# Towa County History

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Brought to you by the Towa County Historical Society

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**Volume XXXIII** 

No. 1

January 2008

#### **Potpourri**

The next big thing at ICHS after the January Public Meeting is the <u>Valentine Dinner-Dance</u>. A fun fund raiser to be celebrated on Sunday, February 17, at The Dodge-Point Country Club. Serving 12 to 1:30 p.m. \$20 per person. Food, Music, Dance, and more.

Remember the fun last year?

#### Thank You, Helen Radtke

Director Helen Radtke of Mineral Point has retired after serving as President for two years and a total of eight years on the ICHS Board. Thank you, Helen. Public Meeting
Saturday
January 19, 2008
At Stonefield
Apartments
Dodgeville
1:30 p.m.
Program
"Jenks Genealogy of America"
by LeRoy Gruenenwald

#### **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 LeRoy Grunenwald 943-8004 Therese McCarrager 967-2232 Tom Wilson 935-7707 935-5557 Neil Giffey, Editor giffey@mhtc.net

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# The Iowa County Historical Society

Ask your friends to join ... pass it on.

#### **Annual Meeting**

Mining in Iowa County was the theme on October 18, 2007 as Bill Singer led a crowd of 65 through the early times of lead discovery and the crude mining practices of the 1820s and 30s to the more sophisticated practices of the 1930s-1970s. Bill was ably assisted by a panel with mining in their blood: Laverne Stratman, Tony Nardi, Don McGuire and Jim Jewell with an sist from Lois Holland who choose to sit in the audience. The setting was concluded with the election of LeRoy Grunenwald of Livingston to succeed the retiring Helen Radtke on the board.

Our host was Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville.



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## Men's Clothing Worn in the United States "Mineral District" 1826-1832

A Primer by Robert A. Braun Secretary, Old Lead Region Historical Society

Printed with permission of the author.

In 1829, Englishman Basil Hall commented on the clothing styles he observed while touring the United States in *Forty Etchings From Sketches Made With a Camera Lucide in North America*: "It is notable that the backwoodsmen here have beaver hats of the style worn in more civilized areas but in a dilapidated condition. There was nothing characteristic about their costume-wear, a medley—a bad imitation of all fash-



ion in English Towns—Winter dress not ill chosen though perfectly novel to strangers—greatcoats made of common woollen [sic] horse cloths, white or green, made with gay stripes on collar, cuffs, and pockets—some striped all over like zebras." Likewise, A. T. Andreas in his *History of Chicago*, pp. 242, 266 indicated that the garb of the frontiersmen were a mix of fur felt hats, broadcloth trousers of "Kentucky" jean, and moccasins. Beyond blanket coats

(or "capotes") and trousers of Kentucky jean cloth, what other evidence exists of the clothing of farmers and lead miners in the region?

Many of the young men that emigrated to the lead region originated in Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and Illinois. These adventurers brought with them traditions and memories from their youth. While not himself a lead miner, Elijah Iles preserved a typical example of such recollections from his childhood in Kentucky, circa 1800-1816: "My mother, with her wool cards, spinning wheel, and loom, manufactured all the clothing worn by herself and the family, except the buckskin pants worn by the men and boys. All these were made into garments with thread spun by herself. No other apparel was used at that day."

In 1826, the first major strike of lead brought a flood of potential miners and fortune seekers to what became known as the "Mineral District" of northern Illinois and western Michigan Territory (present-day Southwest Wisconsin.) Galena, Illinois emerged as the unofficial capitol of the Mineral District.

To be continued.



This is a Dodgeville area baseball team circa 1907. The image was contributed by ICHS member **Terry Larson** of Florida. Identified on the back of the picture by **Grace Mann Larson Lewis** are back row, L—R. #3 **Charley Richardson**, #4 **Will Billington**, #5 **Anton Larson**, grandfather of Terry Larson, and in front #2 is **Ole Larson**, twin brother of Anton Larson. Not identified but in the photograph is **Henry Baker**. If you are able to identify the other members of the team, please contact the Editor.

Anton Larson was the first husband of Grace Mann Larson Lewis, the author of the compelling narrative beginning on page three of this Newsletter.

