

Chippewa Valley Museums 2025 Annual Report

“Our tour was super engaging as always. Every time I visit the museum I am struck by what an amazing history we have here in Eau Claire as well as an awesome resource documenting our history.”

- Adam Leicht, Local Teacher



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



AASLH
American Association
for State and Local History



FY2025 began 10/01/2024 and ended 9/30/2025 for Chippewa Valley Museum
Chippewa Valley Museum is a 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization



≡ From Our Board President

On behalf of the Board and the staff at the Chippewa Valley Museum, I'd like to reflect on the journey in 2025 and the impact the museum has had on our community.

With five short-term exhibits, six associated groups meeting monthly, 53 rentals and private events, 15 co-hosted programs and events, and 10 outreach events, the museum has been a busy place! Keep in mind this doesn't include everything. We also hosted guided tours for 4,805 students and adults. It is exciting to say that we are at maximum capacity for the amount of guided tours we can handle! We couldn't do all of this without the incredible staff and the 176 volunteers that gave 5,186 hours.

Not only do the volunteers help with tours and other visitor services, but they have logged several hours on special projects such as the Waffle Axe-Travaganza and the new History Heroes exhibit. Some of these projects wouldn't happen without the incredible people who give their time and appreciate all the museum has to offer.

I feel so fortunate to be a part of this organization. We have the most incredible staff, volunteers, and board members. It is because of the hard work and passion of these people that we can continue the mission of the museums, to "connect people to the community and inspire curiosity by collecting, preserving, and sharing our region's historical and cultural resources."

In 2026 I'm looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the new year. We are surrounded by a talented and passionate team, and this is sure to lead to new exhibits, programs, and chances to get involved with your Chippewa Valley Museum.

Warm regards,

Melissa Peterson
2025 Board President



Our Mission

Connecting people to our community and inspiring curiosity by collecting, preserving, and sharing our region's historical and cultural resources.



The Mills of Otter Creek

Foundations, Filters, and Fires

by Dean Roth (abridged by Diana Peterson)

In 2021, Dean Roth was part of CORBA Trails representatives from Centennial Park in Altoona who were hoping to extend the bike trail network into the area east of the US 53 bypass, north of US 12, and west of Otter Creek. While surveying the land, they found several foundations in an area where the creek has solid rock faces on either side, forming a 25-30ft deep valley which is only about 30-40ft wide. These were the underpinnings of a substantial structure. Below is an abridged version of the paper Dean wrote about his research into the history of these long-forgotten foundations. In addition to his involvement with CORBA, Dean Roth is the Eau Claire County Surveyor. He is a graduate of UW Eau Claire and Nicolet College in Rhineland, WI and has been involved in Surveying since 1996.

A quick look at the 1910 plat book revealed the “Otter Creek Flower Mill” on this site and showed a large impoundment of water amassed behind a dam on Otter Creek. I posted on Altoona’s Facebook page asking about the site prior to the Happy Hollow Tavern. Steven Thompson, who resides in the Town of Washington, answered the post: “The Otter Creek Flower Mill was owned by my Great Great grandfather’s brother and son, Alonzo & Charles Hazen and went by A&C.E. Hazen Flouring Mills... The 1877 map of Eau Claire County shows two mills there, one grist and one woolen.”

My interest in the site was geographical. Steven’s interest grew out of the land being an integral part of his family’s history in the Chippewa Valley.

The Beginnings of Industry

Deed research revealed Thomas Barland listed as Entryman (first private, deeded landowner) having purchased the 40-acre tract that would eventually contain the mill properties. This Quarter-Quarter Section, along with four other Quarter-Quarter sections, was purchased between 1854 and 1855 for \$1.25 per acre. Barland built a dam and sawmill on Otter Creek.

In 1864, Alonzo Hazen and his son Charles purchased the land and existing sawmill from Barland. By 1867 the Hazens were making use of the mill and dam on Otter Creek, producing flour, and advertising the milling services of the A. and C. E. Hazen Flouring Mills in the Chippewa Falls Union and Times. They employed 5 men and boasted

a “capacity of mill fifty barrels per day.”

