

Iowa County Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XXX

No. 1

January 2005

Potpourri

The ICHS offers many thanks to retiring director **Ruth Bahr** of Avoca. Ruth was a director for eight years. Her concern for the well being of the Society was obvious to all who knew her.

We welcome new board members **Therese McCarragher** of Hollandale, a retired teacher, who will bring many skills to the board and **Janice Blask** of Dodgeville. Janice, the mother of three and a native of Highland, enjoys hiking, camping, bird watching and reading. Needless to say she also enjoys history.

Have you noticed? The Society has an email address? Contact us at ichistory@mhtc.net with questions and reservations for some "hands on" research time. The phone is still on duty 24/7 at 608-935-7694.

Valentine Building Fund Kick-off is Sunday Feb. 13, 2005. See page 4 for details.

At the annual meeting **Tamara Funk** and **Craig Dunigan** of Dodgeville did a marvelous portrayal of Captain Smith Harris and his wife, Sarah Coates Harris. The Captain and Sarah enlivened our evening with telling observations about the Mississippi River culture of the 1850s.

Last 25 September this writer spent a few hours in **Mineral Point** enjoying **Cornish Fest**. Genealogy, food, friends and music are what it is about.

What could be better? **Marion Howard** of Darlington is one of the long time organizers and supporters of Cornish Fest.

She expressed appreciation for the ICHS display of Cornish themed books at the 24 September Genealogy Seminar as follows: "Your group has put out some really good publications that are of interest to many."

My Cornish day included a tour of the **Mineral Point Odd Fellows Hall**. Now shrine, meeting place and museum, the graceful structure was built in 1838 and was the first of many built west of the Allegheny Mountains. **Loren Farrey** and many of his "Odd Fellow" friends did a great job of guiding and explaining that "Odd" name.

ICHS Directors

Alice Griffiths, Pres.	935-0574
Boyd Geer, VP	930-9084
John Hess, Sec.	588-7082
Marie Sersch, Treas.	935-5752
Melva Phillips	924-5508
Helen Radtke	987-2892
Therese McCarragher	967-2232
Janice Blast	935-5768
Neil Giffey, Editor	935-5557
giffey@mhtc.net	

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Membership Meeting

1:30 p.m. 29 January

Dodgeville City Hall

John Dutcher of

Platteville will lecture
and provide info packet
on discoveries made
during his study of the
small breweries of
Southwest Wisconsin

Valentine Fund Raiser
February 13 at Thymes
See Page 4 for details

FALL TOUR ENJOYED A LOT

By John Hess

For the first time in over a decade, the ICHS sponsored an historical bus tour in 2004. The destination was Dubuque, Iowa to see the new National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium and other attractions. On October 21, a day when the fall colors were near their peak, 25 members and friends boarded a Warco bus at the Museum in Dodgeville.

The first stop was a tour of the Lock and Dam at Dubuque on the Mississippi River. Our good fortune and timing was such that

a watercraft came through the locks just when the tour guide was giving his technical explanation of the workings of the gates and pumps, helping everyone to understand perfectly the complex process.

Next on the tour was a visit to Eagle Point Park, high on the west bluff of the Mississippi River overlooking the lock and dam just visited. The huge trees were magnificent, providing a setting for the public buildings influenced by the Prairie Style of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Then after a drive through town and lunch at Bishops at Kennedy Mall came the main event, an afternoon at the **National Mississippi River Museum and**

Aquarium. It is the property of the Dubuque County Historical Society and is operated in association with the Smithsonian Institution. Many of the facilities have been in place for years, but the new Museum and Aquarium Building opened in the summer of 2003.

In this new facility, there was the opportunity to get "up close and personal" with giant catfish, ancient sturgeons, and other aquatic creatures, some from prehistoric time. Everyone enjoyed

the film of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, now being celebrated by the nation as a bicentennial event. And finally, many tried their hand at reliving the history of steamboating on the Mississippi by piloting a towboat in a simulator. But like the youngsters who tried ahead of them, overconfident adults also crashed into something, setting off thunderous noise and violent vibrations in the cabin.

