

Iowa County History

Brought to you by the Iowa County Historical Society

Volume XXXII

No. 1

January 2007

Potpourri

We welcome **Eileen Arndt** to the ICHS Board of Directors. With a background in Iowa County agriculture and a keen interest in history, she is an ideal selection to replace the indomitable **Melva Phillips** who chose not to stand for election at the annual meeting in October.

A nice "gift" column from the **Spring Green Home News** recently extolled the virtues of becoming a member of the Iowa County Historical Society. The Editor of the Home News, a distant relative, my brother, was eager to observe the spectacle of Cornish Wrestling as brought to life in the October issue.

If the date on your address label is 06/30/2006, your renewal is over due. Please remit. Thank you.

Again ... **Culver's of Dodgeville** will donate a percentage of their sales to the Society for the week of March 17, 2007.

Be hungry. Be there.

Society Officers Re-elected

It is our pleasure to announce that the officer slate which has been successfully planning for the future of the Society has been reelected. As mentioned above we also welcome a new board member.

Annual Meeting Attendance Record

Would you believe that 72 citizens heard George Walterschausen and the IC-RR story on October 26, 2006.

Public Invited

ICHS Meeting

1:30 pm Jan 20, 2007

Speaker

Jim Massey

Editor

The Country Today

"Journalism & Agriculture"

Stonefield Apartments

404 E. Madison St.

Dodgeville

ICHS

Dinner-Dance

February 18, 2006

Honoring Melva Phillips

at Chandlers ...

Mineral Point

Serving 12 to 1:30 pm

\$18.00 per person

Music by Tom Bedtka

Auction Donations needed

for April 14, 2007

See Page 3

ICHS Directors

Alice Griffiths, Pres.	935-0574
Boyd Geer, VP	930-9084
John Hess, Sec.	588-7082
Marie Sersch, Treas.	935-5752
Eileen Arndt	935-2623
Helen Radtke	987-2892
Therese McCarrager	967-2232
Tom Wilson	935-7707
Neil Giffey, Editor	935-5557
giffey@mhtc.net	

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Witness to the 1920s and 30s

by Irene Thelma Olson Rowe

This is a continuation of the recollections of Irene Rowe. We welcome your comments. Editor.

When the corn in the shocks had dried enough for cribbing, the shocks were torn down and the ears husked out by hand. After the ears were removed, the stalks were again shocked and remained in the field until they could be hauled in and cut up with the silo filler. What stalk material was not eaten would be used



Irene Thelma
Olson Rowe

for bedding. If the husking had not been completed before snowfall, we knelt in the snow to get the job done. The best ears were saved for seed for the next year and would be strung up on the porch to be dried and shelled. In the winter time molasses was added to the corn fodder or hay to make it taste better. The molasses would get very stiff and run from the barrel very slowly. One day Daniel and I

got tired of waiting for the pail to fill and went to the house to rest. By the time we remembered the pail had run over and molasses was all over the floor. That was not a happy occasion and you can be sure it did not happen again.

As we grew older, we were allowed to attend evening parties in the neighborhood. We played many games of "pussy want a corner," "here we come," "where from?," "pum pum pull away," "what's your trade?," "blind man's bluff," "anty over the shanty," "last couple out," "fox and geese," and "hide the thimble." In the summer time the few Sunday afternoons you couldn't run fast enough to play ball, there was always a horse shoe pitch to join.

Some tobacco was grown for use at home and a small amount was sold to neighbors. Some times a trade would be made for a gun or other material a neighbor had to offer. Tobacco was also used to keep moths out of winter clothing that was stored for the summer.

A grain binder, bought November 18, 1910, was used to cut the oats. Bundles were shocked in the field until thoroughly dry, then hauled in and stacked in a yard near the barn. Great care was taken to be sure the stacks would shed rain and any farmer wanted to show the neighbors he knew how to build a nice

straight stack. When the threshers arrived, the threshing machine was placed next to the stacks so bundles could be pitched from the stack directly into the machine. Other helpers filled and tied that sacked grain which was then hauled to the bins and dumped. Still others had the dirtiest job of building the straw stack. All in all a dusty chore but with a lot of good fun was had during the times together. Later as the oats was used, we would find that the workers had buried what we called Kentucky Twist here and there throughout the bin.

