

Iowa County Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XXIX

No. 3

July 2004

Potpourri

The generosity of Pat and Mike Reilly, owners of the **Dodgeville Chronicle** and several other Iowa County newspapers, has enabled the ICHS to provide a 138 year inventory of Chronicle microfilm for the use of interested historians and genealogists. See page 3 for details.

Cornish Fest and Celtic celebration at Mineral Point Sept. 24-26.

To the Editor's surprise there is conflicting information about that blizzard baby supposedly identified in the April Newsletter. Member **Eileen Arndt** states that a chain of circumstances indicates that another baby and another blizzard in another year may be involved. When the Editor catches up, he will give that blizzard baby the right name and the right year of birth, without a shadow of doubt. Thanks to Eileen for her input.

Earl and Eunice Maughan of Dodgeville were the latest ICHS Oral History subjects. Earl is a strong 90 plus years. The interview was done by Kiwanians **Dave Pearson** and the Editor.

The new computer and the PastPerfect museum software mentioned on pages 4 and 7 are being utilized by **Boyd Geer** to help the Society keep track of its members. Letters of renewal and reminders of other Society programs will be easier to process with the powerful new software. Society holdings including photographs, will be sorted by category and become easier to locate. Improved member service will result. Call if you can do some data entry.

Ice Cream Social

4:30 p. m. Thursday,
July 22, 2004

at the Museum 1301 N.
Bequette St.

Meal, Dodge, Music and Fun



"An afternoon with Col.
and Mrs. Dodge"

*Henry Dodge, his wife
Christiana and family at
The Dodge Cabin*

July 22, 1—4 p. m.
205 E. Fountain St.
Dodgeville

Fall Tour Oct. 21

National Mississippi River
Museum and Aquarium
Dubuque, Iowa

Deluxe Bus

\$30.60 includes bus, lunch at
Bishops and museum ticket
Pickup 8:45 a. m. ICHS Mu-
seum Home 5:00 p. m.

Advance ticket sales only

For details and reservations prior
to October 1, 2004 call Museum
608-935-7694

ICHS Directors

Sherry Einerson, Pres	930-2035
Boyd Geer, VP	930-9084
John Hess, Sec.	588-7082
Marie Sersch, Treas.	935-5752
Ruth Bahr	532-6843
Melva Phillips	924-5508
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Helen Radtke	987-2892
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*ICHS has almost 30 local history
titles for sale*

Iowa County Planning for Our National Birthday ... 1776-1976

Everett Olsen Looks Back

Neil Giffey suggested that there be something on record as to what was done for the Iowa County celebration of the American Bicentennial. Since I am the only one left of the original committee, it seems the effort is worth while. The committee consisted of **Gerald M. Fieldhouse** and **Everett Olsen**, Co-chairs, Dodgeville; **Bob Pechan**, Avoca; **Bob Neal**, Mineral Point; **Edna Meudt** and **Ruby Skaife**, Dodgeville.

These were outstanding individuals. As I looked over some of the letters I wrote involving committees, etc., I realize there were hundreds of people that volunteered their time and talents.

I think it is noteworthy to mention that not one cent was appropriated by the Iowa County Board or any other municipality for this activity. Funds were obtained from the sale of bicentennial medallions and other bicentennial material. When we concluded our year, we presented Iowa County a box of four solid silver bicentennial medallions worth \$100 and a certificate of deposit of \$300 to be used as seed money when Iowa County celebrates its own bicentennial in 2029. (Does anyone know if this seed money is still in waiting?)

Through the sale of **Margaret Metcalf's** "The Schools of Iowa County," a fund was created to give aspiring authors money to get their writings published.

Bill Drury of the Community Action Program was able to obtain **Jean Whitford** to assist with committee work such as keeping financial records, etc. She was a great asset.

Following are most of the accomplishments of which we have records or memories.

A play, "The Life and Times of Henry Dodge," was presented three times at the Mineral Point Theater. Iowa County students representing each school were sent free tickets to this dramatic presentation of documented local history. Only the Dodgeville schools took advantage of this. The play was researched and written by Edna Kritz Meudt. Reid Gilbert of Valley Studio, Spring Green was the director-producer. A federal grant of \$1575 was received by the local committee. This was matching money and most of the local money was raised by the cast and the local committee.

A replica of the 1859 Courthouse at Mineral Point was built as a float by the bicentennial committee and with volunteer help from the Dodgeville senior citizens. It won first place in the Iowa County Dairy Days Parade and was also displayed at festivities at Mineral Point, Spring Green and Avoca.

