

Iowa County Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XXIX

No. 4

October 2004

Potpourri

The ICHS Board of Directors has accepted with regret the resignation of President **Sherry Einerson**. Einerson submitted her resignation in June citing health problems as the major factor in her decision. Thanks, Sherry, for your hard work as Society president.

Member **Ed Rosenthal** of Lake Zurich, Illinois was pleased to see the Meier family story in the April newsletter.

Annual meeting of the ICHS is at 7:30 pm Tuesday, October 26, in the Dodgeville City Hall. **Bake Sale 6 Nov. Dick's at 8:30 a. m.**

We are pleased to observe that a move is afoot to save the **Old Middle School** sculptures as works of art. They have been in limbo since the controversial decision to demolish the old school. Tentative plans indicate they will be installed at outdoor locations at the Dodgeville Elementary School and the Iowa County Courthouse. Thanks to **Anne Bachner** for taking the lead in planning a place in the community for those splendid sculptures.

The new Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society is **Ellsworth H. Brown**. Brown has a long career in the management of historical organizations, most recently the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. He has served in an advisory or management capacity at the Smithsonian, the J. Paul Getty Trust, AASLH and as president of the American Association of Museums. He started his career by managing a county museum in SD then moving to directorship of the Tenn. State Museum.

The **Dodgeville Chronicle** microfilm count at the museum now includes all issues from 1862 through June 30, 2004. A **bonanza for historians and genealogists**. Give it a try.

Annual Meeting

7:30 p. m. Tuesday

26 October-04 Dodgeville City Hall

Starting at 7:30 p. m.

Tamara Funk and Craig Dunigan

Will look, act and talk like

Captain Smith Harris and Mrs.

Sarah Coates Harris as they

portray a Mississippi River

Captain and his wife in the

1850s. A great portrayal

Plan to attend, children welcome

Election and lunch to follow

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 Museum

Home 5:00 p. m.

Send your check to Marie Sersch, address on page 8

Thomas Jefferson said that people who expect to be ignorant and free expect what never was and never will be.

ICHS Directors

Boyd Geer, Act. Pres. 930-9084
 John Hess, Sec. 588-7082
 Marie Sersch, Treas. 935-5752
 Ruth Bahr 532-6843
 Melva Phillips 924-5508
 Alice Griffiths 935-0574
 Helen Radtke 987-2892
 Neil Giffey, Editor 935-5557
 giffey@mhct.net

In This Issue

Groundbreaking in 1984
 Our first step
 Page 2



Eyewitness to History-1828
 Rebeckah Lamb Kirkpatrick
 Pages 3-4

Declaration of Intent
 to Become Citizen
 Historic Original Records
 to ICHS—Page 5

An afternoon with Col. and Mrs.
 Dodge big success
 Page 6

Loren Farrey
 A Hard Hat
 Miner
 Lectures
 Cabin Docents
 Page 7



Groundbreaking in 1984 The First Step to a New Museum

by Neil Giffey

A vintage photo of the ICHS Museum ground breaking ceremony in 1984 reminded the Editor that it was time for a story about that great day and the people who made it happen. After some digging through the ICHS newsletter stack in my office and searching the memories of some of my colleagues, I was no

closer to the actual day and year of that event. Don't remind me about the Chronicle microfilm in the archives, I was home and needed to get this edition to the printer. It was confirmed as 1984 and we did know where and why they were leaning on those shovels and the best part was that all participants were identified. To have a scene like this actually properly recorded is the dream of most any editor and certainly of the future genealogists who, we hope, will page through the newsletters trying to piece together a flesh and blood likenesses of their ancestors.

As announced in the July 1985 Newsletter, the newly completed museum actually was the site of an open house on May 5, 1985. The Dodgeville Chamber of Commerce, the City of Dodgeville, the Iowa

County Board, the members of the Iowa County Historical Society and especially the ICHS Board of Directors, came together as funding sources and sounding boards for the myriad details of planning a structure which would remain a credit to Iowa County for the foreseeable future. Such Society stalwarts as Lyla Vinje, Lucille Lauper, Melva Phillips, John Helmenstine, Milo Mellum and many others, too numerous to mention, deserve our respect for their diligence in working to achieve a worthwhile goal. They were very successful.



November 1984: Groundbreaking for construction of a museum headquarters building for the Iowa County Historical Society on North Bequette St., Dodgeville. Participants were, left to right: Frank Hess, Melva Phillips, Jim Jewell, Milo Mellum, Lyla Vinje, Ken Fox, John Swanson, Ron Dentinger, Bernard Sersch, Lucille Lauper, Vernon Bell, Marie Sersch, Charlene Murn, Jim Murn.

