

New Staff at the Octagon House



The House Director

The Octagon House opened the season with a smiling new face greeting museum visitors. Heidi Rushmann, who lives in River Falls with her four-year-old son Ryan, is our new Director of the museum.

Heidi graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in history. She previously worked at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul and at the Goodhue County Historical Society in Red Wing in their education departments.

She plans to develop hands-on programs for children at the St. Croix County Historical Society to whet their interest in Hudson history.

After assisting SCCHS volunteers in readying the Octagon House for the new season and its theme, "A Victorian Family Album," Heidi has been very busy learning about the House and her duties.

The Crandells

The St. Croix County Historical Society would also like to welcome the new Octagon House caretakers, Ed and Carla Crandell. They are from Trego, WI and felt this job was a great opportunity for them. Ed is also a drywaller. The couple has two grown children and one grandson. The Crandells recently moved to Hudson, and now occupy the apartment that was added on to the back of the Octagon House in the late 1800s.

The caretakers' main responsibilities are to maintain the lawn and gardens, to provide security for the museum, and to tend to minor repairs both inside and out. Since the house has been closed for the last four months, there has been a lot of cleaning up and rearranging to do.



The necessary removal of the three large trees in the back yard has resulted in a big job for Ed and Carla. They must remove the wood shavings from the tree stumps and fill in the space they occupied. Gone with the trees is the shade they provided, so sun gardens must be planted in their place. Dorothy Wilson, SCCHS garden consultant, along with her husband Byrd, Jean Haute and the Crandells, have been working very hard and have made great progress with the garden transformation. With a little sun and warm weather the gardens will soon be as beautiful as ever.

The season opens Tuesday, May 2. New hours this year for the House are 12 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sundays. For information more call (715) 386-2654.