

# Iowa County Historical Society Newsletter



Volume XXXI

No. 2

April 2006

## Potpourri

Genealogy does things to us, so does history. For example, **G. B. Shaw** once commented that "If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance." We agree. Here at ICHS we are mostly historians, local variety. Our unspoken motto is: *"I touch the future. I teach."* This was spoken by **Christa McAuliffe** of Challenger fame. We make teaching our creed, especially if you open the door to the ICHS Museum with a gleam in your eye, lit by those family skeletons. We love to show you where to look and how to capture the spirits of the past. Support our volunteers by letting us know how we can help each other.

As noted in the July 2005 issue of this newsletter, in April of 2005 the **Dodge Mining Camp Cabin** was placed on the **National and State Registers of Historic Places**. Going through the files accumulated during the fifteen, or is it twenty? years the Society has been studying, restoring and working toward giving the cabin the recognition it deserves, your Editor found this brief comment in correspondence of some years past from the respected **Dana Duppler** of the *Lead Region Historic Trust Inc.* of Shullsburg, Wisconsin. In the letter Dana commented: *"You are to be commended for your foresight in preserving something that most people were not even aware of. It is my hope that these 150 year old buildings will someday be our state's 500 and 1000 year old buildings because of efforts in the 20th to preserve them for posterity."*

**Garage Sale**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**at Museum Saturday**  
**April 22, 2006**  
**Bring some good**  
**stuff for this**  
**Fundraiser**  
**Baked goods, too**  
**City wide sale event**

**Ice Cream Social**  
**4:30 to 7 p. m.**  
**Thursday, July 13**  
**at the Museum**  
**1301 N. Bequette St.**  
**Dodgeville**  
**Music and Fun**

**ICHS 30th Anniversary**  
**Celebration July 13 at**  
**Ice Cream Social**

## 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 McCarrager	967-2232
Tom Wilson	935-7707
Neil Giffey, Editor	935-5557

[giffey@mhtc.net](mailto:giffey@mhtc.net)

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Mark-Cody-Adrian

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**New and Renewed Members**  
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**Building Fund Drive Continues**

## Historic Iowa County Images in Courthouse Lobby

by Neil Giffey

Through the good offices of Iowa County Circuit Judge William Dyke, the second floor lobby of the Richard Scullion addition to the Iowa County courthouse is adorned on a periodic basis with historic Iowa County scenes. The displays, sometimes artistic, sometimes historic, are rotated on a monthly basis with artistic and cultural material from the schools of Iowa County and other sources. Judge Dyke arranged this telling exhibit of the sort of history we can all connect with, by dipping into the large collection of photographs archived at the ICHS museum on North Bequette Street, Dodgeville. Judge Dyke arranged for the printing, matting and framing of about twenty glimpses of our history. They were on display during January of 2006 and will again be displayed later in the year. Be sure to take a look.

Here they are:

**Iowa County Courthouse**, Mineral Point

**Hyde Blacksmith Shop**

**Iowa County Courthouse**, no additions, Dodgeville  
**Slag furnace**, Dodgeville

**Iowa County Auto Co. & Rohr Hotel**, Dodgeville  
**Cobb**, lumber sawing scene

**Miners**, location unknown

**Charlie and Josiah Thomas at Garrison Grove Cheese Factory**

**Illinois Central train on Paul Blotz farm trestle**

**Trolley car (fake) on Iowa St., Dodgeville**

**Highland, Pasch and Semrad Brewery**

**Telephone operators**, location unknown

**Mineral Point Zinc Works**

**Avoca Grist Mill**

**Lime Ridge Cheese Factory**

**Hollandale Brick and Tile Company**

**B and B Mine**, Mifflin

Other historic images will be added in the future.