An Iowa County Century Farms program was initiated. Special certificates were developed. Over 80 families received these and 175 people attended a special Iowa County Century Farm Program at the Don Q Inn. In 1976, 40 people submitted century farm certificates to the Wisconsin State Fair administration and received recognition.

Booklets were published: Margaret Metcalf's committee published "The Schools of Iowa County"; Judy Lynch and John Harris, "Pulaski-Avoca," 1776-1976; Avis Rott and committee published "Clyde in the Valley of Otter Creek"; Mrs. William Lauper and Mrs. Arnie Thompson, "History of the Town of Moscow"; Melva Phillips, "History of Military Ridge"; and John Helmenstine, "History of the Village of Barneveld and Town of Brigham." I'm sure there were others, but these are the only ones that come to mind.

An Iowa County seal was developed. This is enclosed in the folder donated to the Society.. (Note that tourism is not mentioned. At this time people did not recognize or accept tourism as a contributing factor in Iowa County.)

The Iowa County Bicentennial Committee presented a framed picture of our first Territorial Governor Henry Dodge to the county to be displayed in the County Board Room. **(It should be noted that because of Edna Meudt's diligence, this was the real Governor Dodge and not the picture which had been incorrectly identified as Governor Dodge. Probably not relevant. Edna probably would not have known that more than two oil portraits identified as Dodge existed.)**

On July 16 and 17 of 1976 a Sesquicentennial Festival was held in the Armory with emphasis on the ethnic groups in Iowa County and their contributions to our culture. Each display had either a map or flag or both of their nationality along with samples of clothing, art, food and other artifacts.

Reilly Brothers Provide Microfilm for Society

by Neil Giffey

It began with a call from the office of the Dodgeville Chronicle. Staffer Todd Novak told us that the little gray box on page 1 in the January 2004 Newsletter had found interested readers. **Pat and Mike Reilly**, co-owners of the **Chronicle**, the **Democrat Tribune** in Mineral Point and the **Pecatonica Valley Leader**, were very interested in our request for a donor or donors to step up and fill in the gaps in the Society microfilm archive. The



Pat and Mike Reilly with the Chronicle microfilm

Society had the appropriate films for the initial years of the Chronicle's pioneering 1862-1898 effort in Iowa County but the financial well had gone dry and help was needed. Well, after some back-and-forth discussions with Todd Novak as the intermediary, the Reilly brothers have placed their updated set of microfilms on loan to the Iowa County Historical Society. The generous long-term loan considerably augments the historical and genealogical resources of the Society museum at 1301 North Bequette St., Dodgeville. For a listing of the microfilm resources now available at the museum, **please note the box on the bottom of this page.**

The public is invited to arrange in advance, if possible, for their genealogical and historical research visits in order that the museum staff, consisting mostly of volunteers,

will be available at a time convenient for those concerned. A microfilm reader and a reader printer are available for those who wish to copy the fruits of their research.

Our members and others with a thirst to know about the very different world inhabited by their ancestors are now provided an unparalleled opportunity for ancestor hunting. The business, social and political events, the obituaries, the triumphs and tragedies of the past, are part of the fabric of our lives. If we wish to know and if Iowa County Wisconsin is our root source, we can probably find the answers at ICHS, thanks to Pat and Mike Reilly.

Newspaper Microfilm at ICHS

Arena Wis. Star, 1874-1876 and 1877-1886, becomes
Dodgeville Star in 1883-1886, becomes
Rural Eye, 1887-1887
The Eye and Star 1893-1895 become
The New Star, 1895-1896
Rural Eye of Arena, 1887-1888 and 1888-1889 becomes
The Eye and Star, 1890-1893
Index to Wisconsin Miscellaneous Newspapers
New Star, 1896-1897
New Star, 1898-1900
Dodgeville Chronicle, 1862-2002
Barneveld Banner, some issues missing
The Hollandale Review, some issues missing



Pat and Mike Reilly at the microfilm viewer

According to The Memoirs of Iowa County, **James Jenkins** broke the first sod in the county. He plowed ten acres in sections 16 and 21, township of Dodgeville, planting corn and potatoes. No record of his success exists.

Continued from page 2

The Iowa County Historical Society was formed as a spin-off of the work and research committee reports for the National Bicentennial. Medallions and surplus material were donated to the new Historical Society.

The interest created by the Bicentennial was responsible for obtaining an historical marker for Wisconsin's oldest active courthouse in Dodgeville.