For those planning either a first time or return visit to this exciting museum, remember to allow for plenty of lead time and turning room when piloting that towboat with the simulator, for there are 600 feet of barges out in front.



Bus driver's end of tour picture. His revenge?



Now you know

Gail Reddell, Therese McCarragher and Marie Sersch are found out! What a telling coincidence that they were posted in front of "Our Trio of Pests."

I have never let my schooling interfere with my education.

Mark Twain

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

This fascinating eyewitness account of early Iowa County History was received from Marion Howard of Darlington and continued from the story published in October. Rebeckah Lamb was born in Indiana on 24 July, 1824 and arrived in the Lead Region of soon-to-be Iowa County in 1828. We have no direct link to Ezra Lamb as her father but enough circumstantial evidence has been found to almost call Ezra her father. Note: she calls him Mr. Lamb. Evidently her husband, after Kirkpatrick, was Dr. Loofbourrow who died within a few years of the marriage. The 1860 census shows Rebeckah Loofbourrow as a 44 year old "Farmer" with seven children and a farm valued at \$3500 with personal property valued at \$600. This was in the Township of Mineral Point. She disappears from the census after that year although she lived until 1893. We will continue to search for her descendants. Please contact the Editor if you know of possible leads.

General Dodge settled in the place called Dodgeville, from whom it took its name. There were Messersmiths, Jenkins and Wentew, others I cant call to mind the names. All seemed to go on harmoniously until the Sac and Trox (*illegible but should be Fox*) tribes of Indians became dissatisfied and came back on their old grounds which they had sold to the Government in the Spring of 1833. The inhabitants of the country had to flee from their homes and provide places of safety for their families which was done by building temporary forts. There was one in Mineral Point which I think was called Fort Jackson, on about 5 miles from there called Fort Defiance, one what is called Wiota, one on Apple River, one at Gratiots Grove, some others I cant place. The way these Forts were constructed, was by digging



Rebeckah Lamb
Kirkpatrick Loofbourrow

a ditch in the form of a square and setting the bodies of trees (which had been split in two) end wise, I think they were 15 feet high. There was a block house in two corners of the fort built with logs, the upper story projected over the lower, so it stood out beyond the pickets in case of an attack, they could rake the outside of the fort. They had port holes through pickets also in the sides of the block house. They had a small cannon at Fort Defiance which was placed in on of the blockhouses, they used large bullets. The cannon was made of lead, tho it would have been sufficient for all the Indians that would be likely to attract the Fort, lucky they stayed out of reach of the guns. The Fort took in a double log cabin, one and half story high which afforded shelter for 22 families. There was berths or bunks around the sides, one above another for our beds. The measels broke out in the Fort and Dr. Loofbourrow being there with his family, it fell on him to minister to the sick, as he had just received a good supply of medicines from Pittsburgh. There were forty cases of measls in the Fort, not a death there by measles.

There was one man wounded by the Indians that died in that Fort from the effects of the wound being in the head. Our provisions were furnished by the Government, which consisted of salt-pork, flour, beans, vinigar, soap and candles.

We had to buy our own groceries if we had any, the most of the families had their cows there so we had milk and butter. We used to venture out a mile or so, once in a while, to gather rasberries until we would hear of Indians being seen near. The Captain of the Fort would forbid our leaving the Fort. We used to gather greens and cook with our pork, a substitute for vegetables.

continued on page 5

Valentine Dinner Dance Fund Raiser Kickoff

February 13 2005

At The Thyms-Highway 23 North of Dodgeville

12 noon to 2 p.m. food ... music by Tom Bedtka 1 to 3 p.m.

All are welcome ... membership not required

A message from

The Iowa County Historical Society Building Committee

This is all about the pressing need for an addition to the ICHS museum.

