

Friends of the

# Saxonia House

August 2025 Newsletter



The Saxon Homestead Farm, one of the two properties included in the Manitowoc Tour

## Exchange Tour Recap

Our Saxon forefather, Ernst Klessig, arrived in America from Saxony in 1844 and built the Saxonia House in the "new Latin settlement" of Fillmore in 1855. Ernst's brother Fredrick August Klessig arrived in 1848 and established the Saxon Homestead Farm in Manitowoc County. His friends Gottlieb and Fredericka Lutze built the historically significant Lutze Housebarn in 1850 just a over a mile north on Old Saxon Trail, now S. Union Rd. in Manitowoc County. For many years, our two historical groups have talked about an "exchange tour" to learn about the opposite properties. It finally happened this year. On Saturday, July 12, friends and relatives toured the Lutze Housebarn and Saxon Homestead. The following weekend, tours were held at the Saxonia House and Beer Cave. What a rich learning experience!



More at both  
websites:  
[saxoniahouse.org](http://saxoniahouse.org)  
[centrevillesettlement.org](http://centrevillesettlement.org)

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## Norwegian Log Cabin Progress

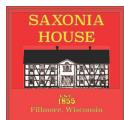
Friends of Saxonia House was a 2024 recipient of the Washington County Tourism Grant. These funds provided the impetus to get us started on our Welcome Center. If you have been following the progress, you know there have been ups and downs. Eric Fassbender, a summer intern working on the project, reports that the building of the floor on top of the new foundation is completed. They continue to build the walls upwards- the cabin is starting to come together!

You can see the progress for yourself at our Oktoberfest event. We are hoping to have the log building open by June 2026.



### Did you know?

A new booklet is in the works on the history of our little log cabin. Dr Michael Besch, author of The Saxonia House: Preserving the Past, Building the Future is at work on the new booklet. Watch the website for details to come.



**Become a member or renew membership today! [Online here.](#)**

## 2025 Oktoberfest



Our third annual Oktoberfest is scheduled for Saturday September 20. This is a special year because we are also celebrating the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Saxonia House, which happened on November 5, 1855. The band, *Old Guys with Old Songs*, will sing the dedication song in English during the festivities. Bring a lawn chair!



New this year: Food will be ON SITE! German cuisine provided by the Knights of Columbus Food Truck. AND you can get more than a sample of beer! Oktoberfest beer and other beverages will be for sale.

Guided tours of the House, beer cave, and new log cabin will be scheduled.