During the depression days in the thirties, the federal government set up CCC camps around the country to employ young men. One was built just north of Highland and Jewell worked out of there for a while. The men would plant trees, do erosion control work, straighten creek bed and other wood lot jobs around the country. A number of trees were planted on our farm and we carried water in pails to keep them growing. Hardly lost a tree and Pa was very proud of the stand of pines as they became of good size. It was later decided that straightening the creeks was not the best idea as the water would flow faster and cause more erosion although it did make for better shaped fields. When Jewell would come home for a visit, he seemed to always bring lice or bed bugs or some other pestilence from the camp..

When Jewell and Aden first began to work out for the neighbor farmers, the folks collected and kept their wages.

Premost Making

Fresh whey would be brought from the cheese factory, put into a large black kettle hung over an outside fire and cooked slowly to make **premost**. It was necessary to stir continuously and keep the fire low or the whey would scorch. Should this occur, the mix was quickly dumped into another container and the kettle would be scrubbed and started over. This kept the premost from taking on a scorched flavor. As the mixture boiled down and thickened, sugar was added; and as it was an all day chore done outside, very likely a few bugs also joined the mix. This would be stored for later use when it was again cooked and more sugar and cream added. It was used as a spread on bread or lefsa.

A Letter to Our Members

by Tom Wilson

Realizing the challenge facing the Society if it is to meet its obligation to the future, Director Tom Wilson offers this excellent explanation of the dilemma which together we will resolve. Editor.

We recently celebrated 30 years of existence as the Iowa County Historical Society: we have been fortunate to accumulate books, artifacts and unique items - both from members and from people wanting to share their ancestors' possessions with the public. We are extremely grateful for everyone's generosity.

Our good fortune in acquiring these many possessions has created a problem; we've run out of room! Our society would like to dedicate space for every donated item, not only to benefit the public, but also to acknowledge the donors. Years ago there was a popular movie called *Field of Dreams*; one of the more memorable lines from that movie was "If you build it, they will come." An expanded museum will enable your society to retrieve items that have been relegated to storage and readily display future donated items. We are convinced that a more spacious museum would not only accommodate local historians but will also become a point of destination for tourists.

The directors of your Society have decided to hold an auction and raffle with all of the proceeds to

be applied for future expansion of the museum. Long time auctioneer Jack Reynolds and his wife Marian have volunteered time and talents to help with organization, advertising and crying the auction.

Perhaps this letter should have been configured differently. The Bottom Line is this: *We can't have a successful auction without generous donations from our membership and friends of the Society.* Giving to any charitable or nonprofit organization appeals to most people in some way. If you are lucky enough to worry about a large income tax liability, your giving is probably tax deductible. If you have a basement and or garage that is overcrowded with quality items you no longer use, your giving frees up floor space. Your Society sincerely appreciates any donations you're able to contribute toward the auction or directly to the Museum addition.

Please keep April 14, 2007 open on your calendar for your Iowa County Historical Society's auction. We will have access to the Ley Pavilion, at Harris Park, on April 13th for the daytime drop off of your donations. If you have donations that you wish picked up before this date, contact Tom Wilson at 935-7707, Jack Reynolds at 935-5196 or the Society at 935-7694. Thank you in advance. Tom.

Acquisitions

Bill Ruppert, photos, Lawn Cheese Factory.

John Metcalf, Madison, WI: Booklet *Green Diamond IC-RR*, Directory Dodgeville Methodist Church, Ms by David M. Evans, 4-4-1951.

Robert McNeill, Dodgeville, WI: postcard and souvenir card Mineral Point Fair, 1891.

Kathy Vergin, Avoca, WI: baby book.