We've had wonderful donations from many, many local families. So many in fact we've had to turn away donations of historic artifacts, wonderful donations filled with irreplaceable history - irreplaceable history that could be passed on to the Historical Society but instead may be lost forever if the Society is unable to accept and protect it ... all for lack of space. We have even run out of places to store boxes.

We would like to change some of our displays on a continuing basis but first we need a safe storage space. Then we would like to inventory and save more Iowa County history.

As noted above, we are planning a fun day on February 13 with food, music, and dancing, all to help us on the way toward a spacious museum.

We have other events in the planning stage including our very popular craft and bake sale in conjunction with the city wide garage sale. Please keep the Society in mind and on your calendar all year. For now the honor of your presence is requested on Sunday, February 13, 2005, at The Thyms.

Thanks Are in Order

By Neil Giffey

Last October County Clerk **Greg Klusendorf** went out of his way to provide access to the original records of the Iowa County Board of Supervisors. The Editor has copied many of them with a digital camera and hopes to continue searching for and publishing the interesting and often far sighted actions of that pioneer group of men as they worked to establish local government in Iowa County.

Bruce Bowden, Iowa County Surveyor, has been most helpful in offering professional answers and suggestions for the planned quest to locate the "**ore waggon roads**" running through Iowa County. **Phil Mayer**, the main cog in the effort, will work with GPS, the 1832 surveyors measurements and the Editor in another quest to build on our pioneer ancestry.

NEW MEMBERS FOR ICHS

ICHS Treasurer Marie Sersch provides the following list of new and renewed members. The new member log has grown at a record pace in 2004. Six states are represented.

Irving & Hazel Kelly, Dodgeville, WI
 James A. & Patsy J. Cocking, Lakeview, MN
 Alice L. & James Griffiths, Dodgeville, WI
 Brian G. Thomas, Vancouver, WA
 Steve Scheid, (Historian) Sun prairie, WI
 William McLimans, Modesto, CA
 Patricia Hancock Marlan, TX
 Thomas J. Wilson, Dodgeville, WI
 Dr. David Sippy, DDS Dodgeville, WI
 Chuck Peplinski, (Historian) Dodgeville, WI
 Joan Mish, Dodgeville, WI
 Avis Heeler, Dodgeville, WI
 Cindy Ruff, Dodgeville, WI
 Bernice Cornish, Dodgeville, WI
 David & Evelyn Arnold, Madison, WI
 Bill Morgan, Madison, WI
 'aul Rux & Jane Richardson, Mt. Horeb, WI
 Lonna R. Arneson, Cross Plains, WI
 Susan (Zann) Liljegren, Dodgeville, WI
 Marliss McGuiness, Princeton, NJ
 Janet Czerwotka, Madison, WI
 Joan Bennett, Racine, WI
 Connie Hendrickson, Dodgeville, WI

The Editor's Editor

Without question **Jan Giffey**, the smiling lady pictured below, has earned the right to smile with satisfaction. After all she manages to keep the Editor in line. Her reward has been to make his newsletter prose read right and move commas around on his raw copy. Some reward ... Some Copy Editor. Thanks



(Continued from page #3)

Eyewitness Rebeckah Lamb

Being thrown together it was the means of forming many new acquaintances, as our interests seemed to be one and the same. For all worked for that and the same purpose to promote peace and comfort, how hard we used to work when the Soldiers used to come in tired, us women that could, would take their flour, (as they had to make their own bread) and make it up in crackers for them, ready for another march.

