

# Iowa County History

Brought to you by the Iowa County Historical Society

Volume XXXII

No. 3

July 2006

## Potpourri

Before we forget ... Thanks to **Reynolds Storage** of Dodgeville for services rendered when the ICBS was strapped for storage space.

Ice Cream Social and 30th Anniversary, see details to the right.

*"We have nothing else with which to build a future except the lumber of the past"*

This quote is taken from Harper's Magazine for May 2006 and well describes the need to build from the experiences and mistakes of our human past, a mission possible at ICBS.

Digital inventory management is the goal of every progressive organization. The ICBS is no exception. Slowly but surely our volunteer crew is cataloging Society holdings so that a functional index will inform researchers where to look for news of the past. Call the museum to volunteer and to do research.

A quote from the past: When discussing how best to provide state financial support for historical societies, a legislator remarked, "Wisconsin isn't a rich state. We have our financial problems and a lot of demands for state money. I don't know why we should have the best state historical society in the country, considering the cost. But we do have the best, so I'm willing to support it so that it remains the best." Wasn't that a wonderful supportive statement? Editor.

## 30 Years A Society

+++++

### Ice Cream Social

#### Blacksmithing

by Tom Peterson

#### Needlework

by Janette Hartman

Thursday

July 13, 2006

4:30—7:30 p.m.

At the museum

1301 N. Bequette St.

Dodgeville, Wisconsin

Music by

Tom Bedtka

### Annual Meeting

Tuesday October 24

7:30 p.m.

Dodgeville City Hall

Books for sale

See insert with reviews

## ICBS 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	

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## Arena ... Missing Our Stage

*Arena Correspondent ... 1882*

*From the Arena page of the Dodgeville Chronicle published 28 January, 1882, the frustration of the unknown Arena author will bring a smile to the reader's face. Is nothing new under the sun? The more conveniences to which we aspire, the harder we must work to pay for them.*  
Editor.

Dodgeville, as the bird flies, is not 20 miles from Arena. It is our county seat and our citizens must of necessity visit it occasionally. Hitherto, we have been able to reach it by stage in six or seven hours. We then felt it very inconvenient and longed for something better and faster. We have it now—fine palace coaches drawn by the iron horse. Dodgeville is no longer 20 miles from Arena but 70. The trip can no longer be made in seven hours, but you must prolong your day till one o'clock at night, and then hie away to Madison, and lounge around till morning, when you can get to Dodgeville at 10:45 a. m. and a sleepless night, and it costs more money than the old stage fare,



### Arena before the fire of 1908

consumes more time and is a fatiguing trip. We therefore miss the stage. Also in our mail facilities, it is but little better. By the old line we could reach Dodgeville in 7 hours. By the new route we cannot reach it in less than 22 hours, thus throwing us one day behind in getting our copy to press, and one day behind all other parts of the county in getting our Dodgeville mail, and we don't know how to remedy the evil, unless we telephone it. *A delightful essay, worth framing. Editor.*

*About your ancestors: Attended the wrong family reunion for 10 years. Failed the Ellis Island door knob test. Does not apply to present company.*

## **“Why Do They Ride for the Money”**

**by Neil Giffey**

The western ballad, “Why do they ride for the money” followed by “Why do they rope for short pay,” is a set of questions aimed at cowboys doing a dangerous, dirty, lonely and poorly rewarded job. The cowboy recipient of the question responds by telling of his love for the beauty of his surroundings and his communion with nature in the cathedral of silence enveloping his every move. Change a few words and that becomes a good description of the thousands of volunteers who work daily at local historical societies across America. When you see a volunteer, thank him or her for a job well done. Join the ranks if you wish. Your energy and good will would be more than welcome.