Kathy Chellevoid, Dodgeville, WI: *Cutler-Moyer Genealogy*, Vol. I

Mary Farrell, Mineral Point, WI: photos, Fairview Cheese Factory

Carol Schuelke-Wininger, Muskegon, MI: photos Dugway and Cobb Cheese factories

Lisbeth Rogers, Madison, WI: Book *Ribbands of Blue* by Clay Schoenfeld

Pine Bluff Historical Society, Cross Plains, WI: book—"Pine Bluff: A Crossroads in Wisconsin" with

CD-ROM by Bob Buege.

Darlene Reilly, Dodgeville, WI: photos, Blue Grass & Dodge Corners Cheese factories.

Ernest & Norma Schweitzer, Cobb, WI: CD with 22 scanned photos of scenes related to Iowa County Highway Dept. and government postcards and photos.

Sierra Sue Osgood, Brandon, MS: *Genealogy—Jones Family History*, compiled by Sierra Sue Jones Osgood.

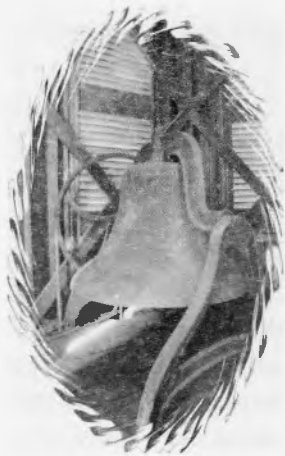
Eugene Edmundson, Arlington Heights, IL: Photo 50th Anniversary of Theodore and Dora with children, photo with unidentified cheese factory workers, horses and wagons.

Ralph and Jane Davies, El Dorado Hills, CA: *Memoir of Grace Mann Larson Lewis*.

Irene Harris, Dodgeville, WI: postcards historic Dodgeville scenes and events.

Once Again ...Test Your Knowledge of Iowa County History

Call, email or write the Editor with your identification of these Iowa County related people and buildings. Start with the flag in the center (*Not to be identified.*) and work clockwise from the bearded gentleman at the top of the page ... A word of caution ... some of the subjects may not have resided in Iowa County all of their lives but ... they have all contributed to Iowa County.



Itinerant Artist Paul Seifert Recorded Life in the Lead Region *Grandma Moses of the River Valley* by Neil Giffey

Paul A. Seifert, a native of Dresden, Germany and a student of engineering at the University of Leipzig, fled the newly unified Germany to avoid the compulsory military service imposed by the newly triumphant Prussian state and arrived in Milwaukee in 1867. Then only nineteen years of age he hitched a ride on a lumber raft down the Wisconsin River. For some unknown reason he dove into the water near the junction of the Wisconsin and the Pine Rivers coming ashore at the then named Richland City. Finding shelter with the German speaking Kraft Family, he soon married their daughter Elizabeth.



E. R. Jones Farm—1881

The young couple purchased land near the town and proceeded to grow garden produce for the local

villagers.

Seifert sold his nutritional produce in Gotham Village when Richland City was undercut by a change in the course of the Wisconsin River. Although hard to imagine in 2006, he pushed a wheelbarrow from door to door peddling his produce.

Sometime in the period between 1875 and 1885, Sievert packed paper, paint and brushes and boldly hiked



David Lewis Farm—1881

about the area offering to do crude paintings of local farmsteads for the sum of \$2.50 to \$5.00.

True primitives, his works were well accepted by those who felt they had much to

be proud of and were eager to record that success for posterity. Many were done in Iowa County. The images above are of northern Iowa County in 1881. The E. R. Jones farm is presently owned by John I. Ihm and is northeast of Dodgeville. This particular painting has been nationally circulated in print form.

Paul A. Seifert's primitive works are a record of our settler past which was rarely recorded for the eye to see and remember. Information in this article includes material from Wisconsin Trails Magazine, The Richland Center Chamber of Commerce and Judge William Dyke.