I have thought some of us were deserving of a pension, for the Government kept us from leaving the country, we lived in the Fort three months, then went to our deserted homes, after being taken from our farms to grow up to weeds, and return unprepared for winter, there is but few now living that took a part in defending the rights of the whites in the Blackhawk war. Among the Officers and many of the Soldiers of the Regiment or Bigade from Mineral Point are dead, among them are, **Col. Dodge, Captain Gentry, Capt. Hoard (?)**, **Major R. H. Kirkpatrick, Col. D. M. Parkinson, Charles Bracken**, all dead. In the spring of "37" (1837), there were some wood choppers at work below Galena, raised an alarm, reported that the Indians had made an attack on Galena and in all probability was taken by the Indians. The alarm was sent out, all over the county families gathered for protection, it being in the night many of them were asleep in bed when the alarm was sent to them, but by sunrise these crowds running to and fro expecting the Indians before they could form any discipline or order, there was perfect confusion, no leaders, no one to take command. Mineral Point, one place where they gathered in a great number, men, women, and children, there was perfect confusion, some predicting a general massacre, others thought the Indians would not venture so far, we were in perfect suspense until about noon, when an express came to inform us that it was a false alarm. Some had rung their chickens necks, others had cut the throats of their pigs and thrown them in their wagons to be sure and get the benefit of them, as they had lost their pigs and chickens by leaving them the spring previous.

We returned home, but kept in readiness to go at a moments warning. Many families packed all their goods they were not obliged to use every day, we did not feel settled until quite late in the season.

"If you tell the truth, you do not have to remember anything." *Mark Twain*

CONVENTION RECAP

By John Hess

This year's Southwestern Regional Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History (WCLH) was hosted by the Grant County Historical Society in Lancaster, with a side trip to Platteville. The program included presentations about two of Grant County's most significant and interesting historical places. The first described The Pleasant Ridge Community, a pre Civil War rural African American settlement, which is one of the best documented communities of its type in the Midwest. The second was a presentation of the Mitchell/Rountree Cottage in Platteville. The story of any historic property is twofold, the structure and the people who inhabited it. The 1837 cottage underwent a recent major restoration, which was described in detail. It was funded with a matching grant from the Jeffris Foundation, similar to the funding of our society's Dodge Mining Camp Cabin restoration. The last person to live in the house was Laura Rountree, and "Miss Laura" was introduced to the convention by **Darci Blask**, sister-in-law of our newly elected board member, **Janice Blask**. The event concluded with a tour of the spacious Cunningham Museum in Lancaster and the warm and welcoming Mitchell/Rountree Cottage in Platteville.

The 42nd Annual State Convention of the WCLH was held in Madison, and as always is the case, there were valuable workshops and presentations to help local societies in their mission to preserve and depict local history. The highlight of the convention program was entitled **The Five Best Pieces of Advice for a Local History Society**, presented by three distinguished officials from three different history organizations: the Minnesota Historical Society, the Illinois Heritage Association and the American Association for State and Local History. Each presenter was asked to provide a best piece of advice for five topics: (1) Collections, (2) Exhibits, (3) Public Programs, (4) Operations/Management and (5) a Wildcard item of their choice. And following is an example of advice for each of the five topics: (1) Collect for the future, collect today for 2104, (2) Plan the exhibit first, then go after the artifacts, (3) Know your audience and involve them, (4) Take care of staff and volunteers, train and treat them well, and (5) Remember that the historical society is part of the community.

At the conclusion of the convention, local historians from all over Wisconsin departed for home with notepads full of advice to take back to their local museums and societies. That includes **Boyd Geer** and **John Hess** of the ICHS who attended the conventions in Madison and Lancaster.

John Hess is starting a third two-year term as Director at Large of the Wisconsin Council of Local History, and was re-elected as Secretary at this year's convention.

Annual Meeting ... New Faces ... New Ideas

The Iowa County Historical Society Annual Meeting was held on October 26 in the Dodgeville City Hall.



The attendance was notable for having a few new faces present as guests. The photo shown is representative of the interest generated by the Meuer Family story published in the April 2004 Newsletter. The emigration of the Meuer Family, and most of their fellow villagers, from the Montabaur Region to various places in the United States occurred more than 150 years ago and had been well documented by Carolyn Gratz Meuer and others of that line.