## Acquisitions

**John Metcalf**, Madison, WI: Dodgeville Music Festival March and May 1954 programs.

**Priscilla Lewis**, Blanchardville, WI: Book: "The Village of Morcow" by Priscilla Lewis.

**Jean Clausen**, Mazomanie, WI: Book: “**Alice Parson: A Personal Life History.**”

**Mary Ruppert**, Madison, WI: Pleasant Valley School ledgers.

**Dorothy Noble**, Mineral Point, WI: Photos of Goldmine Cheese Factory and Potterton Cheese factory.

**Pamela Bahr**, Avoca, WI: Period clothing collected by **Ruth Bahr**.

**Brian & Elizabeth Julson:** Sun Prairie, WI: Dodgeville Chronicle newspapers. **Charles & Maude Rohr** collection.

**Barbara Anderson**, Barneveld, WI: Red Cross uniform worn by **Agnes Anderson** as Barneveld Blood Bank Director in the 1950s.

**Theodore Arneson**, Barneveld, WI: Bronze and silver Mississippi Parkway medallions and Old Iowa County Sesquicentennial medallions.

**Frances Crane, Santa Rosa, CA:** Book: “A Brief History of the **Sawle Family: Cornwall to Wisconsin**” prepared by the great grandchildren of **Stephen & Margaret Sawle**.

**Michael Saunders**, Universal City, TX: Genealogy: "Descendants of **Michael Lynch** of County Cork, Ireland" Also sketches of **Frank Gilbert**.

**Jean Windberg**, Waukegan, IL: Plaque: **Aldro Pengilly Jr.**  
Livestock Show related items, Madison, Wis. Letters re: **Vern  
Termain's** qualities as teacher and related items.

**David Kjelland**, Mineral Point, WI: Book: "Railroads of Southern & Southwestern Wisconsin: Development to Decline" by **Daniel J. Lantz**.



## By-Law Change Proposed for July Meeting

by John Hess

Following up from the previous meeting, John presented language for a by-law change. It was reviewed and approved by ICHS Attorney Robert Jackson and is the same language used by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The proposed change would become Article V, Section 1.d and states – *“A vacancy among the elected Directors may be filled by the Board of Directors, such appointee to hold office for the unexpired term.”*

Approved by the ICHS Board of Directors at the May, 2006 regular meeting the board recommends that the membership approve of the change. The vote will be taken at a short meeting to be called at the Ice Cream Social—30th Anniversary Celebration on July 13. Paid up members are eligible to vote. After discussion the Board agreed that in order to function efficiently, it is necessary to maintain a full complement of nine directors. Due to the increased Society workload, a vacancy over a prolonged period of time would handicap Society functions. Qualified society members are eligible for appointment to the Board. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact the Society president.



### Potpourri Continued

by Neil Giffey

On May 20 the **Lafayette County Historical Society** hosted an all day event for south-western Wisconsin historically inclined citizens. Targeted toward those who wished to do local history exhibits on a more professional interpretative basis, the workshop was taught by Debbie Kmetz, a former long time employee of the Wisconsin Historical Society. Her 26 years of practical experience proved impressive to ICHS attendees, **John Hess, Janette Hartman, Neil Giffey** and **Boyd Geer**. She emphasized that a well thought out plan was important to exhibit success.

Winston Churchill was quoted thusly:

**“The farther back you look,  
the farther back you see.”**

We agree, the view widens and understanding grows as we study the past.

#### Next Newsletter

**More Iowa County History plus**

**“The Last Buggy Whip?”**

### World War II and Boy Scouts

*ICHS Storyteller Leon Nelson remembers more about Scouts and School during World War II. Editor.*

During the war scouts were messengers in the "Civil Defense." We had drills in the town about emergency procedures in case we were ever bombed or invaded by the enemy, and the scouts would peddle their bikes all over town from one command post to the other. There would be streets that we couldn't drive on because they were listed as "bombed" and from time to time we would find "victims" laying in the street that we had to treat with our First Aid expertise. We wore arm bands that had a circle with a triangle in it that designated us as messengers. And if you don't think we thought we were some stuff, we were the only kids in the whole Civil Defense organization! We also put on paper drives for the defense effort and the Boy Scouts also had a nationwide aluminum scrap drive and in Dodgeville we had a building full of old aluminum pots and pans and many other things made of aluminum that was turned in to build airplanes to bomb Hitler, Tojo, and Mussolini! We would do our best to wipe out the Axis! In school, at the woodworking shop, we would make solid wood model airplanes in the shape of the Jap Zero fighter plane, the Mitchell bomber, the P40, P38, Messerschmidt bomber, the English Spitfire, the Mitsubishi bomber, and about every plane the Allies or Axis had. They were painted black. *To be continued ...*