October 2006 Iowa County Quiz Answers

From the center to top then clockwise

Blackhawk
Homer Griffiths, historian, citizen
Henry Dodge in buckskin
Bequette sisters, granddaughters of Dodge
Birthplace of Pascal Bequette, his dtrs. are above
Edgar Hellum, Pendarvis
Dodge Mining Camp Cabin, Dodgeville
Braun Family Reenactors at Dodge Cabin
Gerald Fieldhouse, local historian

How did you do?

See page 6 for list of winners, if any.

Donate to Auction before April 14, 2007

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 through June, 2006
Barneveld Banner, some issues missing
The Hollandale Review, some issues missing

The Last Buggy Whip

by Neil Giffey

Did you know that the buggy whip business still thrives? It does. Now this writer never used a whip or drove a buggy but did drive many a lumbering team of work horses pulling wooden wheeled wagons hauling hay and grain. I also note that a buggy whip cost \$20 on March 12, 1864 in besieged Atlanta, Georgia, butter \$10 and ... a buggy and harness was a bargain at \$1500. I wonder if they had horses to pull that buggy? Perhaps some became tasty stew in hungry Atlanta. Those same useful commodities were less costly in Iowa County, Wisconsin in 1909. Butter was 23 cents. I have no convenient price reference for buggy whips but \$1 seems about right and horse stew was probably a last resort option of the nutritionally deprived. As I follow the rapid spread of news and ideas in our society, read old letters and newspaper accounts of how we settled the vast continent inadvertently bequeathed to us by the terminal density of the leaders of Northern Europe, I often wonder at the unconscious and innocently brazen comments by our ancestors about the "Savages" "Redskins," "Natives," etc. who contested their movements and their life styles.

Make no mistake, we are all happy to be here. The opportunity to prosper was a blessing not available to the commoners and peasants on the European Continent. Freedom was a great gift we gave ourselves

partly because there was so much opportunity. If our ancestors made a financial mistake, feuded with the neighbors or the local church, they loaded the wagon, harnessed the team and moved. Perhaps fortune would shine on them just over the horizon. Strangely ... because we were of many races, many creeds and many tongues, just like the places we came from, but also because no one ethnic segment of the new American citizenry was numerically powerful enough to overwhelm the other, we banded together in shifting alliances against what we perceived as a threat to our way of life by other minority groups; later we bonded with another group to achieve another objective. Each minority was the "other," the different clan. The Indians were called savages, the English were Yankees; the Irish were Micks, the Germans were Krauts and so on. Well so much for political correctness. I did just use the softer brand names. Why did I compose this little story? Well ... we have long believed that the market for buggy whips lost out to Henry Ford and the Model T, but the buggy whip reminds us that we must not jump to conclusions or perhaps the buggy whip will be more than a metaphor.

If our biases in doing history and genealogy and working with our neighbors were buggy whips the warehouses would be full and they would be selling briskly on the Internet. Let us remember to leave our ancestors to their foibles as we record what we can learn about them. Let us put them down as they were. Let us not impose our twenty first century conclusions on their fallen arches and aching backs. Let us empty our own buggy whip warehouse. Let patience be our

We Get Letters

It's nice to get letters from our readers. Any Editor will testify to a gnawing fear that no one reads his publication. At ICHS we are pleased to report that aside from an occasional correction, we do receive heartwarming letters from those whom we choose to call avid readers. For example, **Lou Engelbert** of Aberdeen, South Dakota and **Kramer Rock** of Green Bay, Wisconsin are among those who have taken the time to applaud our newsletter. Suggestions for improvement, stories and pictures are also welcome.

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**

Who Won History Quiz?

The historic photo contest created considerable interest among the more avid of our members and friends. Regretfully, the Editor was compelled to inform the overall winner, **Phillip Mayer**, of SC, that his entry, scurrilous remarks and all, arrived just a day too late to be considered for the prize. In the interest of full disclosure, the on time, next highest score was from a member of the Editor's household.

Every man serves a useful purpose. A miser, for example, makes a wonderful ancestor.

CONVENTION RECAP

by John Hess

Each year the Wisconsin Council for Local History holds Regional Conventions throughout the state as well as a State Convention, for the benefit of the leaders and volunteers of the 350 plus affiliated local societies and museums. Attendees from across the state are separated from each other by Wisconsin geography but joined by Wisconsin history.

