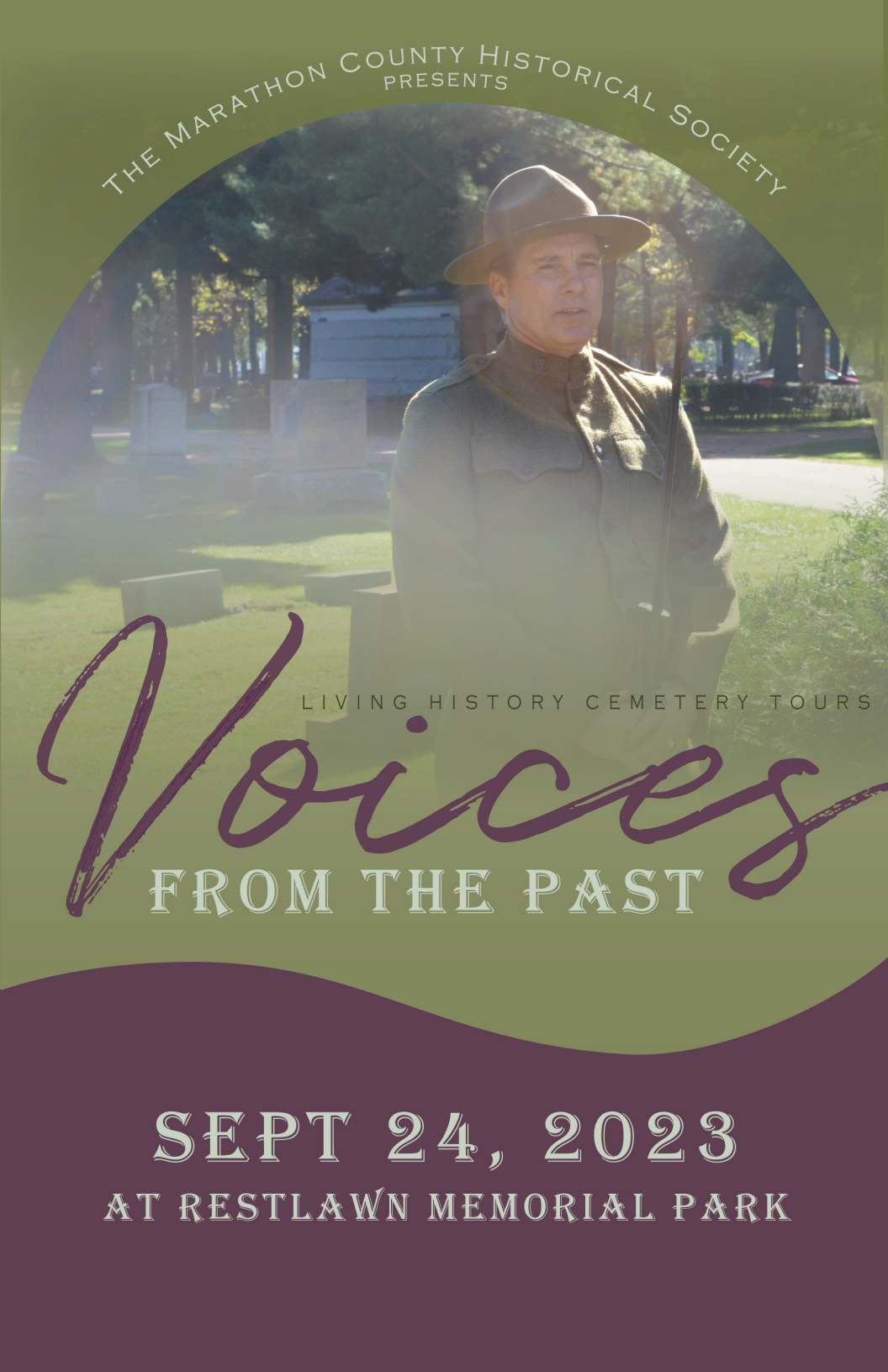


THE MARATHON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS

A man in a military uniform and hat stands in a cemetery, looking slightly to the right. The background shows several gravestones and trees under a bright sky. The image is framed by a green arch at the top and a purple arch at the bottom.