## Adolph Lukasek ... A New American Off the Boat and on to the Civil War

by Neil Giffey

*The story posted below is the result of an interview with Carl Lucas of rural Linden Township, Iowa County, Wisconsin. Ninety years of age, married to Marge for many of those years, Carl, the grandson of Adolph Lukasek, is proud of his ancestor and happy to pass on what he knows about him. Carl hopes that family research will uncover more about Adolph, the new American. Editor.*

Would you believe this tale ... A young Bohemian, **Adolph Lukasek**, is sent to America by his father, a resident of Prague in what is now the Czech Republic. Swimming in a sea of 25 mil-



Adolph's Grandson Carl Lucas and wife Marge

lion total strangers, Adolph is lonesome, so he enlists in the Union Army. The date is 9 August, 1862 and the Ameri-

can Civil War is raging. Bull Run has been fought once and will soon be bloodied again and it does not look good for the Union. It is fair to say that his father, **Waselav Lukasek**, was not pleased when the news arrived in a letter. But Dad was far away and Adolph was lonesome. He would never be lonesome again.

Adolph enlisted from Bristol, Wisconsin. We don't know why; perhaps he was working there. Anyway he was assigned to the 20th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Company "B." The young men surrounding him were mostly from the southern part of Wisconsin. One company was almost entirely from Boscobel. That's the way the patriot fervor of the early days of the Civil War became manifest. Entire villages were emptied of their young men as they followed a leading citizen who recruited them into the battle to end slavery and subdue the Rebels. Often the leading citizen

resigned his captaincy within a few months and returned home to tend to business. Adolph's Certificate of Service shows that the 20<sup>th</sup> WVI was organized and mustered into the service of the United States at Camp Randall, Madison, Wisconsin, on 23 August, 1862. The regiment left the state on 31 August and arrived at Rollo, Missouri, on 6 September. They started to march and fight and probably to live off the land as they moved about. Hungry soldiers the world around have been known to liberate livestock for their evening meal; the 20<sup>th</sup> WVI would have been no exception.

Adolph Lukasek was soon to be a newly minted American. Immigrants who became Union soldiers were on the fast track to becoming citizens and owners of free or very low priced government land. (*Details of his reward are lacking at this writing.*) The 20<sup>th</sup> WVI marched, sometimes moved on water and engaged in eight major battles in the Western Theater of the Civil War. They were attached to the Brigade of General Herron initially and evidently were transferred to other groups as the campaign progressed. Unofficial sighting of the enemy were numerous. They tramped around in enemy country displacing Rebel sympathizers in front and becoming surrounded by them in the rear.

The Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers of the War of the Rebellion Volume II shows that Adolph and his companions were mustered out of service in Galveston, Texas on 14 July, 1865. The unit embarked for home on 17 July and arrived in Madison on 30 July after boarding a train at Cairo, Illinois. They were paid off and disbanded at Camp Randall on 9 August, 1865. Their war was over.

After returning from Battle, Adolph married Barbara Cemlycka (*now Zemlicka*) of Boscobel, Wisconsin in Grant County, Wisconsin. The marriage date was 12 February, 1867. Engaged in farming near Highland in Iowa County, Wisconsin, he was the father of two children Adolph Justice Lukasek and Elizabeth Ann Lukasek. Adolph Justice is believed to have been named for the "Justice" done in the Civil War. Truly his father was convinced of the "justice" of the Civil War and content with the hard work of building equity in a farm on fertile prairie land surrounded by family and friends when several friends from his Civil War Regiment came to visit. After days of happy reminiscences, the friends boarded train for their journey home.