### Homestead Act

After passage by the Congress in 1862, Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act. The act gave free land to those who were willing to reside for five years on the 160 acres and pay a small fee. Mostly applicable to the wide open West, it had an effect on Wisconsin also. **Contact the Editor if you had an ancestor who benefited from "free land."**

## ICHS at United Fund Event Hosted by Dodgeville Kiwanis

More than a score of Iowa County service organizations participated in a mid-day meal and outreach session hosted by **The Kiwanis Club of Dodgeville**. Held in the fall of 2005, the well attended event at the **Dodger Bowl** served as a showcase for numerous Iowa County volunteer service organizations. Kiwanians and others in attendance had an opportunity to visit and question each organization as to their needs and their impact on the people of Iowa County.



At the ICHS display were left to right: Director **Melva Phillips**, Curator **Dorothy Anderson**, unidentified representative of another agency, **Louise Price** and **Ivy Wilson**. Since getting the word out about the social and cultural contributions of local volunteer organizations is of the utmost importance, it seems fitting to salute the **United Fund of Iowa County** and **The Kiwanis Club of Dodgeville** for providing this opportunity for volunteer organizations to strut their stuff and, not so incidentally, make a favorable impression on grant givers.

### Potpourri Continued

by Neil Giffey

As of the January 2006 Newsletter mailing the Society had 172 active paid members plus complimentary mailings to local government officials in Iowa County. We enjoy reaching out to new people. Why not consider a gift membership for someone on your list? Perhaps a child or a friend will become very much the partisan of local history when they realize that we save the collective memories of the past and that they will be helping to pass them on. Wherever we were born, wherever we live today, we are a Iowa County citizens now. Let's work together.



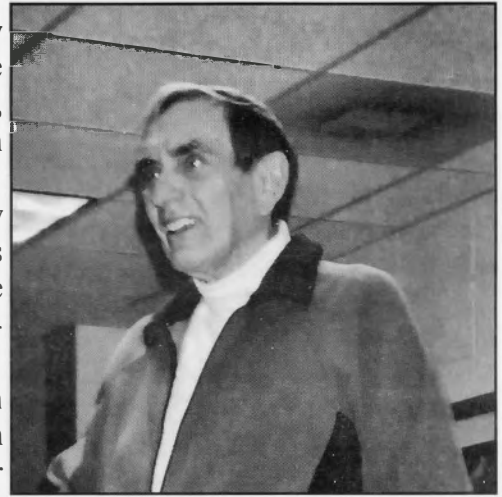
## Under the Wire

by Neil Giffey

Judge Bill Dyke kept the Dodgeville City Hall audience vitally interested in his January 28th lecture: "One persons look at the past." The sum total of his entertaining message was that to stay connected to the past, we must see it in perspective. He didn't use this term, but that could mean "cutting them some slack." Thank you, Judge Dyke.

A short board meeting followed the lecture and the usual hospitality by the ICHS ladies. **Boyd Geer** made a presentation regarding the needs and procedures to follow to implement proper cataloging and storage of the Society archives. It was agreed that Boyd purchase acid free hanging folders and labels up to an agreed cost.

President **Alice Griffiths** reported that local businessman, **Tom Mueller**, had offered storage space at his place of business at no cost in order to temporary resolve the space problem at the museum. The offer was accepted with thanks.



### A Memory from the Iowa County Past

#### Tom Davey Wishes to Become an American by Neil Giffey

Study the Thomas Davey Declaration of Intent on the right and note that he was born 'n the Parish of Camburn, Cornwall, migrated from the Port of London on 1 March 1837 and arrived in New York on 27 March 1837. On June 10, 1840 the date of his declaration before Clerk of Court Ed Mc Sherry, Tom Davey was not the only Cornishman in Mineral Point. The late 1830s and early 1840s were a period of great emigration from the crowded streets of Queen Victoria's Realm. Tom Davey served as Assessor in 1860-61. We lack further information on his occupations but suppose that he did as most Americans did in a new land. He tried everything.

#### Old Style Abbreviations

These are the Latin puzzlers we all encounter in old books and documents. For example the "12th inst." is shorthand for "in the current month," "ult." is short for "ultimo" meaning "in the month preceding," that is last month and "prox." means "proximo" or the next month after the present month. Got it?