LIVING HISTORY CEMETERY TOURS

Voices

FROM THE PAST

SEPT 24, 2023
AT RESTLAWN MEMORIAL PARK

*Welcome to Restlawn Memorial Park and
Voices from the Past: Living History Cemetery Tours*

Meet our

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Richard Dudley *played by “to be announced”*

Allan Gabrilska *played by Brian Williams*

Patrick Stone *played by James Bartelme*

Tatiana Ewenko *played by Jane Janke Johnson*

Arthur Siewert *played by John Meachen*

Arnold Plier *played by Ben Clark*

Shirley Palesh *played by Kelly Zagrzebski*

History of Restlawn *presented by MCHS Staff*

Display of Death *presented by Kathy Volkmann*

Tours guided by Evie Del Conte, Amy Heffner,

Linda Peterson, Scott Peterson, Kevin Poderweltz,

Ashley Roth, and Annie Williams.

The Tour

1

THE HISTORY OF RESTLAWN MEMORIAL PARK

Restlawn Memorial Park Association was founded May 16, 1929 by a group of prominent Wausau businessmen. The cemetery was designed and built as a park, full of green spaces and natural beauty, and not a traditional cemetery. Burial choices were designed to maintain a garden feel where loved ones could be peacefully remembered. Restlawn Memorial Park offers unique options for burial and cremation. The “One with Nature Cremation Trail” is a natural, winding trail through a densely wooded area of the cemetery. There, loved ones can be commemorated with granite benches, bronze memorials and even bird baths and statuary. The main chapel building and mausoleum are a beautiful and sacred space that provide serenity during a most difficult time for families that have lost someone dear to them.

The first perpetual care trust was established one year later and remains in effect today. In 1977, The Tribute Companies was retained to design and market the cemetery’s first mausoleum. The firm successfully promoted several more buildings to the surrounding community and in 1998, the company acquired ownership of Restlawn. Today, Christine Toson has managed Restlawn Memorial Park since 2003.

Restlawn is invested in making their cemetery a true community park. They hold numerous events throughout the year, including services for veteran’s holidays, movies in the cemetery and Trunk-or-Treat. Restlawn remains one of only a few family-owned and operated memorial parks in the State of Wisconsin, which the Toson family takes great pride in.

RICHARD “DICK” DUDLEY

2

Richard Dudley was born October 29, 1923 in Waupaca, WI. After graduating from high school, Dick joined the U.S. Navy, serving during WWII. After the war he returned home to Wausau, where he married Eileen Deneen and began his career in broadcasting with WSAU Radio. Dick and Eileen would have four children together. He quickly began to climb the corporate ladder, helping to launch Wausau’s first TV station, expand the radio station’s reach, and create a network of stations across the Midwest. By 1979, Dick was president of Forward Communications, which boasted 600 employees at broadcast stations across the country. Dick retired from broadcasting, in 1989, after Forward Communications was sold for a second time. In the same year, he was inducted into the WI Broadcasting Association Hall of Fame. Eileen Deneen had passed away in 1984, and in 1990 Dick married Nancy Wanta. Mr. Dudley continued to serve as chairman of the Dudley Foundation, known for supporting numerous local organizations and charities, until his death on August 27, 2013 at the age of 89.



ALLAN GABRILSKA

3

Allan Gabrilkska was born in Green Lake, WI on July 13, 1912. After graduating from Fond du Lac High School, he attended Carroll College, studying physical education and recreation. He went on to earn his M.S. from UW-Madison in the same fields. In 1937, Allan came to Wausau to teach PE at Wausau Senior High School, where he assisted the noted coach, Win Brockmeyer. In 1939 Allan married Helen Howell and they would have two children. In addition to his 30+ year teaching career, Allan served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, was president of the Board of Trustees at the First Universalist Church, and was an active member of the Rib Mountain Ski Patrol for 25 years. Mr. Gabrilkska died on January 18, 1968 at the age of 55.



4

PATRICK STONE



Patrick Stone was born on June 21, 1889 in Pembroke, Ontario. His family moved to Tomahawk in 1891 and he attended school there. Patrick then studied law at Marquette University, graduating in 1912. He came to Wausau, set up his office, and practiced law until WWI broke out and he joined the U.S. Navy. After the war, he returned to Wausau and married Blanche Dessert in 1919 and they had three children. Patrick served as City Attorney for eight years, and was a member of the democratic convention, before being appointed to the Federal Bench by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. He served as judge in the U.S. District Court, for the Western District of WI. Perhaps his most notable case was *United States vs. Socony-Vacuum Oil Company* which saw the anti-trust prosecution of more than 20 major oil companies. Judge Stone served the court for almost 30 years until his death on January 13, 1963 at the age of 73.