In 1875 the Eau Claire Woolen Mill opened immediately next door on a parcel of land measuring 56 feet x 300 feet. An *Eau Claire Daily Free Press* article from August 28, 1875, referred to this mill as “A ten thousand dollar enterprise.” Capable of weaving 75 yards a day, they were producing tweeds, flannels, jeans, blankets, stocking yarn and “cassimeres,” which was a type of fine woven wool used in men’s clothing of the time. The mill was run by W.H. Moore & Company. That same year the County Supervisors voted to construct the first iron bridge across Otter Creek. This was very near the current location of the US 12, Clairemont Avenue Bridge over Otter Creek. With legal troubles and a sale at auction, the woolen mill encountered challenges from early on, suffering foreclosure in August of 1877. Darwin Whipple sold the property at auction to Chester, Calvin & John Hazen, and Charles Norris for \$1900.

On June 12, 1878, the *Eau Claire Free Press* reported “Charles Hazen is building stone abutments for a bridge across Otter Creek near the woolen mill. The superstructure is to be an iron truss, the length to be 62 feet from pier to pier, and is being constructed by an eastern firm, at a cost ranging between \$700 and \$800 to be finished by the 26th of July.”

The flour mill was destroyed by fire in February of 1879 and rebuilt, with the new and improved mill open for operation in 1880. This new mill was very different from the original, incorporating a more “modern” building design. Two years later the newest machinery had been installed at a cost exceeding \$4000, “making it one of the best mills of its size in the country,” according to an Eau Claire article from September 23, 1882.

Explorations of the site hadn’t led us to believe a structure of this size once stood on this now wild segment, much less a large dam for waterpower, a second mill, and a quite elegant home where the family of Charles Hazen resided. Determining where the flour mill and dam once stood proved a challenge as the woolen mill (of which we’ve found no photographs) also stood on this site.

In 1884, John Hensler and Isaac Rausch bought a half interest in the Eau Claire woolen mills, and they continued to manufacture woolen cloth, flannels & yarn “of the



Looking upstream at Otter Creek Dam with part of mill showing

best quality.” The 1880s and 1890s provided numerous advertisements for woolen products with the woolen mill being entirely refitted in 1891.

Having sold the flour mill in 1886, Charles Hazen busied himself with farming and in the winters, he made use of the impoundment behind the mill dam. In December of 1893, the *Eau Claire Weekly Leader* noted, “Chas. Hazen is busy cutting ice. He sells a good deal to the neighbors all around, especially milkmen, and lots of it back to Altoona.” In 1905, Hazen was exporting molding sand, receiving “orders from all the northern cities on the lakes.”

In 1897 the *Eau Claire Daily Leader* reported on Otter Creek Flour Mill improvements: “Having recently built a new barn.” “...also repaired and painted the mill, papered the office and decorated the mill stone in the highest style of art.”

In late summer of 1907, the dam was destroyed by a flood and was promptly rebuilt. However, by the late fall of 1907, the land upon which the Otter Creek Mills stood was purchased by the Northwestern Lumber Company. They sought to place a dam on the Eau Claire River which would “mean the withdrawal of water from Otter Creek, thus appropriating the power to run the mills...” While an October 1907 article declared the “Otter Creek (flour) Mill is running full blast...” with the dam “repaired as good as ever,” this land purchase would eventually bring the wheels to a stop at the Otter Creek flour mill after more than 40 years. There is no record of flour milling activity after 1909. Charles passed away in April 1912 and the home was transferred to his wife, Susan. Susan would be the last of the Hazen family to reside on this site.

Shifting back in chronology and southerly on the site, the *Eau Claire Free Press* noted in July of 1879, “The woolen mill is having a successful run this season and the local demand for manufacture is rapidly increasing,”

indicating some level of success. However, the woolen mill changed hands multiples times since its beginnings in 1875, including a forced sale in 1887 executed by Sheriff Whipple. But in March of 1889, the *Eau Claire News* announced “the woolen mill to be revived.”

Two years later, Edward Stickler declared in the newspaper “The Eau Claire Woolen Mill has been purchased by me, and I will soon ... be prepared to do custom carding and weaving, and exchanging cloth, and yarns for wool.”

In late June of 1893, fire claimed the Woolen Mills with a noted loss of \$8,000. Stickler tried to get a loan to build a new mill but eventually moved to Boscobel to operate a mill with this son John. He sold his woolen mill property in 1895 to Charles Dunn. It’s unclear who rebuilt the woolen mill, or when, but ads for woolen products continued to 1905. The Eau Claire Woolen Mills ceased for good in 1907.

