



May 2013

*Messer/Mayer Mill  
Restoration  
Campaign Committee  
& RHS Board*

*Clara Birkel*

*Frank Carr*

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*Linda Derrick*

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*Ken Martens*

*Jim Metzger*

*Dawn Mueller*

*Quint Mueller*

*Harry Niemann*

*Diane Pedersen*

*Connie Thoma*

*Kathy Weberg*

Dear Richfield Resident and RHS Friend,

Co-operation \* Hard Work \* Pride

Isn't this what we're about in Richfield? Don't these qualities describe our village and its people?

These were also the qualities of the early settlers of our village – a group of individuals who found fertile land and created flourishing lives for themselves and their families.

Wouldn't you like to see the evidence of our unique past preserved and brought to life for generations to come? Your gift to the Richfield Historical Society's campaign to restore the foundation of the Messer/Mayer Mill will make that possible.

The lessons of our ancestors have much to teach us contemporary Americans. Our mission at the Richfield Historical Society is to preserve the evidence and experiences of our village's ancestors and bring their impact to your family and your neighbors throughout our area. One such indication of that past is our iconic Messer/Mayer Mill, located in the Richfield Historical Park at 4399 Pleasant Hill Road.

The Mill represents a significant piece of Richfield's history and is listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Today we invite you to support our campaign to restore the Mill foundation.



Richfield Historical Society programming affects young people when they experience the life of the past during *Education Days*. (Collecting sap for maple syrup shown here.)

Three reasons to contribute to this campaign:

1. The limestone mortar holding the Mill's foundation together is dissolving in several places and the Mill itself could collapse if the foundation is not rebuilt within the next three to five years.
2. A fully restored Mill with fully functioning equipment represents an opportunity for the Society to develop additional educational programming. Visitors, especially children, will be able to see, hear, feel, smell, and even taste the milling process of days gone by.
3. This Mill is unique to Washington County, indeed to the Midwest, being only one of the few of its kind that is still standing.

**History matters.** We trust that history matters to you, too.

*(over please)*

Preservation \* Community \* Heritage

**Let's Get the Mill Grinding!** With your financial support we can make the mill fully operational, refurbish the original E.P. Allis (forerunner of Allis-Chalmers) equipment, and make the Messer/Mayer Mill a showplace of Richfield's early days and not just a static exhibit.



Before and after images of the Messer/Mayer Mill which has stood on the same site for more than 140 years. All restoration of siding, windows, and roof was done by volunteers.

You can be proud that the Richfield Historical Society with its dedicated volunteers has accomplished so much in the mere 15 years it has existed. Last fall the Society was the sole donor of the antique farming equipment comprising the display to the entrance of the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

But the best way for you to know more about our community's heritage is to visit the Richfield Historical Park during one of our events in the coming months. Learn about this amazing part of Richfield's history that still stands. Meet the people whose hard work has made the preservation of our history possible.

To date the Society has raised \$400,000 toward the restoration of the Mill foundation and we need your help to reach our goal of \$600,000. Will you use the enclosed contribution form and envelope to make a gift today? Your generosity will help us more forward with our plans for restoration of the Mill foundation.

Thank you for supporting the efforts of the Richfield Historical Society and for making a difference in our community. Together **Let's Get the Mill Grinding!**

Sincerely,

Quint Mueller, President

Norm Grier, Campaign Chair

**P.S. Gifts of \$500 or more will be recognized with a brick at the Richfield Historical Park's "Let's Get the Mill Grinding" walkway.** Future residents of our community will know who helped save the Messer/Mayer Mill. Can we count on you?