#### John Hess Honored



We are pleased to report that Society Secretary-Director **John Hess** of Spring Green has been honored as the adult volunteer of the year 2007 by the Wisconsin Health Care Association. Nominated by Mark Scoles, administrator at **Greenway** 

**Manor** in Spring Green, John has been a Greenway volunteer since 1986. Congratulations, John.

#### **Honoring Thy Neighbor's Claim**

The review of the work of **Franklin Calkins** on page 6 of this issue was not intended to be a detailed review of his work but may cause some of our readers to dust off those books and magazines in the attic. For a time your editor thought to title the article "Has Anybody Here Read Calkins?"

#### Tragedy on the Hill The Memoir of Grace Mann Larson Lewis

Forward by Boyd Geer, ICHS archivist.

When the Memoir by Grace Mann Larson Lewis sent to us by Jane Lane Harrison Davies of California arrived at the museum, we knew we had a very interesting piece of writing. And then about the same time two books were published: Death in a Prairie House. by William Drennen and Loving Frank by Nancy Horan. The Memoir and the two books deal with the tragic events that took place at Taliesin in August of 1914. Had Mr. Drennen found the memoir when he was researching his book, he would have had a significant story that certainly would have been included.

One of the most satisfying things to happen



Grace Mann Larson Lewis

when working with donations to the society is to find a connection between one donation and another. happened This when we received, email from Terry Larson of Florida, the photograph of a 1907 Dodgeville baseball team which includes twin brothers. Ole and Anton Larson. Anis Terry's grandfather Grace Mann's first

husband. After Anton died, she married Marvin Lewis.

The Memoir and the picture are printed here with permission from Terry Larson and other Larson-Lewis family members.

The first I ever heard of Frank Lloyd Wright was about 1906 when I was thirteen years old and my folks lived just north of Oak Park in a place called Galewood. It was inside of the Chicago city limits but sparsely populated.

My father was a railroad engineer on the Chi-.ago, Milwaukee Railroad and he had to take his engine from the roundhouse there. We were over a mile from streetcars so were dependent on trains for our transportation until my father bought a horse and surrey. After that we used to go for rides on Sundays to see the surrounding territory.

Our favorite trip was to Oak Park to drive by Frank Lloyd Wright's home. He was quite popular even in those days. One reason was when he built his home, he didn't cut a tree down that was in his yard but built his house around it. I think the tree was in the middle of his porch.

My father's run was from Chicago to Madison, Wisconsin. He loved the Wisconsin farms and hunting, so in 1909 he bought a farm ten miles from Spring Green, Wisconsin, and moved our family up there. He couldn't live on the farm while working, but he never missed a weekend coming home to the farm. I usually met him with a horse and buggy.

Before Frank Lloyd Wright's mother was married, she was one of the Jones sisters who lived about four miles south of Spring Green. Some of the sisters owned the Hillside Home School. It was a boarding school and the Jones sisters taught there. I believe Mrs. Wright left the neighborhood after she was married because Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center in 1869.

East of the Hillside Home School about two or three miles was Tower Hill Park. Frank Lloyd Wright's uncle, the Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, was a minister on Chicago's north side, and in the summer his parishioners would have camp meetings at Tower Hill. They would live in small cottages which dotted the hillside. They had screened barrack-like buildings where they held church services. At the bottom of the hill the Wisconsin River formed a little bay and there was a cave that went back quite a ways into the hill. A man sunk a hole from the top of Tower Hill down to the river level and then dug the cave back to meet the hole from the top. They used to drop hot lead into the top of the hole and when it dropped into the water in the cave, it came out in little round balls and were used for bullets. I think the man's name was John **Shaunce**. They say he was driven off several times by Indians before he completed the project. The Fieldhouse family at Dodgeville, Wisconsin, are descendents of his.

(Continued from page 3)

After we moved to the farm, Frank Lloyd Wright built his first home on a hill near the Hillside Home School. It was called his bungalow and was built on top of a steep hill. There was a square court in the middle and buildings on every side except for a driveway down the hill to the north out to the road and an opening in the south to his yard full of beautiful flowers. There was a road to his sister's house on the south side.

About May of 1913 or 1914 I started taking piano lessons from his sister, Jane Wright Porter. She was much older than me but I enjoyed her. Earlier in her life she had been in New York studying piano and dramatics. Now she took me to recitals and had me up for tea so I was in seventh heaven having such a fuss made over me by so gracious a lady. One day she sent her mother and FLW's daughter to my house on an errand for her. Her mother was a sweet, very cultured old lady and her granddaughter, who was about fifteen years old, was pretty and had charming manners.