*Continued on page 6*



# Society Celebrates 30 Years of Diligent Service

by Neil Giffey

Thirty years ... seems like a long time doesn't it? Well that's about the number of years many Society volunteers have belonged to the fondly named Iowa County Historical Society, ICHS for short. Many came in as charter members. Well (I'm getting philosophical here) its memory time, and memories are our



**Tom Peterson**  
Blacksmith

stock in trade. Memories of the early struggles, the disappointments, the challenges and the triumphs will be briefly brought to mind the afternoon



**Tom Bedtka**  
Musician

of July 13, 2006 on the museum grounds. Such luminaries as **Melva Phillips** and others too numerous to mention will be present, unless it snows, to share memories and mingle



**Janette Hartman**  
Needlework

with the celebrating citizens on the lawn.



**Melva Phillips**

Not only that but we will stir more memories with music by **Tom Bedtka**, the skilled blacksmithing of **Tom Peterson** and the needlework of **Janette Hartman** who will appear in costume in her role as a Cornish immigrant of the 1840s. Janette is a **Pen darvis Tour Guide**.

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## Our Founders—1776

Dipping into our institutional memory, we find this group of pioneer founders of the ICHS. The records show a working committee and later a founding committee. The difference is minute, but accuracy is important too so we are designating the august group listed below as participants in the organization of the Iowa County Historical Society in 1976. If we missed someone, please accept our apologies and remind us of the omission. Thanks.

**Eva Skinrood, Eileen Arndt, Mary Ellen Cherry, Roy Cherry, Lois Demby, Jeannie Lewis, Nordeen Gilbertson, Robert Hanson, John Helminstine, Ruth Jungbluth, Marjorie McFaul, Elaine Narveson, Everette Olsen, Melva Phillips, Richard Scullion, Ruby Skaife, Lyla Vinje, Margaret Metcalf, Tom McCutchin, Robert Pechan, Dan Evans, Max Theobald, Melva Knebel.**



Does this scene look like something in your grandmother's album? Call if it clicks at all. Identified by the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society as a cabin at Dodge's Grove between Dodgeville and Mineral Point, circa 1915.

## A Remembrance: When the Spring Green Bridge Collapsed

by Alice Griffiths

*Our ICHS Newsletter Editor and Board Member, Neil Giffey, has been asking his fellow members for help in some remembrances and so we are hoping some of you have some memories of happenings from the past. With your help, we would like to initiate a new Remembrance Section in this Newsletter.*

On November 15, 1948, my dad, **Earl "Lefty" Thompson**, was on his way to call on one of his clients in Arena and had stopped for lunch at the garage/store/restaurant on the corner of Highway 23 and



Alice Griffiths

14, (now 23 and Hwy C), which overlooked the bridge. He was there eating lunch when the bridge collapsed.

I remember Dad coming home after work and sharing the vivid memories about what he had witnessed that day. These memories became my early childhood memories.

The Chronicle reported that fifty or more telephone lines crossed the bridge and all were snapped when the span dropped. **Roy Kellerman**, new owner of the garage/store at the South end of the bridge, was an amateur radio operator. He sent out the word which was picked up by a Dubuque station and then others. Shortly scores of cars were at the scene.

The Chronicle headlined the story and accompanied it with pictures of the downed bridge. Sadly, a couple in their car fell from the bridge. While the husband was able to escape the car, his wife was not able to and drowned.

Also lost when the middle span collapsed was a produce truck loaded with turkeys from Mazomanie. The turkeys floated down river and many were caught and returned to the warehouse.

Every time we cross the new bridge to Spring Green, I have vivid memories of my Dad and his story of that tragic day at the "old bridge."

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### 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, 1862-2005 ... complete  
Barneveld Banner, some issues missing  
The Hollandale Review, some issues missing

#### Just In

Dodgeville Chronicle microfilm  
July—December 2005

### *Lukasek ... A New American*

*(Continued from page 4)*

Adolph climbed into the car with them for a last goodbye. Unexpectedly, the train started to move. Adolph, certainly surprised, probably thought to stop the train. Failing that, as the train gathered speed, he jumped off incurring a fatal injury as he struck the ground. The date was 30, December, 1879. The accident occurred in Eden Township, Iowa County, where a few days later his body was found. He was buried in the Highland Public Cemetery leaving a young pregnant widow and a son less than two years old. Thus tragically ended the life of a new American. His life forged in hardship, danger and in the knowledge that he had served his country for a great and moral cause.



