Towa County History

Brought to you by the Iowa County Historical Society

Volume XXXIII

No. 4

October 2008

Potpourri

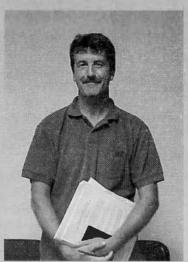
Annual Meeting ICHS

7 pm. Tuesday, October 28, 2008 Stonefield Apartments—Dodgeville

Power Point Program by Ernie Boszhardt U-W LaCrosse

Indian mounds, archaeology, anthropology in Iowa County

Mr. Boszhardt is the Associate Director/Contracts Director and Regional Archaeologist at the Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center (MVAC) on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Originally from the Milwaukee area, he has focused his career on the archaeology of the Midwestern United States beginning with a 1973 field school at Silver Mound (source of Hixson Silicified



Sandstone) in Jackson County, Wisconsin. He received a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1977, and a master's degree in Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1982. He has authored three books: Twelve Millennia: Archaeology of the Upper Mississippi River Valley (U Iowa Press); A Projectile Point Guide for the Upper Mississippi

River Valley (U Iowa Press);

Deep Cave Rock Art in the Upper Mississippi Valley
(Prairie Smoke Press).

Producer of three documentary videos:

Battle at Bad Axe

Mounds of the Upper Mississippi River Valley

Archaeology at Perrot State Park

"Ernie" does a landmark program ... bring your friends.

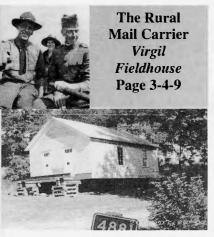
Special Section
Floyd School is Moved
Pictures and a few thoughts
Pages 5-6-7-8

ICHS Directors

935-0574 Alice Griffiths, Pres. 930-9084 Boyd Geer, VP 935-2623 Eileen Arndt, Sec. Marie Sersch, Treas. 935-5752 588-7082 John Hess 943-8007 LeRoy Grunenwald Therese McCarrager 967-2232 935-7707 Tom Wilson Neil Giffey, Editor 935-5557 giffey@mhtc.net

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Floyd School Special Section

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Lewis Brothers Merchants Highland-Linden Page 10

Tom Wilson Page 10

Ready for the mover

Floyd School Has Been Moved!!!!

You Will Be Informed About Dedication Date

Meanwhile ... Contributions and Pledges Respectfully Accepted

Please see pages 5-6-7-8



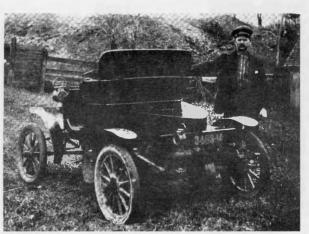
Student body in 1904

Edmunds-Edmundson Family Visits Their Ancestral Cabin Home

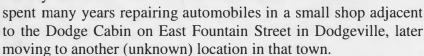
Among the visitors at the Dodge Cabin in 2008 were Eugene Ray Edmundson, Arlington Heights, IL, Patricia Jean Edmundson Lomastro, Ingleside, IL, Kathryn Jean Edmundson Bailey, Kingston, IL, his

daughters and **Anthony Lomastro**, Ingleside, IL. They arranged for a special tour on a bright Saturday morning and were especially pleased to make their family connection to the cabin which has been serving as shelter and work space in Iowa County for over 181 years.

Eugene Ray Edmundson is the son of Clarence "Del" Edmundson and the grandson of Theodore Leonard "Ted" Edmunds who may have been the last to use the historic cabin as a residence. Ted



was married to **Dora Josephine Rickard** in 1903, celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1953. Ted



The Federal Census of 1920 showed the little building was inhabited by Ted, his wife Dora and seven children. Elbow room was not an option. By the 1930 federal census, three of the Edmunds children had left the nest.

To the left ... Ted Edmunds stands proudly beside his 1907 Rambler Runabout manufactured by the Thomas B. Jeffery

Co. Seating two people and with a ten horsepower motor, the car was registered at the State Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin for a fee of \$1.00. This may have been the first automobile registered in Iowa County.