I am glad my ancestors arrived on the 'ayflower, but I am gladder that there are nine generations between us. **William Lyon Phelps.**

*Thomas Davey*  
*Thomas Davey*  
 An alien born, free white person,  
 of *27* years and upwards, do hereby in conformity with the first condition, specified in the  
 first section of the act of Congress, entitled an "act to establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and to repeal the  
 acts heretofore passed on that subject," approved, the 14th day of April, 1802. Declare and make known to the said  
*District Court of the United States* Court  
 in, and for the County and Territory aforesaid, that my true and proper name is *Thomas Davey*  
 That I was born in the *Parish of Camburn, County of Cornwall* and  
 in the *Kingdom of England* and that I am  
 about *thirty seven* years of age; that I belonged to the *English*  
 nation, and owed allegiance to the *Queen of Great Britain and*  
*France*; that I migrated from the port of *London* of *Great Britain*  
 in the said *Kingdom of Great Britain & Ireland* on  
 the *first* day of *March* A. D.  
 1837, and landed at *New York* in the  
*State of New York* of *New York* and in the United States of  
 America on the *twenty seventh* day of *March* A. D.  
*1837* that I have ever since my first arrival remained within the limits, and jurisdic-  
 tion of the said United States; and that it is bona fide my intention to renounce forever, all allegiance and fidelity to  
 every foreign prince, power, potentate, state, or sovereignty whatever, and more particularly such allegiance and fidel-  
 ity, as I may in any wise owe to the said *Queen of Great Britain & Ireland*,  
 either as a citizen or subject; and to become a Citizen of the United States, and to  
 locate myself for the present in the county of *Verona* and Territory of Wisconsin  
 whereof I am now an inhabitant, and that I do not now enjoy or possess, nor am I in any wise entitled to any order or  
 distinction, or title of nobility, by virtue of the laws, customs, or regulations of the said *Kingdom of*  
*England*, or any other Country; and that I am sincerely attached  
 to the principles contained in the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order, well being  
 and happiness of the same, and desire that this my declaration, and report, may be accepted, filed, and recorded,  
 preparatory to my intended application to be admitted as a Naturalized Citizen of the United States, in conformity  
 with the several acts of Congress heretofore passed on the subject.

Subscribed, and sworn to  
 this *twelfth* day of *June*  
 A.D. 1840.  
*Thomas Davey*  
*Edward McSherry*  
 Clerk District Court, Iowa County, Wisconsin Territory.

## 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 becomes  
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 ... complete  
Barneveld Banner, some issues missing  
The Hollandale Review, some issues missing

*Contact ICHS in advance to access, study and print hard copy of the family stories you wish most to know.*

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## Hats Off Department

**Kurt Pustina of Pustina Carpentry**, Dodgeville, did yeoman work during the cold blustery weather of early December to place temporary protective plastic sheeting on the damaged west end of the Dodge Cabin. On short notice he did the job and provided a major donation of labor and expertise.

**John Hess**, secretary of the Society, was given the full treatment in a recent issue of the **Home News in Spring Green, Wisconsin**. John is the Chairman of Wyoming Township, Iowa County. His communication via public meetings and a newsletter mailed to every property owner in the Township of Wyoming were deemed major factors in the level of public awareness in that township. John, we salute you.

### How will you leave your family history records?

*Found on the Internet:* An amateur researcher was recalling his early experiences when asking for help or material from relatives. He writes: "I found her name and address somewhere and wrote for help, sending what little I had and enclosing the mandatory SASE (self addressed stamped envelope). I was green but not green enough to ask for "all she had" just for a few things to point me in the right direction. I got back one copy of a family group sheet and a terse reply that there is a lot of information out there. She had spent 30 years uncovering it and if I just looked hard enough, I could find it too. It stung enough that I

*(Continued on page 5)*

## The Mark McCutchin Gang Install Picture Rails in Museum



**Mark McCutchin, Cody Anderson and Adrian Hubbard**, left to right, recently installed a high level (near the ceiling) picture rail. Purpose: To properly display the photographs of the Iowa County judges formerly displayed at the Courthouse Inn. Mark donated the time and labor. Thanks much.

