

NOJOSHING
A ST. FRANCIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
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Dear Members:

Beginning with this issue, we have renamed our newsletter. It will now be called "Nojoshing", which is from the Chippewa word, Neishashing, "a point of land projecting into a lake or river." Our original newsletter was named "Nojoshing".

St. Francis Historical Society Update:

The St. Francis Historical Society will have their 3rd annual Heritage Seed Sale this year. Vegetable and flower seed packets from Seed Savers Exchange will be available for sale from February 4 to April 30, 2012.

Vegetable Gardening with Bill Moore

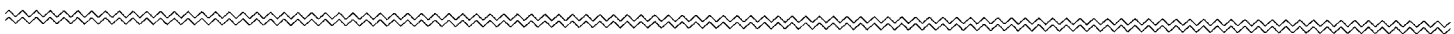
Bill Moore, a St. Francis resident, gardener and past Park Commission Nursery Man, will return to give a media presentation showing his garden's progress from January through December using Heritage seeds. He will give ideas on starting and cultivating a productive vegetable garden. Bring all your gardening questions to the program. This program presented by the St. Francis Historical Society

Date: Saturday, February 4, 2012
Time: 1 PM
Where: St. Francis Public Library, Hoppe Room
Cost: Free

Vegetable Gardening with the Sisters of St. Francis

Gardening for some is an enjoyable experience. It is the ability to place your hands in warm, rich soil and watch your garden grow. Some garden to put good vegetables on the table and save money. There are others who garden to make a commitment to their community and others around them. Please join us as the Sisters of St. Francis Master Gardener Sr. Mary Louise Schramer and Horticulturist Sr. Helene Merter share their experiences with their new three year heirloom garden program.

Date: March 10, 2012
Time: 1 PM
Where: St. Francis Public Library, Hoppe Room
Cost: Free



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.

Frank Gruenwald

Frank Gruenwald was born in the town of Lake in 1839. He was the son of Frank and Mary Ann Gruenwald, who were born and raised in Prussia, Germany. Frank Gruenwald, Sr., heard about the great opportunities that the young and growing America offered. He and his family sailed for America in 1837 and became part of the tidal wave of immigrants who poured into the Wisconsin territory between 1830 and 1850. Frank Sr. and Mary Ann were among the first settlers in the town of Lake and they settled on a section of government land. Frank built the log hut which became their first home.

In those early days, the Gruenwald's had no near neighbors and Mary Ann helped her husband cut down the trees and shape the logs that were used for building. The early settlers had few conveniences. They ground their grain by hand between stones to make flour for bread and it was not unusual for the Gruenwalds and their neighbors to feed visiting Indians and trade with them. After clearing his land, Frank Sr., who was a mason by trade, combined this trade with farming and laid many of the stone walls and foundations for the pioneer homes in the town of Lake.

The Gruenwald children, including Frank Jr., were reared on the farmstead in the town of Lake. Frank Jr. received his education in the public schools of the town of Lake. After finishing his studies, he went into Milwaukee and accepted a position at the Nunnemacher Brewery.

After Frank Jr. had worked at the Nunnemacher Brewery for five years, the Civil War struck Milwaukee. As soon as he heard the call for volunteers, Frank Jr. enlisted as a private in Company A, Twenty Eighth Wisconsin Infantry.

The Twenty Eighth Infantry was organized in Milwaukee and was mustered in on October 14, 1862. The regiment was sent to Kentucky and joined Gorham's expedition up the White River. Later the Twenty Eighth took part in the Yazoo Pass Expedition and participated in the campaign against Fort Pemberton and many minor expeditions in the spring.

For a long time during the winter, the Twenty Eighth did guard and defense duty at Pine Bluff and then returned to Little Rock in 1865. It was ordered to Mobile and assigned to the Third Division. It fought in the trenches before Spanish Fort for nearly a month and then was sent to McIntosh Bluff. From McIntosh Bluff it was ordered to Texas where it remained until it was mustered out of service on August 3, 1865.

Frank Gruenwald Jr. fought bravely with his regiment and received a severe wound in the leg. After the war ended he returned to Wisconsin and his position at the Nunnemacher Brewery.