This year's Southwestern Regional Convention was held in Prairie du Chien. Boyd Geer and I journeyed to this historic community to learn how other local societies preserve and share their history, to exchange ideas with representatives of the Wisconsin Historical Society, and to partake of the city's history. Boyd was particularly interested in the Fort Crawford Museum, which has an entire room devoted to Dr. William Beaumont, who performed digestive experiments on Alexis St. Martin, the voyageur with a hole in his stomach which healed but never closed, allowing for the digestive process to be observed. Dr. Beaumont was from Lebanon, CT, and his ancestral home is located just down the road from the Geer farm where Boyd was born.

The 2006 State Convention was held in Madison, which alternates with a city from the north. Last year it was Rhineland and next year it will be Eau Claire. Daylong workshops were held on the first day, one on Fund Raising and the other on Computer Technology, vital subjects for local societies and well attended. Day two of the Convention was November 11,

Veterans Day, and the theme was our soldiers and the impact of war on their lives, on their families, and on society.

The featured presentation was by Richard Haney, Professor of American History at UW-Whitewater, and author of *When is Daddy Coming Home*, a moving and powerful book that explores the impact of war on an American family. Professor Haney's daddy did not come home. He was killed in a glider during an airdrop crossing the Rhine at Wesel in March of 1945.

Other presentations were: "A Monument for the Soldiers" by the Town of Byron Historical Society, "The Civil War Museum of the Midwest" by the Kenosha Public Museum, and "Country Music and War" featuring singing, guitar playing and commentary of Bill Malone, Professor Emeritus at Tulane and WORT radio personality.

The convention concluded with a preview screening of Wisconsin Public Television's "Wisconsin Korean War Stories," produced by Mik Derks of the Spring Green area. It included an interview with Korean War Army Ranger Veteran Robert Graves of the Town of Wyoming in Iowa County.

It was a moving and meaningful day of observance.

John Hess is completing his sixth and final year with the Wisconsin Council for Local History, serving three two-year terms as member at large, five of those years as secretary.

Editors Red Face

Somehow ... Curator Dorothy Anderson's name and title was dropped from recent Newsletters. A computer glitch but nevertheless the Editor's fault. Sorry, Dorothy.

Also the October 06 article re the Ridgeway Depot display was actually written by John Hess. Sorry, John.

Thank You ... George Walterschausen

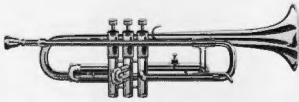
George's railroad lecture was a knockout attraction at the annual meeting on October 26. Total attendance was a record breaking 72. Tell us what you would like to hear and we will listen.

Membership Application

Iowa County Historical Society

MAIL TO: MARIE SERSCH

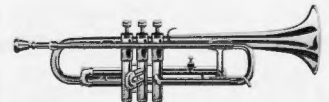
106 E. Pine St., Dodgeville, WI 53533



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. 1 January 2007

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

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ICHS SERVICES -GENEALOGY-HISTORIC RESEARCH

The Society has archives for Iowa County: history-cemeteries-
obituaries-photographs-newspaper microfilm-artifacts

Open May-September 1 pm-4 pm weekdays

New winter hours: 1-4 weekdays

Or by appointment

Curator Dorothy Anderson

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

email: ichistory@mhtc.net

Web site: iowacountyhistoricalsociety.org

Calendar of Events

Public Meeting—All Welcome

January 20, 1:30 pm Stonefield

Apartments Dodgeville

Jim Massey on Journalism and
Agriculture

Dinner-Dance

February 18, 2006

Honoring Melva Phillips

Chandlers, Mineral Point

Serving 12 to 1:30 Music too

A Busy Time Ahead
Share your energy and ideas
with the Society



Melva Phillips
Doing the Work of Three
Retires from ICHS Board

Auction April 14, 2007

Benefit ... ICHS building fund ... donate & buy