

ST. FRANCIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Dear Members:

St. Francis Historical Society Update:

If you have driven by the Lupo House, you will discover that it's not there anymore. It was demolished in early August. All that remains are the pine trees on the property.

Many people were involved in going through our artifacts and removing them to Deer Creek School, our new location. A large thank you to the following:

Bill and Mary Drehfal
Carol and Dennis Wojtecki
Kathy and Jim Matthew
Jim Goodwin
Richard Raatz
Lois Neubauer
Terry Duffy

And also a thank you to those that removed doors, windows, cabinets, rugs, flooring, appliances, fireplace mantle, basement bar, and many incidentals. Eventually, all that remained was the shell of the building.

We are now busy at Deer Creek School, organizing all the artifacts that we removed from the Lupo House. Do you have some extra time to help us? If you do, please contact our president, Bill Drehfal at 481-6511. He will tell you our schedule for organizing.

At our Historical Society sale at Vretenar Park in September, we sold bikes for the St. Francis Police Department. The total amount that we made was \$xxxxxx.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, we will be featuring a series of biographies of men from the area who served in the Civil War.

Captain Amos P. Foster

Captain Amos P. Foster was born at Brooklyn, New York in 1834. He was the son of Jacob and Margaret Foster. His school days were passed at the Military Academy on the Hudson River. He passed the entrance examination for the Annapolis Naval Academy, but remained there only a short time, leaving to begin his life as a sailor on a ship in the China trade.

Within a few years, Amos had worked up through the various grades of a seaman's career until he was given command of the Horatio, a full rigged ship plying between New York and the Orient.

When war clouds gathered over the United States in 1861, Amos offered his services to the Naval Department. As a master he commanded the gunboats Delaware, Commodore Perry, Resolute, and the Wyandank. As lieutenant commander he directed the movement of the Third division of the Potomac flotilla which was made up of seven vessels, and the Appomattox division of the James River fleet of the North Atlantic squadron.

Captain Foster's ship, the Commodore Perry, led the fleet when it moved up the James River to Richmond after the Confederates had evacuated the city. The trip was very dangerous, as it was necessary to remove the torpedoes placed as an obstruction to the progress of the vessels. Captain Foster's men removed 51 of the torpedoes, and the fleet reached Richmond without mishap.

During the war, Captain Foster participated in some thrilling battles. Two of his brothers, Henry and James, also served in the Navy during the Civil War.

When the war ended, Amos resigned from the Navy and devoted his time to different mercantile pursuits until 1891, when he again entered the government service as captain of the lightship Dahlia. This command gave him his first taste of fresh water service.

For a time, Captain Foster was connected with the lighthouse engineer's office and later was placed in command of the lightship Warrington. He resigned from that post and worked in the engineer's department developing aids to lake navigation.

Captain Foster was married twice. He married Miss Jacqueline Stevens in 1856 and they had two daughters, Mary and Margaret, and a son, John R. Jacqueline died in 1876 and James married Miss Lida McHugh on June 30, 1877.

Captain Amos Foster's deeply religious nature found expression in membership in the Roman Catholic Church. He was also a commander at the Wisconsin Commandery at the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and a member of the E. B. Wolcott post of the Grand Army of the Republic.

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