I think it was in that same year on a Saturday, I went down to Mrs. Porter's for a piano lesson. My brother was to meet my father that day when he came to Spring Green and they were going to pick me up on a corner near Wright's after my lesson. I walked up the hill to Mrs. Porter's. However, she had a chance to go to Madison shopping that day and left her apologies with her maid to give to me.

Having plenty of time I sauntered thru FLW's, stopped to visit with his gardener and asked the time of day. It was ten minutes to twelve, so I meandered thru the courtyard and down the road to the north and then east to the main highway. I had just reached the corner where I was to meet my father and brother when there was a scream at the bungalow. I turned and listened and wondered if I should go back. There was just one puff of smoke and all was still.

To be continued.

"We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us... 'Tell our story' so we do."

From: Hannover discussion group.

#### Wrigglesworth ... Chronicle Founder Important Foot-loose Early Newspaper Family

In February 1990 **Melva Phillips**, then on the ICHS board of directors, received, via the Dodgeville Postmaster, (to whom it was addressed), a letter from **Jenelle McQuitty** of Farmington, New Mexico. Ms McQuitty inquired about a Wrigglesworth family who left England in about 1844-45 and settled in Dodgeville. Research reveals the surname was found in Yorkshire in the eleventh century and has dozens of spelling variations. Ms. McQuitty believed they were

"probably involved in printing or journalism of some sort."

Melva informed Jenelle that her great grandfather, who Jenelle believed to have been Wrig-Ebenezer Horatio glesworth, was known in the Lead Region as E. T. Wrigglesworth. This agrees with the lettering on his tombstone in Raton, New Mexico. Interestingly, an article in a long ago Dodgeville Chronicle informs that the actual founder and first Editor of the Chronicle. beginning in September 1862, Walter J. Wrig-



Ernest Wrigglesworth "copy boy" Son of E. T.

glesworth. His co-founder W. L. Abbott, soon sold his share to the E. T. Wrigglesworth mentioned above, he a brother of W. J. Wrigglesworth. E. T. helped edit the Chronicle later selling his interest to W. J. who in turn sold in 1874 to Albert S. Hearn, also from Ohio. Hearn published the Chronicle until 1907 when he retired and left, once again, for Ohio. Meanwhile W. J. moved to Darlington and purchased the Republican, which he published with his brother E. T. He then returned to Ohio and was last heard from as ill in Trinidad, Colorado.

Among Lead Region pioneers W. J. was a practiced and restless entrepreneur. He was married to Mary Ann Heathcock who died in 1865. The first wife of his brother E. T. was Olive Webb who gave birth to Mary and Olive Wrigglesworth. After her death E. T. married Mary Jane Pengelly of Dodgeville who resided in New Mexico after the death of her husband. It is possible that some descendents survive in Iowa County. Any leads? Contact the Editor.

#### Clay Hill Cheese Factory Annual Report ... 1934

The ICHS at chives recently yielde this gem, the Clay Hi Cheese factory annua report for 1934. Locate in Brigham Township Iowa County, farme owned and manageo the purpose was to pro vide a low overhea outlet for the manufac turing of raw milk int cheese, a product whic could be shipped acros country without signifi cant spoilage

The factory, now a residence, was located on Clay Hill Road in section 11 of Brigham Township. A point to note is that Clay Hill Road has a separate existence in Ridgeway Township. Iowa County has been blessed with these two rural roads in close proximity and we are informed that others existed in early times.

The report for 1934 shows the nine dairy farmer patronowners received \$7,773 for their milk during the year and were charged \$442.92 for butter and cheese received which shows as a disburse-

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ment. Based on the rate of inflation, the value of the milk shipped to Clay Hill in 1934 has an average buying power per farm of \$13,466.44 in 2007. A dismal result indeed. The Cheesemaker **Blaser** received \$1,154.03 in cash and \$25.99 in cheese and butter for his long and often solitary efforts to make the venture profitable for nine dairymen and himself. **Morris Brattlie** was the secretary-treasurer. This enterprise has been long dissolved, a mptom of the changing face of agriculture. Society archives do not include the dates of incorporation and dis-

solution. Thanks to Bob Thomas, Twila Thomas and Margaret Disrud for information about the Clay Hill Roads.