A Shifting of Industry

The ownership and operations, if any, become cloudy at this point. Between 1907 and 1919, no articles were found detailing activity on this site. That changed in 1919. The Eau Claire Paper Manufacturing Company was soon to begin operations. On January 1, 1919, *Eau Claire Leader Telegram* reported this “...so far as is known, is the only plant of its kind in existence in the United States” and was to begin producing filter paper. Head of operations, Willy Brubacher, had training and experience at paper mills in Austria, Germany, and Canada. He had discovered a formula and working with pure linen, he had several successful test runs of a filter paper that was used in chemical processes.

Brubacher had an interesting story. He and a companion, Erwin John, had been arrested as aliens in Canada during the outbreak of World War I. They were arrested for making unusual experiments which turned out to be the filter paper formulas. The two men escaped prison and fled to the United States, ending up in Eau Claire. Men hunting him turned up in the area and arrested him, but he was found not guilty and released, with the provision that he remain in Eau Claire County until the war was over.

In the July 28, 1920, *Eau Claire Leader Telegram* it was reported Brubacher and company were “manufacturing a commercial filter paper which is in large demand in this country by chemists, manufacturers of fruit syrups, sugar refineries, and a wide variety of other business institutions.” No doubt constrained by the Otter Creek facilities, the Eau Claire Paper Manufacturing company sought to grow. A new up-to-date plant was to be built in Altoona and the capitalized value of this new company was \$400,000. This endeavor included William L. Davis, who was the son of the

then head of the Dells Paper & Pulp Company as well as C.J. Hayden. They anticipated this business expansion to create the largest filter paper factory in the country, replacing the filter paper that had previously been imported from Europe.

A booster campaign tried to raise the needed funds but failed. The company experienced financial struggles and finally declared bankruptcy. On September 26, 1925, *Eau Claire Leader Telegram* ran a story about the trial over an unpaid note that led to the fall of the Eau Claire Paper Manufacturing Co. and the end of the industrial age for the Otter Creek property.

Beginning of Tavern Life

While the original Hazen home had burned in 1884, it had been rebuilt and was purchased from Susan Hazen by Robert S. Clark. Clark, who was also the owner of the Dells Mill at Augusta, had purchased a partial interest in the Hazen flour mill property in 1893 and eventually gained full interest in the flour mill in 1894. In a deed recorded on July 30, 1937, the Northwestern Lumber Company sold the mill and home site to Charlotte Mooney, at which time the house became a tavern. A liquor license application made by Frank Mooney in 1935, just two scant years after the end of Prohibition, heralded the beginning of a new era for this property. A January 1937 advertisement for a “Fish Fry” at Mooney’s Tavern East on Highway 12 promoted this Wisconsin Friday night staple for tavern patrons.

In 1937, Mooney was one of several tavern owners in the region, as listed in a *Leader Telegram* article, to have been fined \$100 for operating slot machines illegally. There were tales of bootlegging where liquor had been produced on site. Despite prohibition having been lifted, it remained unlawful to produce alcohol without obtaining the necessary government tax stamps.

In April 1941, a grass fire spread to the structure and completely destroyed the building, with the *Eau Claire Leader Telegram* noting, “The tavern was formerly a well-known landmark, the spacious ‘Bob’ Clark home near the old Otter Creek mill.” The tavern was rebuilt after the fire and public notices in 1959 and 1969 for Mooney’s Tavern indicate liquor license applications.

Happy Hollow claims to have been established in 1942, so there appears to be some overlap between Mooney’s and Happy Hollow. A valid claim could be made that the building itself, rebuilt following the fire of 1941, might be considered the origins of the Happy Hollow, as this would have been the structure used for the duration of the Happy Hollow at this location. Liquor licenses into the late 1970s issued to Frank Mooney still referred to this tavern as Mooney’s, however.

The Last Stand

During the planning and right-of-way acquisition for the US Highway 53 bypass, the Happy Hollow property was purchased by WisDOT as the tavern would lose access to US Highway 12. A news article from April 13, 2002 indicated owner Jeff Olson initially hoped to build a new location on the lot to the northeast of the intersection of US 12 and 10th Street. This proposal was not supported by the nearby residents and was not approved by the City Planning Commission. The Altoona Planning Commission approved transfer of the Happy Hollow liquor license to the new, and now current, location of the Happy Hollow, two miles east of the original location.