Novem

Now the Society faces the challenge of building expansion inasmuch as the generosity of the donors c artifacts, genealogies and the treasured mementoes of our past has created a space problem. In order to properly protect and make accessible the Society collections, it has become essential that they be properly inventoried in the new computer system and that the fragile documents be housed and protected for future generations of users. Be aware the Society still desires to hear about your potential artifact donations.

Updates

The Museum Policy text on page 5 in the July newsletter has been revised to allow the use of digital cameras in the museum. A fee of \$3.00 per photo and/or document copied through the use of a digital camera is payable at the time the photo is taken.

A further revision: Photographic prints in the Society collections, color or black and white, will be scanned and printed on photo paper for \$6.00 per single print.

Answering Machine

Yes, we can take your messages 24-7. We will reply as soon as possible.

Remember: Leave your full name, telephone number, mail address and ... email address for fast service. The number is: **608-935-7694**

AASLH

The ICHS has joined the **American Association of State and Local Historical Societies**, a clearing house for ideas for thousands of local societies.

**From the Pen of
Rebeckah Lamb Kirkpatrick Loofbourrow
*Eyewitness to the First Lead Region Settlements***

Rebeckah Lamb was born in Indiana on 24 July 1816. She came to Wisconsin in 1828 with her family where her father set up a farm near Wiota in Lafayette County, Wisconsin. He was a soldier in the Black Hawk War. Rebeckah married a Mr. Kirkpatrick who later died. She then married Dr. John Loofbourrow. He was born in Virginia and practiced medicine in Ohio for a time before coming to Mineral Point in 1828. He practiced medicine in Fayette, Wiota and other communities of south west Wisconsin before settling finally in Mineral Point. He also served in the Black Hawk War. Dr. John and Rebeckah Loofbourrow had six children, one of whom married Abram Buss, second great uncle to Marion Howard.

This fascinating account of early days was written by Rebeckah sometime prior to her death on 20 May 1893. It has been copied verbatim. The paper from which it was copied had the appearance of ledger paper, quite old, the handwriting very small and neat, but with the ink fading and the creases of the paper, it became nec-

essary to read it with a magnifying glass. The copies were by Hazel O. R. Peuhn. The manuscript was loaned for copying in 1952 by a grandson of Dr. Loofbourrow and Rebeckah, Arthur Burton Loofbourrow. It was received by Marion Howard of Darlington, Wisconsin from a 92-year-old granddaughter of Rebeckah Lamb residing in North Carolina.

In 1827 there were but few miners at **Mineral Point**, tho there were valuable lead ores discovered, which was worked by permit of the Government by paying a certain percentage of all the ores mined (*probably one tenth*) which was deducted out of the price of the ore when sold to the smelters and they had

to run on mold that portion which belonged to the government, in molds (*molds refers to the forms in which the molten ore cooled to become lead pigs of about 75 pounds each*) marked U. S. which was delivered to the government officers. The furnices then used was built with rock something like the old fashioned lime kiln. They rolled in large logs at the top, then put on a layer of ore, then mix in ? wood alternately untill the furnace was filled. They had a basin in the front and a little lower than the hearth so the melted lead would run out in from 27 to 30 hours after the fire was started, they diped the melted lead with iron ladles, and poured in molds which held 75 pounds.

In the Spring of '27 there was a mining company formed consisting of 15 members which purchased the right of the mines, then discovered there was not a place to shelter their heads, so they put up a tent and lived in it untill they built a log cabin, they hired a young married couple to do the cooking for the hands, the signal for dinner was a rag hung out so the boys gave the place the name of "shake rag." It went by that name for

some time, even now there are a few that would know what place is ment by it.

In 1828 the place began to thrive, thee were many sod houses and several log cabins built, 2 or 3 stores and grog shops, and a billiard table which afforded recreation for many on the Sabbath, but those better disposed employed a Baptist minister rather liberal in his views, for he seemed to enjoy himself at the billiard table through the week and would preach to us on Sundays in his large sod house, we used to call it "going up to Jerusalem to Worship." Some times our attention would be attracted by his son, a young man,



Rebeckah Lamb Kirkpatrick Loofbourrow
Eyewitness to Lead Region history

(Continued from page 3)

hauling wood to the door during services. As he used oxen he had to hollow pretty loud. In the spring the rains came and the wind blew so his mansion fell, but it was still called Jerusalem Street.

There were but few teams wintered in Wisconsin in an early day, they would use them through the summer to haul lead to Galena and provisions out as that was the only means of transportation, in the fall they were sent to Illinois for wintering. There were droves of cows brought up in the spring for the milch through the summer and killed for beef in the fall (pretty poor beef).