**Synopsis: Iowa County Historical Society  
Minutes of the May 23, 2006 Board Meeting**

Meeting called to order by President Alice Griffith at 10:00 AM at the Museum. Other Board Members present: Boyd Geer, Neil Giffey, John Hess, Therese McGarragher, Melva Phillips, Helen Radtke, Marie Sersch and Tom Wilson. Minutes of the April 18, 2006 Board Meeting were read, corrected, and accepted Giffey/Sersch, carried. The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted Radtke/Giffey, carried. ed.

*At this point the meeting was interrupted by Jim Haggerty who offered to donate photographs and yearbooks. After examining some sample copies, his offer was accepted. He will bring material to the museum at a later date.*

**OLD BUSINESS**

Bylaws change – Hess presented language for a bylaws change. It was reviewed and approved by Attorney Robert Jackson and is the same language used by the Wisconsin Historical Society. The proposed change would become Article V, Section 1.d. and states – “A vacancy among the elected Directors may be filled by the Board of Directors, such appointee to hold office for the unexpired term.” Moved Geer/McCarragher, carried. Membership to vote at the Ice Cream Social/30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on July 13, 2006. Proposed change will be in July newsletter.

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Ice Cream Social – Rent 20 by 40 tent from Tom Mueller, who will rent it for half price, if we set it up. Tom will oversee.

Event will include Tom Peterson and his blacksmith display, as arranged by Tom. John will cover set up expenses of approximately \$50. Tom will cover meal.

Helen and Tom scheduled time to paint sign for the event.

Melva to prepare brochure recounting the history of the ICHS.

Helen to be in charge of food arrangements.

Approval moved Radtke/Sersch, carried.

Storage: primary, secondary and other – Alice reported on the various storage arrangements being used, and the need for reorganizing and coordinating the storage of ICHS collections.

Web Sites – Discussed ideas for and upgrades of the ICHS web site, as well as other web sites that have information on the ICHS. Neil will pursue.

United Fund of Iowa County grant – Boyd reported on the recent publicity in the Chronicle on the use of the grant proceeds, and described the required documentation of the use of the grant funds.

NEW BUSINESS Exhibit Training Workshop – The Lafayette County Historical Society, recipient of a training grant from the WCLH, hosted a workshop for area historical societies on May 20 presented by Debbie Kmetz. Attending for the ICHS were Boyd, John, Neil and Janette Hartman. John reported that the workshop focused on Interpretive Exhibits. Boyd showed the packet of materials received.

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Iowa County Fair – Discussed participating with a booth on the history of the fair.

Ridgeway Railroad Museum – Melva advised they are looking for a traveling exhibit for their museum space. An officer of the Museum will attend our next board meeting.

Discussed security of Museum collections.

Next meeting scheduled for June 20 at 10 AM at the Museum. Adjourned. John Hess, Secretary

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## 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**

**Plan to leave a copy of your work at the Museum.  
We help to provide safe storage in the event of a disaster  
at your home.**

## Can You Transcribe?

*Your Society needs eager volunteers to transcribe  
the local history interviews done by staff.*

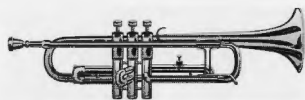
*Call Neil: 608-935-5557*

## 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  
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 XXXII No. 3 July 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

*Annual Meeting*

*Dodgeville City Hall*

*Tuesday, October 24, 2006*

*at 7:30 p. m.*

*Nominate and elect  
a leadership team*

Cornish Fest September 22-24, 2006  
plus Cornish Language School on 22nd.

Mineral Point, Wisconsin

Lead miners' daughters welcome

Details? Contact: [cornishfest.com](http://cornishfest.com)

or [mineralpoint.com](http://mineralpoint.com)

## *Ice Cream Social*

*Blacksmith demo. by Tom Peterson*

*Music by Tom Bedtka*

*Needlework by Janette Hartman*

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

*Bring a bunch of friends*

*4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the museum*

*1301 N. Bequette St. Dodgeville*