The Dodge Cabin has been designated the oldest building in Iowa County. It is constructed of white oak logs felled in 1827 and 1828 and has had many owners since the freebooting Lead Mining era of the 1820s and 30s. It is now an interpretive site and open to the public the year round, except holidays, by advance appointment only. Call 608-935-7694 or 608-935-5557 for an appointment.

The information for this article was derived from "The Legend of Dirty Hollow" by Dan Evans, the Dodgeville Chronicle and the Edmunds-Edmundson Family. Please note: This branch of the Edmunds family has chosen to use the original Norwegian surname of Edmundson. Editor.



The Rural Mail Carrier by Donald and David Fieldhouse

Like most kids, we didn't really know much about our parents. We knew Dad (*Virgil Elsmere Fieldhouse* 1892-1963) as a farmer and a rural mail carrier, and that his WWI uniform hung in his bedroom closet.

Our father was born in **Livingston**, Wisconsin in 1892 the son of an English stone mason/farmer, the youngest of seven children. As a boy in Livingston, he collected news items for the Dodgeville Chronicle. Dad was not physically strong and suffered from an iron deficiency. This deficiency was apparently one of the reasons that his parents (**William** and **Susan Fieldhouse**) purchased the Elwood fruit farm and vineyard in Dodgeville in 1906 as grapes were considered to be a good source of iron. The ten acre farm had several acres of grapes.

In Dodgeville
High School Dad did
well academically and
on the debating team.
He graduated in 1910
as valedictorian of his
ass. He received a
glowing recommendation for continuing on
to college, but he chose

Lincolian Society High School Debating Team-1910



Virgil Fieldhouse, Elwyn Evans, Aldro Jenks

not to continue his education as he was the remaining son left to assist his father with the farm.

Later on jobs were scarce for young men of draft age as WWI began, so he enlisted in the army, serving his time at Fort Worth, Texas in the Army Air Force which was then part of the Army Signal Corps. He would tell us boys tales of his army experiences as bed-time stories which we still remember and often compare to check our memories. Yet closer to home are his tales of experiences as

a rural mail carrier.

The authorized vehicle for the rural mail carrier in Wisconsin in the 1920s was the horse and buggy. Dad also used a sleigh, a "cutter" (the one horse open sleigh) and a Model T Ford, plus occasional skis. Dodgeville Rural Route #3 had many steep hills such a Rockwell Mills Road near Ridgeway and Hands Hill Road near Hollandale, challenges to both horse and car.

One example of the difficulties that could face a rural mail carrier on his daily travels was recorded in the **Dodgeville Chronicle** of February 24, 1927. The item reads, "Mail carrier, Virgil Fieldhouse, had quite an exciting time Saturday when he was a victim of a holdup. The deed was perpetrated by two ponies while Mr. Fieldhouse was driving his team, hitched to a buggy, down an icy hill. The ponies closed in on the team biting playfully. Suddenly, one of them kicked viciously and broke the neck yoke allowing the buggy pole (tongue) to drop into the ground. Mr. Fieldhouse pulled the team to the side of the road into the bank. The horses then broke away from the buggy and tore down the hill carrying one of the ponies on the neck yoke in front of them. Mr. Fieldhouse had quite a time getting fixed up again to continue his trip." Dad later told of the difficulty he encountered in avoiding the horses hooves as he was pulled down a steep bank.

Dad had two horses for the mail route and one for farm work which we kids used for riding. For the mail route, he had a matched team of former race horses which he used for the sleigh and the buggy. One of the horses was black (Sammy) and the other was a chestnut. Farmers often commented on how fast Dad's team traveled compared to theirs.

The Model T Ford was Dad's motor vehicle until 1931 when he moved up to a Model A Ford. During the mid to late 1920s, he always had several cars in various stages of repair as the parts were interchangeable. He never bought a new Model T, but he always had at least two that were in running condition. The spare cars and spare parts made it possible for us, and especially older brother Gerald, to assemble a "car" for driving around on our property. In the winter, Dad often took the buggy on snow covered roads that had only been traveled by sleighs. His route included bare gravel roads and paved roads as well, so he could



Young soldiers at home, Virgil Fieldhouse, va Power, (Virgil's future wife) and Jack Lewis

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) The Rural Mail Carrier

not use a sleigh for the whole trip. The sleigh runners left a narrower track than the buggy wheel width so it was difficult to travel these roads with a buggy. After pondering the problem, Virgil's mechanical aptitude helped to solve the problem. Dad built what he called a "snow buggy." He narrowed the wheel width of a standard buggy and added Model T wheels and tires plus a coil spring to provide a smoother ride. This was innovative for that time. We don't know how often Dad used this vehicle, but it was stored in our buggy/wagon shed

for many years.



