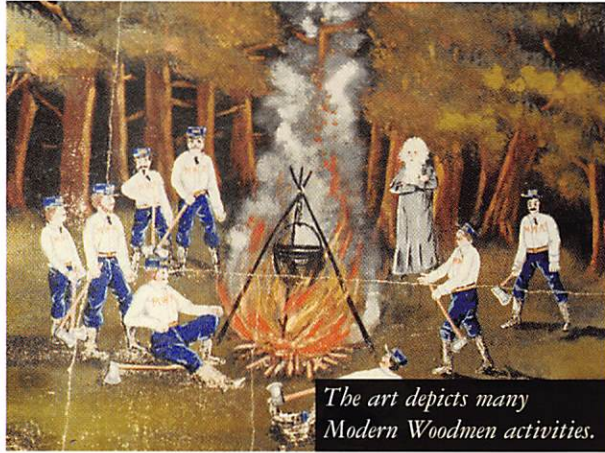


MODERN WOODMEN: PAST AND PRESENT



The art depicts many Modern Woodmen activities.

Helping others in times of hardship. That's what Joseph Cullen Root set out to do in 1883 when he founded Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal life insurance organization. Root wanted to eliminate the financial burden families face when a man died leaving a widow and children.

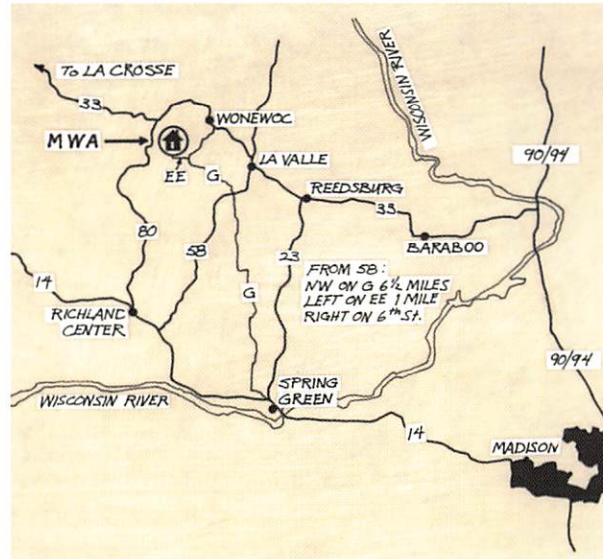
Today Modern Woodmen's nationwide network of representatives continue to carry out Root's vision. Today's representatives help families gain financial security, positive family life and community service opportunities with life insurance, annuity and investment* products and fraternal programs.

While just a few camp halls, like the one in Valton, are still used by Modern Woodmen camps (lodges) today, some things have stayed the same. The fun and fellowship members enjoy at potlucks, pizza parties and fund-raising activities is still much the same as it was when Ernest Hüpeden painted the Valton camp hall over a century ago.

VISITING THE FOREST

View the well-preserved folk art, get a glimpse of yesteryear, and check out a display of historical artifacts donated by Modern Woodmen of America. Visit the Painted Forest on Saturdays from 1:00 - 3:30 p.m., during June, July and August.

Or for a special appointment, contact Jesse Stout at (608) 983-2524 or S1967 4th Street, Wonewoc, WI 53968.

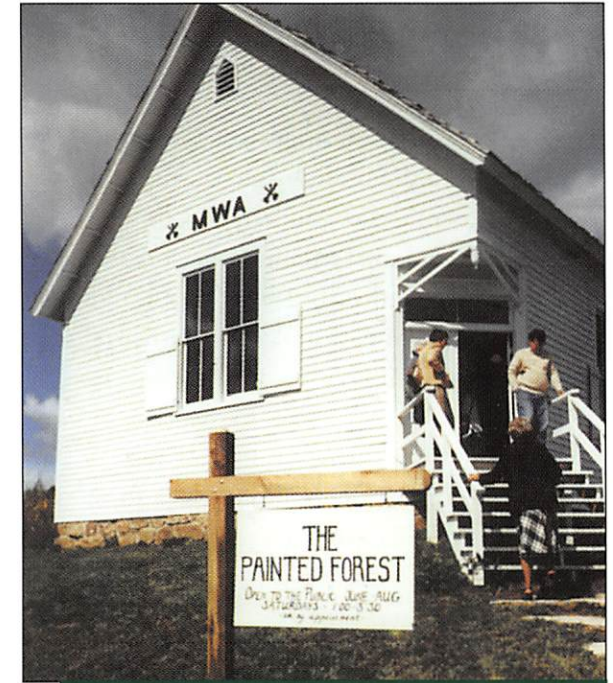


*Securities are offered through MWA Financial Services, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Modern Woodmen of America, 1701 1st Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201, 309-558-3100. Member: NASD, SIPC.