Often our flour was packed so hard in the barrel it had to be chopped out with an ax and pounded and sifted. If it was only sour it would make good bread by using plenty of soda, but if it was musty it was not so good. In the spring of "29" we got potatoes at two dollars per bushel with the seed ends cut off. In those days there was a great many dried peas and beans used. Many families did not have bread in their houses for weeks and some for months, so it was called "the pea time." When the navigation closed early, provisions ran short before spring, some was fortunate enough to kill a deer once in a while. There were three batchalors living near Mineral Point who had run out of provisions, they ate the last they had for supper, it was very cold, no provisions to be had in the country, they went to bed, in the night they heard a noise and went out, they found a deer lying by their cabin with its neck broke. They dressed it so it supplied their wants untill there was provisions brought up to

Galena. Their cabin was in the side of a bluff, the snow was deep and crusted over and a wolf was after it, the wolf could run on the snow, but the deer broke through, it jumped off the bluff and broke its neck.

In the fall of "27" (1827), Mr. Lamb, one of the mining company at Mineral and a man by the name of Comings started out on an exploring expeditions as the 'whites' had not been beyond Mineral Point at that time, the Indians claimed all the country round about the mines, they walked untill night came and being tired they spread their blanket on the ground, the cover being light they were cold, before morning they began to get warm, the cover felt heavier, so they slept soundly, when one of them woke and raised the blanket, they found it weighted down with



snow. The sun was shining, they saw the smoke from the Indians Wigwams, and they discovered where the Indians had smelted lead ore. Making search they made the discovery of the mines now called **Dodgeville**. In a short time miners had staked the ground off in mining lots. There were some heavy leads opened which proved very valuable. The Mining Company at Mineral Point carried on the mining and smelting extensively which gave employment to many hands. In the fall of 1828 Mr. Lamb went back to Indiana for his family and arrived at Mineral Point the 10th of October, where he pursued mining for 2 or 3 years, when he went to near Hambeltons diggins, (*William Stephen Hamilton, 1797- ca.1850 son of Alexander Hamilton*) which is called Wiota and located on a farm where he spend the remainder of his life. There was no law to Govern the people except the regulations and resolutions of the miners. The County went by the name of the Michigan Territory, (*Iowa?*) County. The people were social and regarded each others word as much as they now do their note of hand. They would loan and borrow money on their word which the considered as binding as a note and often when a man could not be at work on their lots to hold them, they would leave their mining tools on their lots to hold it from being taken, (if left now the tools would be taken). (*That is they would protect the absent owner by making it appear that he was working his diggings.*)

Among our earliest settlers at Mineral Point was Thomas and John Ansleys, the Terril brothers, John Hood, Dr. Snyder, Dr. Loofbourrow who came from Ohio to retire from practice, he forbad his friends from calling him Dr. but when he landed in Galena, one of his friends being there, met him and hollowed out "there is Dr. Loofbourrow," it was his intention to keep still but Doctors were so scarce he could not refuse when any one kneeded his assistance. He pursued mining when he could. There were Gratiots and Terry's settled in Diamond Grove, 3 miles from Mineral Point. They followed smelting also three or four of the Kirkpatrick brothers. They followed smelting and hauling lead to Galena.

To be continued..

This pioneer manuscript was provided to the ICHS by Marion Howard of Darlington. Our than to Marion for recognizing that this manuscript confirms much early Lead Region history. Editor.

Acquisitions

Reilly Brothers: Publishers of the Dodgeville Chronicle: Microfilms from 1862 through June 30, 2004.

Avis Heeler: Naturalization records for Iowa County spanning the years.

Pat Sommerfeldt: Portrait of **Charles Paull**, courthouse stone from his farm.

Laverne Stratman: Postcards, early Dodgeville scenes.

Vera Olson: Poster-sized portrait of the Dodgeville High School graduating class of 1931.

Bessie Richardson: Material regarding **Herbert Enger** and the egg business he operated in Dodgeville.