Many local people contributed many hours of labor, attended many meetings, and helped with the **Art Train Program**, with TV and radio programs. They built better than they knew. We still benefit from their vision and hard work. *Everett Olsen, former Iowa County Resource Agent, is a graduate of U-W Madison with both bachelors and masters degrees. He and his wife Zella are Dodgeville residents. Editor.*

Acquisitions

Anonymous donor, PastPerfect software.

Mary Hull, Dodgeville, two massive four drawer fire files to preserve your family stories.

Reilly Brothers (Pat and Mike), Dodgeville, complete Dodgeville Chronicle microfilm.

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society, a 1920s wall phone originally from the Halverson home in Iowa County, by **John and Alvin Halverson**.

Carolyn Meuer, Dodgeville, "Memories of Wisconsin" by Mary Blanche Humbert Terrill and "The Meuer Family History."

Melvin Hendrickson, letters of Ellen Peterson to Hans Peterson, 1890-1891.

In the headlines:

Stolen Painting Found by Tree ... War Dims Hope for Peace

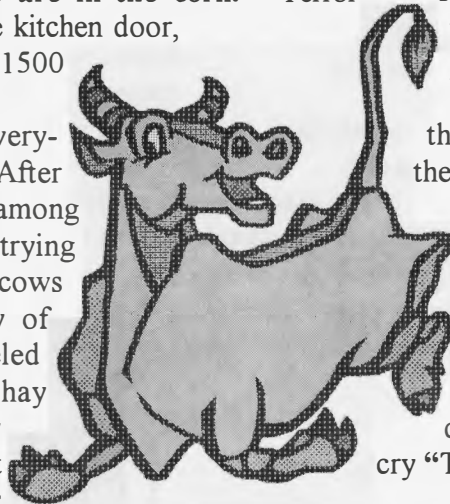
The Cows Are in the Corn

by Neil Giffey

The worst nightmare for Wisconsin boys growing up on a dairy farm, trying to sleep on a stifling August night, was the cry, "**The cows are in the corn.**" Terror struck. They grabbed their jeans, and in the moments it took to stumble out the kitchen door, they heard the crackling of brittle stalks of corn, the whiplash sound of 1500 pound Holsteins going diagonally across the carefully planted rows.

Humidity hung over every-they thought, their very souls. After few "cow to cow" collisions among farm family line of "drivers" trying barnyard gate. Later, the cows sweaty and disgruntled family of via a dipper from an enameled and tried to relax. Second crop hay As they awakened to a busy minded them of that midnight

Your editor hopes this ries for some of our readers



thing like a blanket of soft cotton, including, so the exuberant and childlike heel kicking and not a the six foot stalks of corn, it came down to a to sweep their bovine meal tickets toward the drank from the outdoor stock tank while the cow drivers partook of much cleaner water pail in the kitchen. They retired once more was down and ready to bale on the morrow. day, the low rumble of bovine digestion re-cry "**The cows are in the corn.**"

oft repeated true story brought back memo-with roots in the soil.

Bus Tour October 21, 2004

National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium

Dubuque, Iowa

Cost \$30.60

Includes: Lunch at Bishops - Museum admission

ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY

CALL 608-935-7694

Pickup: 8:45 a. m. sharp at ICHS museum, Dodgeville, Home 5 p. m.

Bonus Stops
Dubuque Lock and Dam
Eagle Point Park
overlooking the River

Guided tour
at the
museum

Iowa County Historical Society

Museum Policy

Due to the increased need to invest in updated museum technology, the Society has found itself in the position of subsidizing the services requested by our clients. Since no business, even a non-profit, can expect to long endure at a loss, the Society has adopted the following rules for all visitors and researchers:

- 1- All handbags, backpacks, tote bags and brief cases must be left in your car or on the designated table in the museum.
- 2- The use of digital cameras and scanners is prohibited.
- 3- The curator will provide guidance to help you search for the information you desire. If the Staff participates in your research the charge will be \$15 per hour.
- 4- The cost for document copying will be 50 cents for single sided and 75 cents for double sided standard paper. Legal sized sheets are \$2 for one side and \$1 for each additional copy of legal size.
- 5- Microfilm copies from the reader-printer are \$1 per 8 ½" x 11" sheet.
- 6- Photographic prints in the Society collection will be scanned and printed on 70 pound paper for a fee of \$3 per copy or on photographic paper for \$5 per sheet.
- 7- If you are unable to complete your search during regular museum hours, you may leave a written list of items that you wish to have researched by Society staff. You will be notified when the staff search is completed. The results will be forwarded to you on receipt of a fee of \$15 per hour. This fee applies to the actual time expended by ICHS staff and is payable even if the search does not produce the desired results.
- 8- Summer museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday from May 1 to September 30.
- 9- Winter hours are by appointment only.
- 10- The Society is pleased that you are using our archival facility. We hope that your search will be successful.