The framed and matted portraits of all county and circuit judges who served in Iowa County since settler times are the gift of **Mary and Cory Berg**, ne' owners of **Jimmy's**, formerly the Courthouse Inn, in downtown Dodgeville. If you dined in the Courthouse Inn you saw the images every time. Now they belong to the citizens of Iowa County. A thoughtful gift.

The addition of the picture rails near the ceiling enable museum staff to fit the judges into our tight little museum. Thanks to Mary and Cory ... the spirit of the rule of law in Iowa County lives.

### Acquisitions

**Beverly and William Zimmerman**, Dodgeville, WI: Additional photographs of Big Spring Cheese Factory and the Pine Knob Cheese Factory.

**Holtzbrinck Publishers**, NY, NY: Book: **Black Hawk: The Battle for the Heart of America** by Kerry Trask.

**Lois Slaney**, Dodgeville, WI: Iowa Co. Directory 1911-12, lists state and local officials.

### Valentine Dinner Party Report

That Valentine Dinner-Dance really clicked. A fine meal, a fun event for all and rollicking good "down home" music by Tom Bedtka were topped by report from Treasurer Marie Sersch that our building fund was increased by more than \$1000. *Thank you.*



# Let It Be Known

## ICHS Has Books for Sale

When you read this, the ICHS will again have for sale a reprint of the Rewey history, **"In the Shadow of the Mines."**

**"The Village of Moscow"** by ICHS member Priscilla Lewis of rural Blanchardville is *available from the author (608-523-1188)*. Dozens of pictures, plat maps of the village, early burials in the **Old Moscow Cemetery**, biographical information about early settlers and more is included. The book is well researched, and above all a welcome addition to the historical record of Iowa County.



**Black Hawk in 1835**  
by George Catlin

Now in stock, **"Black Hawk — The Battle For The Heart Of America"** by Kerry A.

**Trask**, looks like a winner. It tells the poignant story of the Black Hawk War of 1832 from the viewpoint of Black Hawk and his Sauk-Fox followers and the settlers. They were farmers first, warriors second and their abrupt removal from the fertile prairie lands of western Illinois caused the small but bloody war we call **"The Black Hawk War."** It will delight local history buffs with a well footnoted text. It is hard cover and will be a constant reference for those who wonder about and dream of those who trod the Lead Region hills and prairies before our arrival.

*ICHS has over thirty local history titles available; ask for details.*



**Log Cabin Moscow Township**

### (Continued from page 4) **Willing Your Research**

dropped looking into that family line for quite a while. When I did pick it up again and still was getting stuck in "her" line, I thought I would bite the bullet and give her one more try. This time I got back a short handwritten note from her husband that she had passed away and he had thrown out all her genealogy stuff. It saddened me that all her hard work ended up being for nothing."

He continues: "Because of that experience I have my will written to show that my historical family records and genealogical records and notes are to first be offered to my children then successively to my surviving nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and then to the local history and genealogical societies and only then to allow the work of my lifetime to be destroyed."

'ood for thought. Food for action. (By Gene Ewert in reply to a Roots Web article.)

### **Prehistoric Cave Art in Iowa County**

It is believed the six-point buck, represented in the sophisticated art form below, depicts a pre-hunt ritual. Perhaps done to ensure the success of the hunt and likely also to show the gratitude and oneness between hunter and hunted.

The location is carefully guarded, but the implication that our Indian predecessors in Iowa County lacked skill in hunting, the arts and religion and in combining their spiritual and physical lives is open to question after viewing the sterling cave art they have left behind.