Today

Much of the foundation of the flour mill remains, as well as a large square recess in the soil from the woolen mill. Sections of stacked stone built on bedrock now overhang the free flowing, bubbling creek below, with squarish stone slots that once supported the framing for a water wheel or other critical mill structure. All remain to explore. There is a pile of glazed bricks and broken Red Wing roofing tiles still on site near the top of the hill along the creek that were likely part of the original Hazen home.

There is much to see here, and this small, seven-acre piece has an immense story--fortunes won and lost, lives lived and lost, buildings constructed, burned, and rebuilt. Industries existed that fed and clothed families, distributed ice, and produced paper filters. Relaxation, dining, and recreation marked the last chapter for this piece of property. The abutments from the earliest steel bridge still stand quietly watching the creek pass beneath.



Otter Creek Milling Company, early 1900s



≡ Programs & Education

Learning in Motion

459 guided tours brought 3,747 youth and 1,110 adults through our doors. Students arrived from 50 elementary schools, a middle school, virtual charter programs, and homeschool groups. Adult groups ranged from CVTC English Language Learners to REACH participants, a Viroqua bus tour, and the Wisconsin Chapter of the International Association of Electrical Inspectors.

Alongside tours, the Education team offered 16 programs for 353 youth ages 5–17, including K–5 summer classes, Time Travelers workshops, and a lively Teen Murder Mystery Night. The museum also continued hosting Eau Claire’s K-Kids, nurturing leadership and service in young people.

By the Numbers

Furthest-Traveled Students: St. Patrick’s School, Onalaska — 83 miles

Furthest-Traveled Adults: Viroqua Bluegrass Gospel Music Association — 111 miles

Largest Group: DeLong Middle School 6th Grade — 277 students

Smallest Group: Stoll Homeschool — 4 students

Volunteer Docents: 12


Docent Hours Contributed: 275



Programs That Brought Us Together

Even without a major festival like the Family Fourth of July, FY25 saw remarkable growth: 85 programs drew 3,007 attendees, underscoring the community’s appetite for shared experiences.

Top-Attended Programs and Events

- **Folk Arts Festival** – A five-hour celebration of regional traditions with dozens of artists and performers. 396 attendees
 - **Music on the Lawn** – July Sundays filled with local music and community gathering. 267 attendees
 - **1860s Vintage Base Ball Game** – A lively look at early baseball. 170 attendees
 - **Waffle Axe-Travaganza** – A family-friendly breakfast at the Paul Bunyan Logging Camp developed & hosted by a nine-member volunteer team from the Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Eau Claire program. 148 attendees
 - **Carson Park Skelebration** – A Halloween celebration for 139 guests
 - **Time Travelers Summer School** – Four sessions, three sections each, serving 137 students with classes like *Pioneer Life* and *Fun on the Farm*
- 

Community Center & Resource ≡

Chippewa Valley Museum's vision is to be a dynamic community gathering place and a valued regional resource that connects diverse audiences with the cultures and histories of the Chippewa Valley. Fulfilling this vision means opening our doors widely—partnering with nonprofits, government agencies, businesses, and individuals to co-host programs and to provide an affordable, welcoming venue for private events.

The sampling below reflects the breadth of activity that took place within our walls and across the region this year.

37 Co-Hosted Programs and Events —————

11 Outreach Events Supported by Staff and Volunteers

- Chippewa Valley Technical College Family Literacy Event, November 2
- Maple Syrup Saturday at Beaver Creek Reserve, March 8
- Hmong50 exhibit at Pablo Center at the Confluence, organized by the Hmong50 Committee

American Red Cross Blood Drives

Monthly Meetings Hosted at the Museum

- Adventures in History Book Club (in partnership with the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library)
- Aging and Disability Resource Center of Eau Claire (ADRC) Memory Café
- Chippewa Valley Railroad Association
- Eau Claire K-Kids, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire
- Genealogical Research Society of Eau Claire
- Historic Preservation Foundation

Tactical Escape 101 Escape Rooms hosted at the Schlegelmilch House

55 Private Rentals —————

Private rentals continue to be an important way we support community connection and provide accessible gathering space. Events this year included:

- Birthday and anniversary celebrations
- Holiday Trolley Tours operated by Chippewa Valley Trolley Tours with stops in the Sunnyview Schoolhouse
- DAR Good Citizens Award Banquet
- Week-long doula training course offered by Family Health Center in Marshfield
- Girls on the Run Day Camp for 3rd–5th graders, June 16–20 and July 21–25
- ECCF Women's Giving Circle Social

≡ Exhibits

The long-running exhibit History Quest closed at the start of the fiscal year to make room for a new children's exhibit, History Heroes. The museum hosted six short-term exhibits—more than it has had in many years. Although 2025 did not feature a gallery-sized art exhibit, long-time resident and professional photographer Bruce Warren curated a display of his own work.

