preservation of a historical landmark, his childhood home." Our condolences and thanks go out to the Landvatter family.

## KLESSIGS AND LUTZES OF MANITOWOC COUNTY: A TOUR JULY 12

Ernst Klessig arrived in America from Saxony in 1844 and built the Saxonia House in 1855. Ernst's brother Fredrick August Klessig arrived in America from Saxony in 1848 and established the *Saxon Homestead Farm* in Manitowoc County. Gottlieb and Fredericka Lutze arrived in America from Saxony in 1849 and built the *Lutze housebarn* in 1850 just a over a mile north on Old Saxon Trail now S. Union Rd. You can tour both historic properties on Saturday, July 12. (cont. on page 2)

## SAXONIA HOUSE 2025 Events

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| SAT. APR 19  | In conjunction with the April workday...The lighting of <b>Two Lights for Tomorrow</b> , part of <b>America250</b> , a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in commemorating the 250th anniversary of our country. |
| SAT. JUNE 14 | A summer workday and field trip for John Deere fans participating in the <b>Classic Green Reunion</b> in West Bend.   |
| SAT. JULY 19 | Saxonia house and beer cave <b>tour</b> for Lutze Housebarn/ Centreville Settlement guests and all others. 11am-2pm. Suggested donation \$10  |
| SAT. SEPT 20 | <b>3rd Annual Oktoberfest!</b> Music, Tours, German food, Beer. 11-3 pm.  |
| SAT. OCT 18  | An autumn workday AND commemoration celebrating the <b>170th birthday of the Saxonia House!</b> 11-3pm  |

### KLESSIGS AND LUTZES TOUR CONT.

- Meet at **Lutze Housebarn**, 13630 S. Union Road, Newton, WI 53063. Tour from 10:30 am to 12 pm.  
Lunch - 12:00-1pm. (Bring your own) Beverages will be provided.
- Drive to the **Saxon Homestead**, 15621 S. Union Road, Cleveland WI. Tour: 1:30 - 3pm. | \$10 suggested donation.  
For information and to preregister contact Greg Zahn gregzahn@zahndesign.net

## SAXONIA HOUSE 2025 WORKDAYS

421 County Hwy. H, Fredonia, WI 53021, 10 am-3 pm

|          |
|----------|
| APRIL 19 |
| MAY 17   |
| JUNE 14  |

|            |
|------------|
| JULY 19    |
| AUGUST 16  |
| OCTOBER 18 |

## NORWEGIAN LOG HOME UPDATE



The 174-year-old Bailey Norwegian Log home and the 170-year-old Klessig Saxonian House have a lot in common. They were both built by immigrants

who left family and friends back home in Europe due to cultural, economic and/or political reasons looking for better opportunities in what was still the frontier of Wisconsin. Both share a heritage steeped in the Romantic Art Era as well. These are all

important aspects of their history and art that will be represented in the Bailey Log home.

The focus on the log home in the spring and summer of 2024 was to tag and record each timber, disassemble it and stage them for the trip to the Saxonia House site. The Friends of Saxonia House are very fortunate to have Alan Pape direct the whole process, with his lifetime experience in finding, relocating and restoring pioneer log homes both for Old World Wisconsin and in his personal business covering Wisconsin and upper Michigan. His supervision and direction were critical in leading our small army of volunteers. In the fall the timbers were moved 80 miles to the site and covered by tarps through the winter.

We are now ready to excavate and lay a new foundation followed by its reassembly and restoration. New timbers are on site ready to replace the old ones that have rotted beyond use.

*cont. on p. 3*

## Log Cabin Building 101

*Learn from a master. Everything you need to get started in the “Rustic Cabin Life”*

**DATES:** Saturday June 21 & Sunday June 22  
**TIME:** 9:00am-5:00pm (Bring Lunch)  
**COST:** \$200 per person  
**LOCATION:** 421 County Hwy. H, Fredonia, WI 53021

Co-Sponsored by Friends of  
Saxonia House Inc. and the  
[Tower Heritage Center](#)

- Meet other log cabin lovers
- Lectures by Wisconsin's log cabin experts
- Hands-on tool basics
- Books-Photos-Projects to ponder



To reserve a spot, and receive a registration form contact Greg Zahn [gregzahn@zahndesign.net](mailto:gregzahn@zahndesign.net)  
For questions about the seminar call Alan Pape 920-526-3433.

## NORWEGIAN LOG HOME *continued*

Fassbender, who is a restoration carpenter at Old Eric World Wisconsin and one of the many disassembly volunteers in 2024, has been retained to provide his talent in the restoration process along with Alan's support. Two others will join in this process. 2025 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first permanent Norwegian settlement in America. It is

our goal to have the Bailey Norwegian Log home restored and exhibits in place this fall in honor of that occasion.

## **THANKS TO CHAD MOORE, OF MOORE QUALITY EXTERIORS...**

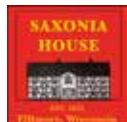
for a pro-bono repair to the Poultry Barn roof. The barn will be used as workshop and storage for the Saxonia and Bailey log house projects.

## Help Wanted! Marketing Ambassador - Part-time & Mostly Virtual

- Learn and employ the fundraising and collaborative features of [FlipCause](#), our web host.
- Write content for and assist with the Friends of the Saxonia House website.
- Help increase membership, donors, and volunteers, using social media and other means.
- Write press-releases and media posts to promote the Saxonia House's mission, projects, and events.
- Assist with the member database, events, and other tasks as needed.

The ideal candidate is a clear writer and communicator who has experience in journalism, communications, and/or marketing. You have a passion for Wisconsin history, with a focus on 19<sup>th</sup> century German immigrants and other settlers to southeastern Wisconsin during that time period. And, of indigenous people who populated the region then and may still today. Has an interest in art history, rural crafts, rural architecture, German American culture, historic conservation, and sustainability.

*For inquiries or to apply, please send a letter expressing your interests and what qualifies you. Include any portfolio links or samples. Email to Alison, [aliwit@comcast.net](mailto:aliwit@comcast.net), with “Saxonia House Marketing” in the subject line.*



*Become a member today! Join online [here](#)*

*Friends of the Saxonia House, Inc. is a federal 5013C corporation.*