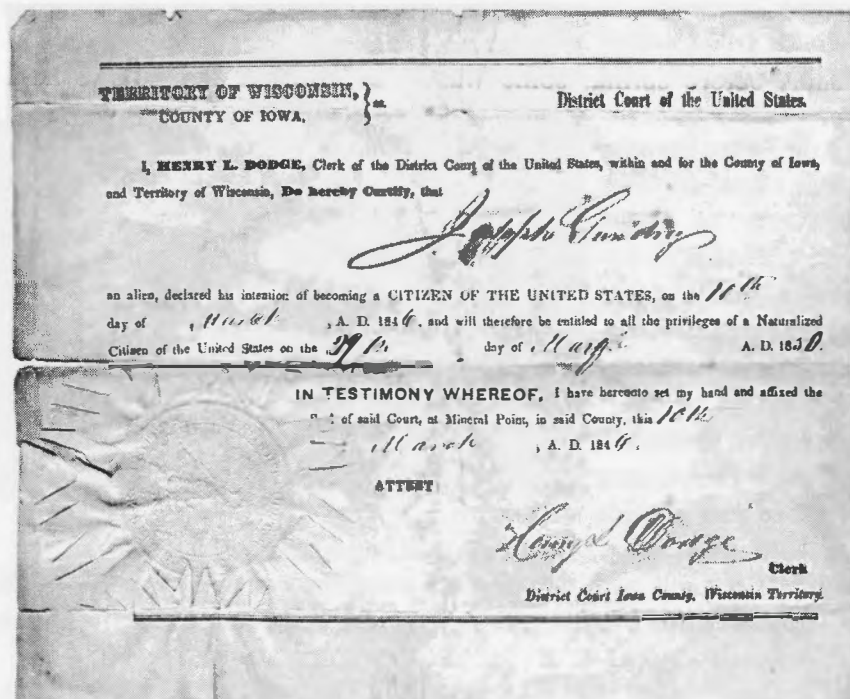
Norma Shreve: Cookbook: "Women of Otter Creek-Past and Present." All known female members (about 407) of the Otter Creek Lutheran Church listed, including their actual surname, husband, children and parents. This is a unique cookbook indeed, a superior genealogical tool for those with roots in the Otter Creek district of Iowa County, and the recipes are good too.

Linda Narveson: Booklet "The Mineral Point Music Festival" --- May 22, 1937, listing hundreds of participants from area schools.

Eugene Beckett: Cambria, Illinois obituary of **Augustus Caesar Dodge** from the Ste. Genevieve Herald for Saturday, November 14, 1883.

Dick and Shelly Chambers of Des Moines Iowa: Papers of **Henry J. Williams** re Civil War Draft, etc.

Declaration of Intent to Become a Citizen Documents from the Territorial Period Given to Society



The Declaration of Intent to Become a Citizen reproduced above is an example of the historic early documents donated to the Society by Avis Heeler of Dodgeville. By coincidence the very first document examined by the Editor was the declaration of **Joseph Gundry** of Mineral Point, builder of the Gundry House at Orchard Lawn now operated by the Mineral Point Historical Society. The Territorial County Clerk was **Henry Lafayette Dodge**, oldest son of Governor Henry Dodge. Sadly, Dodge abandoned his family in Dodgeville about a month after the March date of the document. This Declaration and related documents will be accessioned in the society computer and available for study at the Museum. The documents are easier to read than the scan above.

A FIRST-EVER EVENT: *An Afternoon with Colonel and Mrs. Dodge*

Reprinted by permission of the Old Lead Region Historic Society, Robert Braun Editor.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Neil Giffey and the kind permission of the Iowa County Historical Society, several Old Lead Region Historical Society members had an opportunity to portray some early persona from the "Michigan Territory" portion of the Lead Region at the Dodge Mining Camp Cabin in downtown Dodgeville.

The Dodge Mining Camp Cabin, built circa 1827, is regarded as the oldest building in Iowa County, and certainly ranks among the five oldest surviving structures in Wisconsin. The cabin stands today as a rare artifact of the lead mining operations that ensued in a mineral land tract that encompassed most of present-day downtown Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Here, Colonel Henry Dodge, his family (including several black slaves, *soon freed*), and some 120 fellow diggers, smelting workers, and drovers exhumed and processed mineral for several years. Sometime between 1830-1832, Dodge relocated his family several miles south to "Dodge's Grove."

On the afternoon of July 22, 2004, a slice of 1832 was interpreted at the Dodge Mining Camp Cabin. Visitors had an opportunity to tour the cabin, speak with guides and docents, and visit with "Mrs. Mary S. O'Neil" (Betsy Urven), her hired boy "Billy" (Ian Urven), militia scout "Pony Fletcher" (Steve Merkel), and the "Dodges" -- daughter "Christiana Helen" (Rachel Braun), wife "Christiana McDonald Dodge" (Mary Braun) and the "Colonel" (Robert Braun).

For a hot Thursday afternoon in July, a nice crowd gathered at the cabin! Both ICHS and OLRHS members had great fun meeting many wonderful people and chatting with them in "first person" about the experiences and rigors of early frontier life, the challenges of Black Hawk's War, and "Colonel Dodge's" political and military views. Among the many compliments paid was a special notation regarding the excellent dulcimer playing by "Christiana Helen."