Thank you for coming.

Henry Dodge and his wife, Christiana McDonald Dodge to appear in Dodgeville afternoon and evening of July 22

We don't like to brag but not every Wisconsin town is slated for a visit by the Dodge family. No kidding,

Henry, Christiana and some of the kids will be at the Dodge cabin in Dodgeville from 1 to 4 pm on July 22 and will then appear at the Ice Cream Social at the museum from 4:30 to about 7:30 pm. They will be attired in the stunningly uncomfortable clothing of the 1820s and are well prepared to answer your questions about their trials and challenges as they settled in Michigan Territory, all for the pursuit of lead and wealth.

Many of our readers have seen the Dodge in buckskin by George Catlin, but the portrait of Christiana McDonald Dodge on the right is a rare likeness and clearly depicts her as the worn but dignified mother of thirteen children.

See you on July 22, 2004.



Col. Henry Dodge
1834 by George Catlin



Christiana McDonald
Dodge

Moscow Village Moves Forward Library Association Formed

by Neil Giffey

We didn't take notes during our visit to the founding celebration of the Moscow Village Library Association, circa 1872, but remembered a little bit. We thought our readers might enjoy this photograph of the forward-

looking citizens of the area as they celebrated the founding of the Moscow Village Library Association in southeastern Iowa County, Wisconsin. The **Holland** Brothers of local fame are standing on the rustic platform which was also used on 17 May, 1873 by the famed Norwegian violinist, **Ole Bull**, as he charmed the **Syttende Mai** crowd with tunes wrung out of a borrowed violin. That very same violin was played on 17 May, 2003 on a similar rustic platform by **Peter Schultz**, descendant of the owner of that fiddle lent to Ole Bull in 1873.

Well remembered is that wonderful Syttende Mai celebration in 2003, so ably coordinated by **Priscilla Lewis** and her husband **Mel**. We need more celebrations like that great

joyous happening. By the way.... *Fremad on the sign*, means forward or onward.



Now we know: Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge ... Kids Make Delicious Snacks

Synopsis

Minutes of Board Meeting-ICHS – March 18, 2004

Meeting called to order by President Sherry Einerson at 1 PM at the Museum. Other Board Members present: Boyd Geer, Neil Giffey, Alice Griffiths, John Hess, Melva Phillips, Helen Radtke and Marie Serssch. New member Alice welcomed.

Minutes of the January 15, 2004 Board Meeting were read with a motion to accept, seconded and carried. Likewise for the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business

1. Museum Policy. Sherry passed out copies of the "Statewide Rules for Vital Statistics Offices" used by the Iowa County Office of Register of Deeds, to be used to help establish Museum policy for fee structures and use of digital cameras and scanners. Matter was referred to the Museum Committee for recommendation to the Board.

2. Museum Committee Report. Chairperson Melva reported that the Museum Committee met twice to address Museum issues and needs and had recommendations for the Board to consider:

-New Computer Committee recommended a new computer was vital for record keeping for the Museum collections and that there was \$740 in the Computer Fund. Two additional contributions of \$100 each by Neil and Sherry at the meeting increased the fund to \$940 with more to be solicited. Neil described the features needed and the costs. Boyd described "Past Perfect Museum Software" and how it could be used by the ICHS with a new computer. The software price reflected a discount if the ICHS joined the national museum organization that developed the software. Motion by Boyd, second by Melva to acquire new computer and monitor from Applied Micro in Dodgeville and join museum organization. Motion carried unanimously. Museum Committee authorized to handle purchase.

-Museum Collections Melva reported the Committee discussed the Museum collections including the salt and pepper shaker collection as to what was appropriate for permanent display and what should be placed in storage to relieve crowded conditions. There were no recommendations other than the Deed of Gift form needed modification to give the ICHS more flexibility, and that the Board needed to approve future acquisitions to insure they would be Iowa County related and appropriate for display at the Museum. In response to Helen's prior request to return her donated sewing machine because it was not on display, motion by Boyd, second by Melva to return it. Motion carried unanimously.