Long-Term Exhibits _____

Chippewa Valley Museum

Changing Currents: Reinventing the Chippewa Valley (2014), Barland Gallery

Downtown Eau Claire, 1933: Model Train Layout (2022)

Eau Claire by Air (2014), L.E. Phillips Memorial Auditorium

Farm Life: A Century of Change for Farm Families and Their Neighbors (2004), Rural Heritage Wing

Have You Heard? (2023), Farmhouse Theater

Wisconsin Logging Museum

Lumbering in the Chippewa Valley (1996)

Paul Bunyan Logging Camp (1934 with additions in 1939 & 1947. Moved 1983)

Tall Tales (1999, renovated 2024) Children's Gallery

The Big Cut (2004)

Short-Term Original Exhibits _____

On the Water, Ayres Associates gallery

Anderson to Yang: Norwegians & Hmong in the Chippewa Valley, Ayres Associates gallery

Virtual Exhibits _____

360° tour of Chippewa Valley Museum

Hmong in Eau Claire

Traveling Exhibits _____

Rocks & Hard Places: Emigration through the Lens of Knud Knudsen, Vesterheim Museum

Where Was I, Bruce Warren

Wisconsin Remembers: A Face for Every Name, Wisconsin Veterans Museum

WWI Beyond the Trenches: Stories from the Front, Wisconsin Veterans Museum

The *On the Water* exhibit was developed at the museum by museum staff.



Collections ≡

The Chippewa Valley Museum has 22,794 objects in its collection. This past year, we received 26 new items. Some object highlights include:

- Stained Glass Windowpane from the “Healing Place” grief counselors at Sacred Heart Hospital
- Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1605 Pennant. Company 1605 had camps in Fairchild, Mondovi, and Marshland.
- Campfire Girls vests and necklace.
- Pocket watch belonging to the Schlegelmilch Family.

Curator Rachel Showalter, in collaboration with Archivist Jodi Kiffmeyer, designed, installed and exhibited the *Anderson to Yang* exhibit which celebrated the 50th anniversary of Hmong immigration and 200th anniversary of Norwegian immigration. This exhibit was supplemented by the *Rock and Hard Places* travelling exhibit from the Vesterheim Museum in Dubuque, Iowa.

The curatorial department also hosted intern Noah Johnson for 144 hours. Noah assisted in the de-installation of *Anderson to Yang*, designed and installed his own display featuring advertising novelties, documented the condition of the artwork in *Rock and Hard Places*, and cataloged a large portion of the uncatalogued objects backlog.

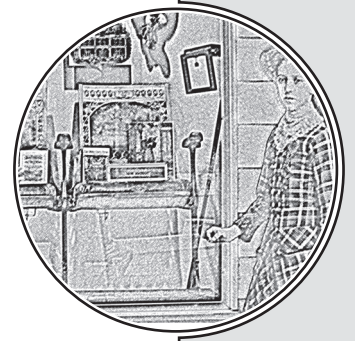
Library and Archives

It was a transition year for Chippewa Valley Museum, as Archivist Jodi Kiffmeyer departed in the spring, and Melissa Holmen became the new archivist in late summer. Over the year, they responded to 61 research requests, ranging from Bob Uecker’s time in Eau Claire, to a project locating Greek confectioneries in 1920s Eau Claire! The archive also produced the long-running #ChippewaValleyHistory social media series and supported the development of this year’s Uff-Da Chippewa Valley Trolley Tour.

Archivists and volunteers focused on processing the Richard D. Feeney collection, scanning and researching a large collection of slides Feeney donated to the museum. The images provide an excellent snapshot of life in the greater Eau Claire area fifty years ago.