After the event, we were pleased to be invited to the ICHS' annual "Ice Cream Social," where we met more new friends and had additional discussions about early Dodgeville and Iowa County history.

It was a wonderful time spent with new friends amid the warm hospitality of the fine people of Dodgeville! Perhaps the finest compliment we received was from our host, Neil Giffey. After the event, he remarked: "I see now. Your reward is 'in the doing.'"

We look forward to future historical opportunities in Dodgeville and a return to the Dodge Mining Camp Cabin in the near future!

MORE... The Iowa County Historical Society and the recent event at the Dodge Mining Camp Cabin was the subject of a recent focus article in the *Dodgeville Chronicle* newspaper! Our thanks to member, Neil Giffey, for bringing this article to our attention!

Our heartfelt thanks to the reenactors described and pictured above. Several of them drove about 250 miles roundtrip from their homes. Dedication and devotion are words which come to mind. The Lead Region Historical Society is prepared to offer living history enactments at other events. Editor Robert Braun would be pleased to field your queries at Robert.Braun@forthc.com. Editor Neil Giffey.



Loren Farrey Hard Hat Miner Talks to Cabin Docents

Loren Farrey, soon to be a resident of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, dressed as his lead mining fore-bears, including a soft hat which he persisted in calling his hard hat, spent a May afternoon telling about the people and the early mining activity in the Wisconsin Lead Region. The Dodge Cabin guides (now promoted to docents) and several guests were the interested audience in the Courthouse Inn meeting. The life and times of the hardy hard rock miners of Farrey's ancestry and their very early predecessors, was colorful, dangerous, boring and brutally difficult. The creature comforts of the twenty first century would have seemed miracles to them. The Southwest Wisconsin Lead Region is fortunate to have knowledgeable residents such as **Loren and Ar-**



lene Farrey. It is to be hoped that the progress toward a greater Iowa County on the early miners and their struggles will continue at an accelerated pace. Much of the early history has been lost, let us not lose more but rather interpret that which we do know to their twenty-first century descendants. The culture of the miners was very foreign to our present day manner of getting along with our neighbors. Thanks to Loren and his wife Arlene, we were treated to a glimpse of the past not now well known. It is to be hoped that Iowa County will seize the opportunity to consult with Loren and Arlene and other knowledgeable citizens in a long range plan to interpret our dynamic pioneer past.

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

Newspaper Microfilm continued

Index to Wisconsin Miscellaneous Newspapers New Star, 1896-1897
New Star, 1898-1900
Dodgeville Chronicle, 1862-2004
Barneveld Banner, some issues missing
The Hollandale Review, some issues missing

Membership Application

Iowa County Historical Society
MAIL TO: MARIE SERSCH
106 E. Pine St., Dodgeville, WI 53533

Family, includes spouse	\$10.00
5 year membership	\$40.00
Historian, annual dues	\$25.00
Master Historian, annual dues	\$50.00
<i>Membership dues and categories change July 1,</i>	



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 _____*

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
DODGEVILLE, WI
PERMIT NO. 86

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

Family, includes spouse \$10.00

5 year membership \$40.00

Historian, annual dues \$25.00

Master Historian, annual dues \$50.00

Membership dues change July 1, 2005

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.

Address Service Requested

Calendar of Events

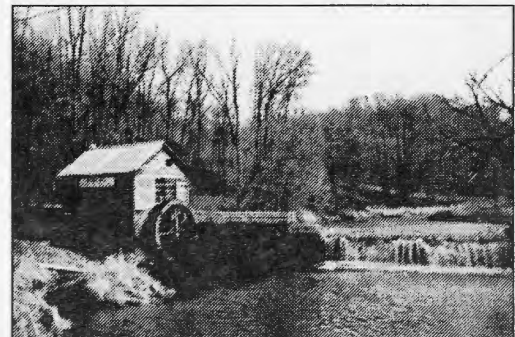
Annual Meeting ICHS

Dodgeville City Hall

Tuesday, October 26, 2004

*7:30 p. m. Opens with Tamara Funk
and Craig Dunigan Portraying Missis-
sippi River Capt. and Mrs. Harris of
the 1850s – Election and lunch follow*

*Please remember the Society when
planning your year end giving
Thank You*



Hyde's Mill
Northeastern Iowa County

Bake Sale 8: 30 a. m. Nov. 6 Dick's Mall

Bus Tour to Dubuque October 21, 2004
Did you remember to send your check?
Mail to Marie Sersch, address above

Program not determined-Check Chronicle
Dodgeville City Hall
1:30 p. m. Saturday, January 15, 2005