The photograph on the left show from left to right: **Ed Rosenthal**, **Kathy Barr**, **Bruce Barr**, **Carolyn Gratz Meuer** and **Marie Sersch**.

Updates

Revisions to the Museum Policy

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. Your order and the fee must be provided at the time of your visit as society personnel do not have time to print and process all material on the spot.

Advance payment of \$15.00 is required for all research done by society personnel.

Newspaper Microfilm at ICHS

Please call ahead for a reservation.

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, 1862-2004

Barneveld Banner, some issues missing

he Hollandale Review, some issues missing

Arrange for an appointment? We can take your messages 24-7. We will reply as soon as possible.

Remember: Leave your name, telephone number, mail address and/or email address for fast service. Call : 608-935-7694 or email ichistory@mhtc.net

Synopsis of the Dec 15, 2004 Board Meeting

Meeting called to order by President Alice Griffith at 10:30 AM at the Museum. Other Board members present: Neil Giffey, Boyd Geer, John Hess, Melva Phillips and Helen Radtke. Paul Ohlrogge, UWEX Community Resource Agent for Iowa County also in attendance.

The agenda was presented with no additions. The minutes of the November 18, 2004 Board meeting were approved with a motion that was seconded and carried. OLD BUSINESS

Building Committee Report - Melva reported that Schmit Engineering, which is assisting the Committee with plans for an addition to the museum, recommended a second opinion be obtained regarding some of the specifications and ADA requirements. Jewel & Associates will be contacted. Because of the proposed addition, changes will have to be made to the restrooms to meet ADA standards. Fund raising plans include either a Valentine or St Patrick's Day dinner at Thym's. Helen reported on the roof of the Museum building which is now 20 years old, and plans to have it re-roofed with metal at the time the metal roof is installed on the addition.

NEW BUSINESS

Strategic Planning Presentation - Paul Ohlrogge gave a one-half hour overview of the strategic planning process and how it would benefit the ICHS, especially with plans being made for an addition to the Museum. A four-page hand out was included. Paul was asked to facilitate a strategic planning process for the ICHS, and the first of two sessions was set for January 13, 2005 from 1 to 4 PM at the Extension Room at the Courthouse.

Electric Bills at Dodge Mining Camp Cabin - Neil proposed that the electricity bill and other routine expenses for the cabin be charged to the ICHS operating budget, instead of being charged back to the Log Cabin Money Market Account. He explained that the intention was to use the Log Cabin Account for future maintenance, and that with interest rates so low, the electric bills charged to it were running down the balance, currently at \$9969. John explained the operating plan approved at the previous meeting would have to be revised. Other Board Members felt cabin expenses should be charged to the cabin account because of the tight budget, and proposed trying to increase the yield on the account. Neil to work with Marie Sersch in finding a better return.

Additional Comments - Melva to follow up with John Dutcher to be speaker at the January 15 Membership Meeting and advise Neil for the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at Noon. Next meeting to be the Strategic Planning Session scheduled for January 13. John Hess, Secretary

Local history books are everywhere at our museum at 1301 North Bequette Street. Stop in and take a look. They are great fun to read but they are even better as gifts for that hard to please friend. Our usual hours are weekdays but call ahead just to be sure you can be accommodated.

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, 2005</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 _____

Volume XXX No. 1 January 2005

Iowa County yHist oricalSociet y

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.

1301 N. Bequette, Dodgeville, WI

Please call ahead for winter hours.

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Calendar of Events

Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 29, 2005*Dodgeville City Hall**Speaker John Dutcher**1:30 p.m.*

*"Breweries of the
Lead Region"*

*Short business meeting to follow***Dinner-Music-Fund Raiser****12-3 p.m. February 13, 2005****The Thyms****Highway 23 North****Details on Page 4**

*Please remember the Society when
planning your giving.*

Thank You

**1850s on the Mississippi
Tamara and Craig
As Captain & Mrs. Harris**