Kate Hanson and Brooke Bandli each completed a semester internship funded by Dean Arnold. As interns, they learned to process archival collections, scan photos, and added content to the L.G. Arnold Co StoryMap (see the museum’s website).

At the end of the fiscal year, the library and archive held 22,955 items. There are currently 5,894 archival materials, 1,160 library materials, and 22,901 cataloged photographs.





13,390

Adults: 7,742
Children: 5,648

Fun fact: 28% of visitors were kids on school tours.

VISITORS



834

Membership Revenue
\$75,576

New Members
199

Fun fact: 5 members have been with museum for more than 50 years.

MEMBERS



5,186

Total Hours

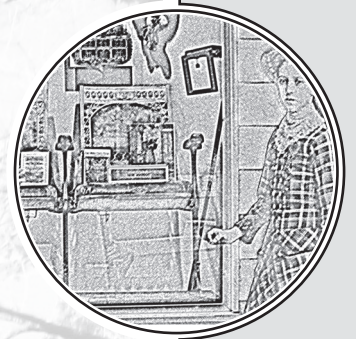
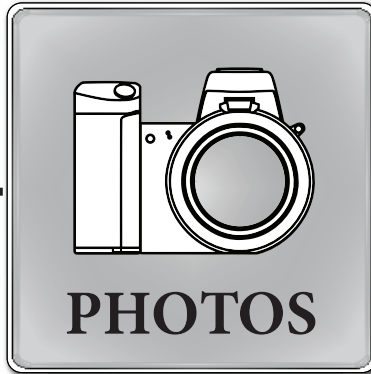
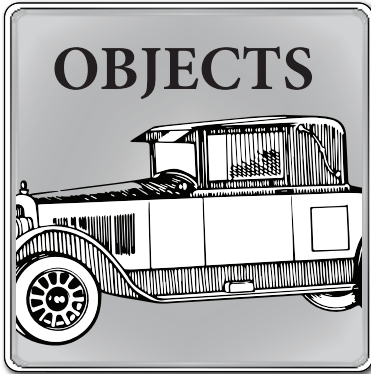
176

People

Fun fact: Library volunteers averaged 16 hours of service a week.

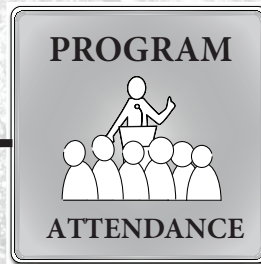
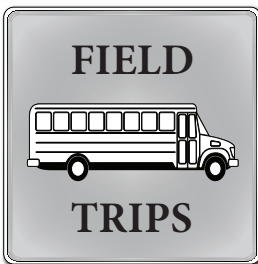
VOLUNTEERS





22,794

22,901



3,747
Students

85
Workshops, Lectures,
Presentations, etc.

3,007
People



55 Rentals
for **\$4,665**

8 Grants
\$57,206

\$23,838
Dollars Sold



≡ Grants & Sponsorships



Grants and Contracts Awarded in FY25

AnnMarie Foundation: Anderson to Yang exhibit	\$100
Eau Claire Community Foundation:	
The U.S. at 250 exhibit	\$8,500
Women's Giving Circle: History Heroes exhibit	\$7,000
Eau Claire Garden Club: Schlegelmilch gardens	\$250
Rotary Club of Eau Claire: History Heroes exhibit	\$1,000
Visit Eau Claire: Schlegelmilch Speakeasy	\$500
Xcel Energy Foundation: exterior and interior automatic door openers	\$5,775



Grants Awarded in Previous Years and Continued in FY25

Eau Claire Community Foundation:	
History Heroes Exhibit	\$7,000
Eau Claire County: ARPA Component 2 (merger, children's exhibits)	\$100,000
Nordson Foundation: Education program	\$10,000
Neil E. Park Family Foundation: Education program	\$10,000
Wisconsin Arts Board: Artes Latinas	\$4,510
Visit Eau Claire: US Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship	\$1,000
Xcel Energy Foundation: History Heroes exhibit	\$6,000

Corporate Sponsors

APEX Engineering, Banbury Place Inc., Culver's-Bowe Business Group, Festival Foods, Frandsen Bank, Mad Computer Services Inc, Lazy Monk Brewing Co., Market & Johnson, Mayo Clinic Health System, Nicolet Bank, Security Financial Bank, Royal Credit Union, SCHEELS, Tactical Escape 101, Tanglewood Golf Course, Trust Point, Volume One, Weld Riley, Wisconsin Historical Society, Xcel Energy