*Photo by Barbara Ballard.*

*Image courtesy the Driftless Area Land Conservancy, Dodgeville, Wisconsin.*



## As I Recall ... Reminiscence

by Leon Nelson

*Leon Nelson, the resident ICHS Storyteller, is back with a story of the trials and triumphs of a Boy Scout.*



1944 Boy Scout Troop 57, Dodgeville, off to Camp Tichora at Green Lake, Wisconsin: Back row L R. Dick Daly, David Hoyer, Ken Dowling, Rhys Hutcheson, Homer Fieldhouse, Dwayne Heibel, Gerry Kiefer, George Bennett, Lewis Trine, Front L-R Ken Leffler, Art Evans, Leon Nelson, Fritz Stratman, unknown, Bob Worpel, Jimmy Gibbon, Neil Marr and unidentified bus driver in suit on far left.

Well anyway, I managed to go to Camp Tichora at Green Lake, Wisconsin, for two weeks each summer for three years and that is where a scout could earn some tough merit badges like swimming, lifesaving, rowing and canoeing, bird study, pioneering, nature study, reptile study etc. I also earned Pro- Marksman, Marksman and Marksman first class, NRA badges at the rifle range. Probably the most fun for me was the Pioneering Merit Badge where we built bridges across the gully and towers, etc. I guess all of my life I have enjoyed building. The most memorable event that I remember was earning the cycling merit badge. Frank Trine had some relatives near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, at the town of Bagley. That was about sixty-five miles from Dodgeville and our Troop 57 took a bike trip there. First we had to take warm up trips to Mineral Point, etc. to get our legs and tail ends in shape for the big trip and also to make sure that our bikes were ready mechanically for the trip. I think all of us knew how to take our "new departure" coaster brake apart and put it back together again.

There must have been fifty or sixty disks in the brake which had to be assembled just to make them work, but we had it mastered. We would go to "Sullie's City Service" and drain out about a cup full of gas out of the gas hose and go home and take our brakes apart and clean them in gas and reassemble them again. There were no ten speed bikes in those days, only balloon tire, one speed bikes. Well, we got our few belongings together, a few clothes, our blanket roll and some food and cooking utensils, put it in our baskets or lashed it to our rear fenders and took off for the BIG CYCLE TRIP! I don't remember how long it took us, but I think it was a week round trip. There were some tough hills on the way that we had to get off and push the bike the last half of the way up, but we had the good feeling that it was downhill on the way home. Then there were the nice down hill rides that we had on the way and knew that we would have to push our way to the top on the way home. We camped out in cow pastures each night on the way coming and going, prepared our food, ate and slept the sleep that only tired Scouts knew and were up-and-attum at daybreak. There were no accidents and no mechanical troubles that we couldn't handle and everyone who started the trip finished the trip. We had no quitters or whiners. I'm sure none of us knew it at the time but the success of the trip had to be because of the planning of our scoutmaster, Frank Trine, who pedaled every inch of the trip with us. As the merit badges kept coming from work in the troop and from work at summer camp and work with our Moms at home, we made it from Star Scout to Life Scout and on toward Eagle. Mom guided me through the Botany Merit Badge and the Athletic Merit badge. I can remember her with five extension cords hooked together out of the side window attached to the kitchen electric wall clock that had a sweep second hand and she had me running the length of our lot that was 100 feet deep. We were supposed to run 100 feet in a prescribed time and back and forth I would go. Finally, after a few days, I made it in the time allotted and that miserable experience was over. Mom would take me in the car out to Gov. Dodge's Grove and we would hunt for wild flowers like jack-in-the-pulpit, violets, trillium, ferns and other varieties that I don't remember, but I did get my botany merit badge. She worked with me on my bookbinding merit badge and I made a book just like it said in the merit badge pamphlet, but I wouldn't have done it if it weren't for Mom! I still have the book, by the way, more than fifty years later. No one knows more than the Scout how much a mother has done to earn her miniature Eagle Scout badge on the evening that her son gets his award! All of the work on advancement plus the grubby clothes that go in the wash after a campout, fixing the "grub" that a scout takes on his overnights, and on and on. God bless mothers everywhere! So, I finally earned my Eagle Scout Badge and it was presented in May of 1944, just one month before "D Day", the 6th of June 1944, during the Second World War. *To be continued.*