# Honoring Thy Neighbor's Claim in the Lead Region Franklin Calkins ... Accurate Recorder of Miner and Settler Life by Neil Giffey

Really ... what do we know about the unwritten rules which kept the early lead region miners from each other's throats? Not much, would be a good answer. If we are descended from the first generation miners, we may retain an oral history tradition which has been watered down by the passage of time. People forget details. They may attempt to pass on the story, as they remember it, to younger family members who have been raised in rapidly changing life style and language changes. The colloquial dialect of the recent past is often unintelligible to the new generation. The historic events of our lifetime, which may seem oh so close, are as a foreign country to a twenty year old. Ask any young person to name one event from their birth year, in addition to their own birth. Ask that question of yourself. We may well fail the test. We depend on accurate observers and transcribers of our pioneer past.

One such accurate observer was Franklin Welles Calkins (1857-1928) born to Welsh parents, Franklin Calkins and Abigail Welles, in Iowa County on 5 June, 1857. Schooled in Iowa County, we know not where, he claimed to be self-educated in languages and literature. He even practiced law for a time (not substantiated to date) in Iowa County. Moving about first in Wisconsin then throughout the Middle West and the far West, he became known as a prolific writer and an accurate observer of our frontier culture. He wrote a stream of fiction, much of it for the "Youth's Companion" and was especially respected for his ability to construct early day adventure fiction in an accurate framework; in short ... Calkins characters really did cope with life just like real old-timers. The Indian, the prospector, the miner, the greenhorn farmer and the newly arrived immigrant, although fictional, did not move in a fictional world of the writer's imagination. When composing short stories for the "Youth's Companion," Calkins was in the august company of Hamlin Garland, Rudyard Kipling, William Dean Howells, Jack London and Woodrow Wilson. None of this group could be considered literary light weights and all of them generally wrote with the adult reader in mind.

On the supposed closing of the American Frontier in 1890, Calkins returned to Iowa County first re-

siding in Wyoming Township and then in Dodgeville. (not substantiated to date) The historical novels continued to pour off his pen. Many of his works were somewhat romanticized but culturally accurate stories of the plains Indians. Moving in turn to Minnesota and Wyoming, this frantically energetic man also ranched, sold real estate, was a railroad contractor and was a

close student of animal and plant life, to the point where he had credence as a naturalist, finally settling in California where he died.

Noteworthy among Calkins works was "Frontier Sketches" published in 1893 for the youthful reader but calculated to hold the attention of the adult reader. In this book he portrayed in detail the struggles of the early miners and settlers to

prevail and protect their small claims and farm lands in the complete absence of law. Most often the rights of the individual to maintain informal title to his property, in his absence, without a deed or title, without a sheriff, without more than the respect of one stranger for the rights of another stranger was highly successful. Frantically to keep tabs on the surge of frontier growth and of course to collect fees and taxes, the U. S. government pushed into the Lead Region with land offices and found that the unwritten law of the times protected most, if not all, of the early informal "deals." With seven books accurately portraying settler life and hundreds of short stories, Calkins is deserving of the respect of those who would know and understand the Lead Region settler generation.

Source: The Wisconsin Magazine of History, Volume 44, #3, 1961, written by John T. Flanagan.

#### A Notice from ICHS

The enclosed letter was recently mailed to people who made a donation to the ICHS Building Fund. Since we have now enlarged our focus to include the Floyd School, we want everyone to under stand the basis for our decision.

#### **IOWA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

1301 North Bequette Street, P.O. Box 44 Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044

December 5, 2007

#### Dear Members and Friends:

This has been quite a year for your Historical Society. You, as a donor to the museum expansion, know that there has been an attempt to accumulate the necessary funds for a number of years. We are fortunate and grateful that Jack and Marian Reynolds channeled their expertise and energies into organizing, promoting and implementing an auction and raffle this past April. Under their tutelage and with the help of many members and community groups, we were able to increase the building fund by more than \$12,000. This represents a huge amount of money for this Society, but may pale in value when compared to the hope, optimism and can-do spirit that our membership has developed as a result of that fantastic fundraising effort.

Most of our members and donors can testify that life seldom unfolds exactly as planned. Our newsletter, our entry in the Farmer's Appreciation Day parade and certain newspaper articles have made mention of the opportunity your Society has in acquiring the Floyd School due to the generosity of Curt and Donna Peterson. The home they built on the property where the school is located has been sold. If we are to take possession of the school in order to preserve it, we need to devote part of the expansion fund to moving it to the museum site. An effort was made to acquire additional land adjacent to the museum property, but this did not work out. The best choice for placing the school near the museum is in the space where we have been planning to build an addition.