Profit/Loss

	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY24</u>
INCOME		
City County	\$198,477.50	\$202,736.97
Memberships	\$75,576.00	\$69,600.00
Sponsorships	\$19,550.00	\$3,000.00
Earned Income	\$105,820.89	\$103,818.83
Gifts	\$129,903.00	\$83,628.92
Grants	\$57,205.79	\$99,972.56
Investments	\$36,098.00	\$36,564.52
Returned Principle	\$50,000	
Special Events	\$10,956.64	\$197,613.04
SUBTOTAL	\$683,587.82	\$796,934.84
Total	\$683,587.82	\$796,934.84
EXPENSES		
Personnel	\$416,335.56	\$433,295.68
Operations	\$167,550.84	\$144,577.05
Schlegelmilch House	\$7,526.17	\$5,782.62
Programs	\$42,613.65	\$47,674.04
Grants Programs	\$37,196.74	\$36,175.89
Retail	\$16,077.28	\$8,793.43
Special Events	\$3023.27	\$167,440.13
Miscellaneous	\$2,686.00	\$2,593.44
SUBTOTAL	\$693,009.51	\$846,332.28
Fixed assets	\$4,386,054.03	\$4,384,525.91
TOTAL	\$693,009.51	\$846,332.28
NET	\$(9,421.69)	\$(49,397.44)

Note: Figures are derived from internal financial statements.

	FY25	FY24
BALANCE SHEET		
ASSETS		
Cash	\$73,179.51	\$149,490.12
Property, Equip (net)	\$563,773.27	\$585,157.29
Other Assets	\$(2,143.49)	\$(2,143.49)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$634,809.29	\$732,503.92
LIABILITIES		
Withholding	\$4,684.16	\$5,025.00
Long Term Liabilities		
Capital	\$630,125.13	\$727,479.01
LIABILITIES & CAPITAL	\$634,809.29	\$732,504.01

Michael Laughing Fox Charette at the
We Are All Storytellers event.



≡ Development

There was a significant realignment of revenue streams in FY25. Individual and business gifts increased 55% and special event net revenue decreased 73% compared to FY24. A decision was made to replace the U.S. Open Chainsaw Sculpture Championship with multiple smaller events in order to focus on increasing business and individual relationships and support. Membership income increased for the first time since 2022. The museum has averaged 847 memberships over the last 7 years

Chippewa Valley Museum Foundation

The Chippewa Valley Museum Foundation (CVMF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charged with overseeing the Museum's endowments and other investment funds in order to advance museum's mission.

At the end of FY25, CVM managed assets were valued at \$894,653, a 4.2% increase from FY24. The Foundation distributed \$41,171 for museum operations. CVMF is also the named beneficiary of a whole life insurance policy gifted to the museum in 1996. The life insurance policy is valued at \$61,625.

Growing the museum's endowment will ensure long-term museum sustainability. Please consider including the museum in your will or trust or naming the museum as a beneficiary in your IRA, 401 (k), 403(b), SEP, or annuity.

CVM-Wisconsin Logging Museum Agency Fund

The CVM-Wisconsin Logging Museum Fund was started by the Paul Bunyan Logging Camp Museum in 2006. The purpose of this fund is to support operations and capital needs of the logging camp buildings. On September 30, 2025 it was valued at \$158,468.

