

Mount Healthy Historical Society

April 2021

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AROUND THE SOCIETY...

While we've been closed, we've completed the big clothing project. All of our collection of antique and vintage clothing has been unpacked, photographed, numbered, described, catalogued, and packed away again in protective acid-free boxes. That came to 13 large boxes, and over 200 individual pieces of clothing dating from the 1870s to the 1970s. Now we know exactly what we have and exactly where to find each item. The photos mean that we only need to take pieces out when we want to display them, and they can stay safely stored away otherwise.

We still need to do the same for our military uniforms. Oh, and everything else we own. It might take a while. But the clothes were the biggest project and required making the biggest mess, so it was good to get this taken care of during our Covid closure. When we said we would take a weekend to clean out our storeroom, we didn't imagine that we would still be working on it years later, but it's been a very necessary and useful undertaking.

We will resume our monthly meetings on May 5, 7 p.m., in basement of the Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church.

We hope to open the museum again soon. Please check our website for further updates.

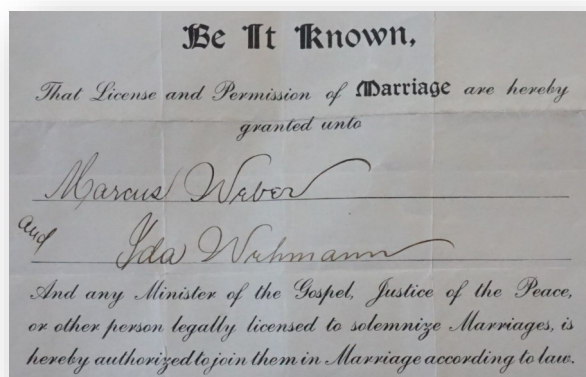
When it's safe to open again:

The Mt. Healthy Historical Society Museum is open most Tuesday and Saturday mornings, 9-11, and the first Sunday of each month (except January and February), 1-3 p.m.

Artifacts are more than just artifacts. They have stories to tell.

We don't know the backstory for the vast majority of the items in our collection, but occasionally we have hints. This dress was donated along with a marriage license and a newspaper clipping, which says, "There was a very pretty wedding Thursday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Henrietta Wehman, whose daughter, Miss Ida Wehman, was married to Mr. Marcus Weber. The bride looked lovely in her gown of white satin.... The bridesmaid was Miss Catherine Weber, sister of the groom, who looked charming in white crepe. Mr. William Wehmam was best man.... The young couple will make their home in Mt. Healthy." The license is dated Dec. 23, 1914. The logical assumption is that this is the wedding dress.

But documents don't always help as much as you might think. The dress is clearly not made of satin, as the notice says, but



is instead of light cotton., not very suitable for a December wedding. (It also isn't made of crepe, so it didn't belong to the groom's sister, either.) Possibly some family member saw a white dress and made the incorrect assumption that this was the wedding dress mentioned in the clipping. Or maybe the person who wrote the notice didn't know the difference between cotton and satin. The written records, in this case, offer clues that only serve to muddy the story.



Some of the stories are sad. Our collection includes this outfit for a young boy, which was accompanied by a note saying, "Donated by Elaine Koch Witschger of Mt. Healthy. Clothes worn by her brother William George Koch just prior to his death in 1925 at the age of two. He was the son of Rose and William W. Koch, long-time residents of Mt. Healthy." Further investigation finds that little William was born Nov. 9, 1922, in Madisonville, and died May 6, 1925.

This suit was handed down to and kept by William's sister, who gave it to the museum 63 years after his death.

We have many artifacts, just "things," but each was once part of someone's cherished memories. We take our responsibility to these memories, even those now long forgotten, very seriously.

Our thanks to our business members.
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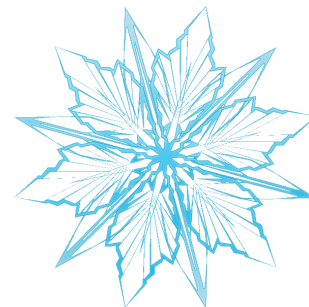

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