5

TATIANA EWENKO



Tatiana Shapka was born on October 9, 1925 in Zapparus, Ukraine. In her early teens, during WWII, Tatiana was taken from her family and placed in a concentration camp where she managed to survive until the end of the war. Following this, Tatiana found herself in a displaced person's camp where she met Makar Ewenko. They were married in Germany in 1947 and were able to find passage to America, sponsored by the Grabko family of Hatley, WI. They settled in Wausau, and Tatiana took a job at Ed's Cafe. She taught herself how to cook and speak English. She went on to work for the Landmark Hotel, the Wausau Club and the Tropical Gardens. In 2018, Tatiana was the first winner of Wausau's Silver Pageant at age 93. Mrs. Ewenko died on April 16, 2019 at age 93.

ARNOLD PLIER

6

Arnold Plier was born in Oconto Falls, WI on October 29, 1901. In 1921, Arnold married Hersa Boyce. His first job was with the International Paper Mill, before moving to Wausau in 1930, with Arnold taking a job at D.J. Murry Machinery. Originally hired in the production department, Arnold quickly moved up in the company. In 1944, he was secretary. In 1948, he was a director. In 1950 he was named executive vice-president and general manager, and finally, in 1953 he was elected president of the company. Arnold held the position until 1967 while also serving as the director of the First American National Bank, and as a member of numerous boards. He was also a supporter of many charity groups, including serving as director of the YMCA's Camp Manitowish in Boulder Junction. Arnold was an avid curler, and played a large role in establishing the Wausau Curling Club and their facilities at Marathon Park. Mr. Plier died on March 20, 1972 at the age of 70.



ARTHUR SIEWERT

7

Arthur Siewert was born in Wausau on October 6, 1886. He joined the Wausau Police Force in 1912 at the age of 26. On September 13, 1913, Arthur married Meta Ohm and they would have five children together. In 1921, he was appointed as undersheriff for Marathon County. He decided to run for sheriff in 1922, and won the election by a landslide. Arthur served as sheriff, then undersheriff, then sheriff a second time. Just a month before the end of his term in 1928, Arthur was involved in a car crash which crushed his left arm up to the elbow. His lower arm had to be amputated, but he was back in action as undersheriff by 1929. Despite running, Arthur was never elected as sheriff a third time. He spent his later years judging boxing matches, and coaching the Wausau Independents - a junior baseball team. Mr Siewert died August 30, 1961 at age 74.



8

SHIRLEY PALESH



Shirley Palesh was born on November 23, 1929 in Chicago, IL. Both of her parents were Wisconsin natives from the town of Hewitt, and around 1930 the family had moved back to the Wausau area. As a young adult, Shirley played softball, as an outfielder, pitcher and leading hitter, and helped her team, the Wausau Lumber Jeans, win the WI regionals. These skills also helped her win a place in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. In 1949, she played outfield and pitched for the Racine Bells. In 1950, she was playing outfield for the Rockford Peaches, when she injured her leg and was released from the Peaches that August. The Peaches went on to win the league championship that year. The next year, despite being asked by another team, Shirley turned down the offer in order to stay closer to home and to remain with her job at Marathon Paper Mill. This did not mean, however, that Shirley stopped playing ball. She continued to play softball, bowled, and pitched for an amateur team, the Palace Clothier Cuties. In 1957 Shirley moved to Menasha to play softball for the Menasha Mackettes and work for Banta Publishing, who she would retire from in 1992. She died on March 1, 2017 at age 87.

9

DISPLAY OF DEATH

A bonus stop on our tour, before you leave, make sure to stop by the Display of Death to see artifacts which tell us how people mourned their loved ones and celebrated their lives. This collection is put together by our Curator of Artifacts, Kathy Volkmann. She has a long-time passion for these items and the social history of how we have dealt with death and mourning.

Thank You!

*Thank you for touring with us today!
We hope you enjoyed the experience and
learned something new.*

*We would like to thank each and every one of our
volunteers for helping to make this event possible!*

*Our thanks to the following people and organizations
for supporting this project:*

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