Gifts: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025

\$25,000: Anonymous	Flynn Family Foundation	Al and Beverly Harper
\$10,000+	Debbie and Robert Gough	Mark Helland
Louis Arnold	Mary C. Harmon	Joel and Lenore Higgins
Mary Foote	Bev Jacobson	Jon and Maureen Homstad
\$5,000-\$9,999	John G. Kinney	Jack and Sally Kaiser
Dean Arnold	Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire	Jodi Kiffmeyer
\$2,000-4,999+	Christopher and Jana Lind	Dan and Kerry Kincaid
Richard and Rochelle Arnold	Jim and Sharon Manz	Bonnie Lenz Clark
Brian and Mary Blakeley	Susan M. McLeod	John and Shyre Mann
Laurie, Andrea, and Jacob Gapko	Samuel Menefee	Lois and Marlin Mueller Designated Fund—ECCF
Kiwanis Club of Eau Claire-Indianhead	Patrick Quigley	Susan Peterson and Paul Wiegner
LE Phillips Family Foundation	Jerome and Kathryn Reinecke	William and Sharon Schulte
Marjorie McManus	Sandy Robbers	Roger and Shirley Shepler
Daniel K. and Karen Mittag	Johanna Warloski	Sue Suechting
Daniel Perkins	Brent and Kristin Wogahn	Deb Swan
Cindy Schlosser and Paul Wagner	Becky and Dave Wood	Philip Swanhorst
Dorothy Sorlie and Jim Urness	Dennis and Karen Zacho	John and Lela Thompson Designated Fund—ECCF
Paula Utpfall	\$500-\$999	Kathleen and David Weber
\$1,000-\$1,999	Eleanor Stahlbusch Brewer	Helen and Norb Wurtzel
Thomas and Jill Barland	Thomas L. and Joyce Bruckner	Shannon and Timothy Young
Kathryn Bergman	Clearwater Kiwanis	Thomas and Sheila Zahorik
Tom and Mary Burt	Roger and Betty Davis Fund—ECCF	
	Judy Dekan and Rick Koziel	
	Janet L. Etnier	
	Barbara Gramenz	

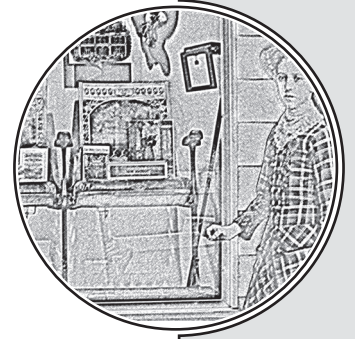
2025 Staff & Board

Staff

Frank Barby, Director of Operations
Dustyn Dubuque, Development Manager
Melissa Holmen, Archivist
Karen Jacobson, Educator
Patrick Kleist, Custodian
Rachel Showalter, Curator
Olaf Lind, Creative Director
Sy Neville, Education Assistant
Diana Peterson, Editor
and Program Coordinator
Madison Stauffer, Visitor Services
Coordinator
Carrie Ronnander, Executive Director
Jill York, Operations Manager

Wisconsin Logging Museum, seasonal
Museum Assistants:
Stacy Leibrich
Jennifer Jensen
Fawn Stridde
Fred Theiste
John Vonasek
Pam Weiland-Schuste

Declan Melchoir, Public Health
AmeriCorps Member serving as
Program Assistant



Chippewa Valley Museums Board

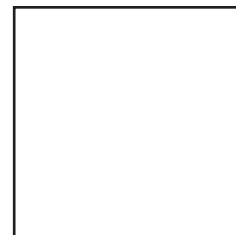
Kevin Anger, Donnellan Real Estate
Samuel Bach-Hanson, Weld Riley S.C.
Lynn Bieritz, Mid-West Family
Heather Costley, Mayo Clinic Health System
Kevin Dague, Herrick & Hart, S.C., Secretary
Kevin Dallas, Market & Johnson
K. Brewer Doran, retired, UW-Eau Claire
John Jacobson, RuderWare
Max Kaiser, Banbury Place/Cigan Properties, Treasurer
Melissa Peterson, Frandsen Bank, president, Kiwanis rep
Phil Rechek, UW-Eau Claire
Travis Schroeder, Wendel Companies
Jeff Stevens, Independent Consultant, President
Julie Thoney, Xcel Energy
Curt Van Auken, Security Financial Bank



Chippewa Valley Museum Foundation Board

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Tuesdays 5-8 p.m.
Wed. - Fri. 12-5 p.m.
Saturday 10-5 p.m.
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Check Website

Contact Us

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PO Box 1204
Eau Claire, WI 54702
info@cvmuseum.com
(715) 834-7871
www.cvmuseum.com

LOOKING AHEAD

April 16, 2026

CVM Trivia Takeover at Lazy Monk

May 2, 2026

Baseball: The Stories of Marty Crowe, presentation

May 15, 2026

The U.S. at 250: From the Collections
1876-1926 exhibit opening

May 30, 2026

Paul Bunyan Logging Camp experience open

June 6, 2026

Vintage Base Ball Game

June 27, 2026

Exploring the American Experience:
The Circus is Coming, presentation

July 5-12-19-26, 2026

Music on the Lawn



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