-Meetin/Work Table Boyd described need for table and presented options and costs. Further checking to be done before making acquisition.

-Fireproof Cabinets Melva reported the two recently donated cabinets were without locking systems, and the cost to install for both would be \$350. Motion by Boyd, second by Neil to authorize. Motion carried unanimously.

-Water Fountain Melva reported the water fountain was repaired at a cost of \$83

with Marie to check if the city of Dodgeville would pay the bill.

-School Desks Melva reported the Committee discussed placing the school desks in storage to free up space in the research and archive area, with no recommendation. Board reviewed various options and concluded choices would have to be made, but took no action at this point.

3. Garage/yard sale April 24. Motion by Helen to pay City of Dodgeville \$10 to be placed on a map for the citywide garage/yard sale on April 24. Second by Neil, motion carried unanimously.

4. Ice Cream Social July 22. Discussed preliminary plans and felt Tom Bedka or Lyle Foley would be suitable entertainment with Sherry to look into.

New Business

1. Fall tour to National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium. John reported on a recent visit and asked if there was interest in an organized tour to be sponsored by the ICHS. John authorized to begin the arrangements with first publicity in the July Newsletter.

2. Sherry reported a week long fund raising project with Culver's has been scheduled for the end of March into April

3. Sherry reviewed mail and correspondence received since last meeting with the Board.

4. Neil showed a two-sided handout inviting membership in the ICHS that could be placed in Dodgeville's "Welcome Wagon" kit that is given to newcomers. Cost would be \$30 for 200 copies. Motion by Boyd to authorize, second by Alice, motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4PM. J. Hess, Secretary.

New Computer Purchased

To augment the existing computer fund at ICHS, four generous donors recently wrote checks which enabled the Society to purchase a high capacity computer from **Applied Micro** of Dodgeville. The donors were: **Sherry Einerson, Calvin Olson, Neil Giffey and Alice Griffiths**. Now we can record and catalog society holdings so that they become more accessible to the public.

Annual Meeting-ICHS
7 p.m., 26 October, 2004
Dodgeville-City Hall

Membership Application

Iowa County Historical Society

MAIL TO: MARIE SERSCH

106 E. Pine St., Dodgeville, WI 53533

Individual/Family - annual	\$10.00
Historian - annual	\$25.00
Master Historian - annual	\$50.00
Special Individual/Family - 5 year	\$40.00

Please stay current



Name _____ Street _____ P. O. Box _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Membership Period _____ Amount enclosed _____

*I am interested in making a tax deductible gift to the
Iowa County Historical Society. Please contact me at the above address.*

Signed _____

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Iowa County Historical Society

1301 N. Bequette St.

P. O. Box 44

Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044

MEMBERSHIPS**MAIL TO: MARIE SERSCH**

106 E. Pine St., Dodgeville, WI 53533

Individual/Family-annual \$10.00

Historian-annual \$25.00

Master Historian-annual \$50.00

Special Individual/Family-5 year \$40.00

ICHS SERVICES**GENEALOGY-HISTORIC RESEARCH**

The Society has extensive archives for Iowa County:
 history-cemeteries-obituaries-newspaper microfilm-artifacts
 For an appointment contact Curator Dorothy Anderson
 at the museum: 608-935-7694.

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Calendar of Events**Ice Cream Social**

July 22, 2004

at the Museum

1301 N. Bequette St.

Dodgeville

4:30 to 7 p. m.

Music, Dodge, meal, ice cream

Col. Henry Dodge, his wife Christiana and family members will be at the Dodge cabin from 1—4 p. m. on Thur., July 22 then at the ice-cream social reenacting and discussing early Iowa County history. Bring your kids.

Bus Tour to Dubuque October 21, 2004

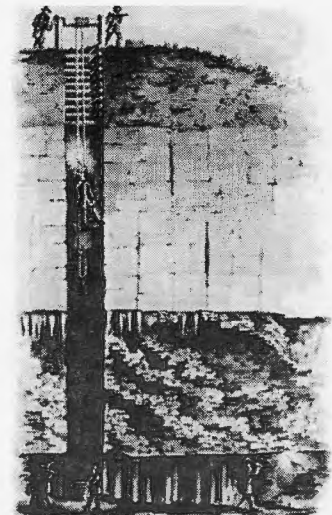
See page 4

Annual Meeting ICHS

7:30 p. m. Tuesday

26 October, 2004

Dodgeville City Hall

*Please renew now now now now**Thank You*

Mining for fun and profit
 in Old Iowa County