Products are available in most states. Individual representatives may not be licensed to sell all products.



A Fraternal Life Insurance Society
HOME OFFICE: 1701 1ST AVENUE, ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61201
www.modern-woodmen.org



*A proud reminder
OF YESTERYEAR*

Off the well-beaten path and tucked away in a small Wisconsin town you'll find the Painted Forest. The Painted Forest is a unique reminder of Modern Woodmen of America's past and a slice of midwestern life from a time gone by. Murals painted on this Modern Woodmen camp hall's (lodge building) walls by an itinerant folk artist – Ernest Hüpeden – depict historic rituals and tell stories about rural life around 1900.

The history of the PAINTED FOREST

Hundreds of camp halls (lodge buildings), like the building in Valton, Wis., were built by members of Modern Woodmen of America, a fraternal life insurance organization, in the late 1800 and early 1900s. The buildings provided camp members a place to gather regularly for meetings, fellowship and fun.

The Valton structure measures 60' x 33' x 24'. Simply designed, the building has a foyer and two rooms. The walls inside the camp hall are graced with the art of a traveling landscape painter, Ernest Hüpeden, who traded his artistic talent for room and board at a local hotel. Every inch of wall space is covered with a panoramic mural.

On the walls were literal and symbolic depictions of Modern Woodmen camp activities of the time. Among the vivid displays, frightening scenes to symbolize death are counter-balanced with peaceful scenes of home life and fellowship. Tall trees climbed upward onto the arched ceiling, mingling with blue sky and white clouds.

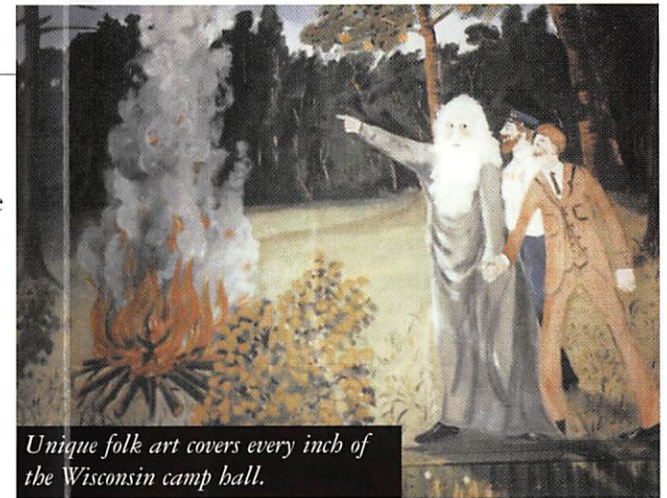


Hüpeden completed the murals in December 1899.

The Valton Camp flourished for nearly 20 years, providing the people of Valton with life insurance protection and fraternalism. The camp hall, then known as Wood Hall, was a popular community gathering place.

As America became more urban, Valton became smaller; and eventually, Wood Hall ceased to be used for Modern Woodmen meetings. The hall was purchased in the 1960s by local residents, Ronald and Delores Nash. The Nashes maintained the building and allowed the community to use it for special functions. It was the Nashes who named the camp hall The Painted Forest.

In 1978, the artistic and historic importance of The Painted Forest as a unique, well-preserved example of Wisconsin folk art was recognized. Wisconsin's Kohler Foundation, with an interest in preserving folk art and Wisconsin history, purchased the property in 1980, and major restoration work soon began. After completing the renovation, the foundation presented Sauk County with the deed to The Painted Forest in 1982. The Historical Society of the Upper Baraboo Valley is the custodian of the historical site.



Unique folk art covers every inch of the Wisconsin camp hall.

Remembering the artist

While imprisoned in his native Germany for a crime he didn't commit, Ernest Hüpeden began painting. The man who committed the embezzlement at the bank where Hüpeden had worked confessed on his deathbed, and Hüpeden was freed. He fled to the United States in 1878.

He worked for several years throughout southern Wisconsin, often exchanging his paintings for lodging and meals. Although educated in a German university, he is considered self-taught or a folk artist.

In addition to painting murals inside homes and on the outside of barns and other buildings, Hüpeden often painted portraits and landscapes on plates and bottles.

Hüpeden was found dead in a snow bank in Hillsboro, Wis., in the early 1900s.

Art historians continue to search for additional information about this traveling artist. And only a few of his works have been found.