## New and Renewed Members

/ickie Stangel, Dodgeville WI  
 David & Bonnie Downs, Dodgeville, WI  
 Thomas D. Giffey, Eau Claire, WI  
 Clifford & Barbara Hohlstein, Wauwatosa, WI  
 R. A. Hampton, San Diego, CA  
 David & Evelyn Arnold, Madison, WI  
 Robert Bray, Middleton, WI  
 Celia Gammel, Graham, WA  
 Christine H. De Laurentis, Houston, TX  
 Robert Metcalf, San Antonio, TX  
 Patricia Blotz, Dodgeville, WI  
 Dale & Kathy Chellevoid, Dodgeville, WI  
 Gregory Crane, Athens, GA  
 Charles & Gwen Hatfield, La Farge, WI  
 Ellen E. Hazen, Marshalltown, IA

Anne M. Giffey, Galesburg, IL  
 Duane Budach, Milwaukee, WI  
 David T. Lowell, Livermore, CA  
 Larry Mueller, Highland, WI  
 Lonna R. Anderson, Blue Mounds, WI  
 Hazel & Irving Kelly, Dodgeville, WI  
 Calvin Olson, Highland, WI  
 Monica Weier, Ridgeway, WI  
 Amber Westerman, Dodgeville, WI  
 Janette Hartman, Dodgeville, WI  
 George Campbell, Stoughton, WI  
 Florence Crubaugh, Dodgeville, WI  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ross Pollock, Mineral Point, WI  
 Janice Blask, Dodgeville, WI

*Thanks for your support.*

## Painting Anyone?

The Dodge Mining Camp Cabin  
 needs to be "prettied up" this spring.  
 We already have two volunteers. Oddly  
 one of them doesn't know he has  
 volunteered ... but he will find out.

Call Neil for your paint brush when the  
 grass grows and the birds sing.

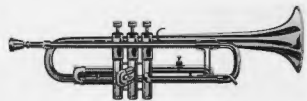
## \*\*\*\*\*

### Arrange for an appointment at ICHS.

We can take your messages 24-7. We will reply as  
 soon as possible. Leave your name, telephone number,  
 mail address and/or email address for fast service.  
**Call: 608-935-7694 or email: [ichistory@mhtc.net](mailto:ichistory@mhtc.net)**

### Membership Application

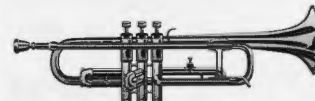
Iowa County Historical Society  
 MAIL TO: MARIE SERSCH  
 106 E. Pine St., Dodgeville, WI 53533



Individual-annual	\$10.00	5 year	\$40.00
Couples-annual	\$15.00	5 year	\$60.00
Historian-annual			\$25.00
Master Historian-annual			\$50.00

*Membership dues and categories as of July 1, 2005*

*Membership year is July 1st—June 30th*



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 XXXI No. 2 April 2006

**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-annual \$10.00    5 year \$40.00

Couples-annual \$15.00    5 year \$60.00

Historian, annual    \$25.00

Master Historian, annual    \$50.00

Membership year is July 1st-June 30th

**ICHS SERVICES -GENEALOGY-HISTORIC RESEARCH**The Society has archives for Iowa County: history-cemeteries-  
obituaries-photographs-newspaper microfilm-artifacts

Open May-September

Monday-Friday

10 am-Noon and 1 pm-4 pm

All year by appointment

Phone us 24/7: 608-935-7694.

email: [ichistory@mhtc.net](mailto:ichistory@mhtc.net)Web site: [iowacountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://iowacountyhistoricalsociety.org)

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**Calendar of Events****Ice Cream Social  
and****30th Anniversary of ICHS****Remember Our Founders**

4:30 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 13

at the Museum

1301 N. Bequette St. Dodgeville

Music and Fun

Annual Meeting  
Dodgeville City Hall  
Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 7:30 p. m.

*To Our Friends ...*  
*Please consider memorial donations*  
*when planning your estate.*  
*Contact a director.*



Wild Turkey

by John James Audubon

From "The Birds of America"

Published in London 1827-1838

Native to Iowa County