We want to assure those who donated their money for a larger museum that this plan has not been abandoned. We have every intention of replenishing money diverted to the school project by holding fundraisers and applying for grants. In effect, the school restoration project expands the present display area in the museum. Several people were saddened when the student desks were moved from the museum and placed in storage. These desks and other school related artifacts from the museum collection will furnish the restored school. Floyd School will be a museum open to the public but it will also be an educational center, available to schools in the area and other children's groups. Both former and current school teachers have expressed an interest in utilizing this historic structure as a teaching aid to young students.

We believe that it is possible to develop a new design for expansion of our present museum by utilizing the space to the south or perhaps by building a second story. Melva Phillips will continue as the chairperson of the fundraising committee that will work toward this goal. Be looking for several events coming up in the next few months.

We deeply appreciate your past interest in Iowa County Historical Society and we look forward to your continued support as we work together to preserve, for public benefit, the historical heritage of Iowa County, Wisconsin.

Sincerely, eller Huffeel

Alice Griffiths President

#### Board of Directors:

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idalgriff@mhtc.net

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Therese McCarragher 507 Waldwick

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Floyd School Project Coordinator - John Hess - See above Floyd School/Museum Expansion Fund Committee Chairperson – Melva Phillips 3093 County Road H, Ridgeway, WI 53582, 924-5508

#### **Acquisitions**

Mark Pinch, Livingston, WI: Laws of Wisconsin Joint Resolutions and Memorials, various years; reports by various state agencies.

Sylvia Limmex, Spring Green, WI: Various records and MS relating to schools, recollection of Margaret E. Brokish, genealogy of Johann Jacob Wuest, genealogy charts of Limmex family, purses and valise.

**Terry Larson**, Seffner, FL: Photo by email attachment 1907 Dodgeville baseball team, photo by email of Grace Mann Larson Lewis. Use of photos restricted to use in Society Newsletter and Dodgeville Chronicle.

**Darlene Spease,** Dodgeville, WI: Postcards addressed to Lutes family at Black Oak Cheese Factory-1909-1913.

John Metcalf, Compact Disc—Interview with Frederick Elmer Jungbluth by John Charles Metcalf, his grandson, ca. 1975, MS—Genealogical information about Frederick E. Jungbluth, photograph—James Lloyd Jones family on their farm in Hillside Valley ca. 1889, book review—"The Panic of 1907" by Jennifer Coogan, MS—Interview with Charles Lloyd Jones, son of James Lloyd Jones, 1973, by John Metcalf; photograph—Hickcox Family 1902, identified.embers, digital.

Valentine Dinner-Dance
Sunday, February 17, 2008
Food—Fun—Dance
Fund Raiser for Museum Expansion
Dodge-Point Country Club
Serving 12:00 to 1:30 ...... Dance to Follow

#### **Newspaper Microfilm at ICHS**

The Society has microfilm from twelve different Iowa County weekly newspapers at your service and a reader-printer for your convenience. Call ahead to reserve time at the reader-printer.

Think about it. The brick wall in your family research may tumble if you search ICHS microfilm.

# Opportunity to Build a Lectern

Prior to the successful "Mining in Iowa County" program at the annual meeting last October 18 at least four Society members scoured the area, hoping to locate a lectern for our speakers to hide behind. We were unsuccessful until local professional convention comedian, **Ron Dentinger**, heard of our dilemma and delivered his lectern to our meeting site, at the last minute no less. We are grateful to Ron but now believe that some Iowa County woodworker would enjoy showing his or her skills by constructing and presenting such a lectern to the Society.

We will provide dimensions and will stipulate in this column that it should be sturdy but light in



weight, made of wood, and maybe ... designed to be dismantled for ease of transport and storage. Please call or email Neil to discuss this opportunity. Thanks.

#### **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			
Membershin 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 VXXIII No. 1 January 2008

**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

\$25.00

Historian, annual 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

#### Winter Hours 1p.m. - 4p.m. weekdays Or by appointment

**Curator Dorothy Anderson** 

Museum Phone 608-935-7694 Email: ichistory@mhtc.net

Web site: iowacountyhistoricalsociety.org

#### **Calendar of Events**

#### Public Meeting

All are invited

1:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 19, 2008

Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville

"Jenks Genealogy of America"

by LeRoy Grunenwald

### Valentine Dinner-Dance

Sunday, February 17, 2008

Dodge-Point Country Club

Serving 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Food, friends, fun, music ... All for \$20 Museum Fund Raiser ... Dancing to follow

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

**Address Service Requested** 

Thinking about the future of your Society? Plan to be generous.



Cupola ... Iowa County courthouse newly sheathed in copper ... 2001