Art Heinz, the welder, at snow buggy controls—1928

For most years, Dad had the conventional three door touring car (convertible with side-curtains). Three doors was standard with no door for the driver. The touring car body style was much preferred over the sedan or coupe because of its lower center of gravity. This was very important because in order to get the mail delivered one had to drive on and off the road or anywhere needed. This could mean through ditches, up steep embankments or even through farmer's fields, so with the farmer's approval, it would be necessary to open up the fence (even cut) to get the car through. Dad would take along a hammer, fencing pliers, staples and other items needed for fence repair.

Each day when getting ready to go on the mail route, Dad would have to decide on the means of transportation for the day horses with buggy or cutter or the Model T. In order to keep his feet prepared for cold weather, he would remove the wooden floor boards from the Model T to keep his feet toughened up for maybe the next day in the buggy or cutter. He didn't want to get used to a warm car. Although closed in with the side curtains, it could hardly be called a warm car even with the exhaust manifold heater.

All Model T's came with a tool kit of assorted wrenches. This allowed you to work on your own vehicle. When the going was tough with mud, snow, rocks and ruts, the Model T transmission, with the bands and drums as moving internal parts, could start to slip. While Dad was driving with the floor boards out, it made it easy to stop on the road, remove the bolts and cover of the transmission to adjust the low band—all in a day's work on the mail route.

The standard gears in the Model T were rather simple. The left of the three foot pedals was the "low" gear while the hand lever on the far left, when pushed far forward, was "high." This lever when pulled to a straight up position was "neutral" and hard back was the hand brake or parking brake. The center of the three foot pedals was "reverse" while the right pedal was the brake. The gas lever was on the right of the steering column while the spark control was on the left. The routine for starting was "spark up and gas down." Then when the car started, it was "spark down and gas up." This advanced the spark and brought the engine to an idling speed. Of course, the car was hand cranked. Holding the crank properly was a must. With the thumb tucked in the palm of your hand so that if the engine misfired and kicked back, your thumb wouldn't get caught and broken. A wire protruded out through the radiator for operating the choke.

As Dad started using the Model T instead of horses in cold weather, antifreeze was unheard of. One day as Dad drove his Model T delivering mail, he had the radiator full of water and covered with a heavy robe. The engine started to steam and get hot. Thinking he could cool it down, he removed the robe from the radiator only to discover that the water had frozen in the radiator thus stopping the circulation and splitting the radiator wide open. As time passed and they used cars more often in the winter, kerosene was used as a coolant, then alcohol, both fire hazards.

The Model T Ford was satisfactory for level and medium hilly roads, but Dad often had trouble with some hills on Dodgeville Rural Route #3. Several of the hills could only be climbed if the car was in reverse. Backing up the hills provided a lower gear, plus the gas flowed better by gravity to the carburetor on the engine as the gas tank was under the front seat. In addition, Dad had what was called a "cut-out." A little pedal at the back of the driver's right heel would open up the tail pipe by degrees so the muffler didn't take away as much power, (at least it roared more and

Special Section ... The Ages of Floyd School In Word and Picture

Here is YOUR Iowa Country country school saved THANKS to your continued support, but especially to Curt and Donna Peterson who gifted the building to the Iowa County Historical Society. It exemplifies the importance of education to the early settlers of the Floyd Settlement in northern Iowa County. Education has evolved into a much more complicated, comprehensive, and expensive system which includes subjects and technologies unknown to the early settlers. The ICHS has accepted this gift to show present and future generations the beginning of education in Iowa County giving them a first-hand experience of their ancestor's school days. When it is fully restored, area teachers will be encouraged to bring their classes to the school for an historical learning experience. In 2000, the median age of our population was 35.3 years. Schools were consolidated in early 1960s and the country schools were abandoned. Therefore, a majority of our visitors will never have attended "a country school." Another benefit of the Floyd School restoration will be to temporarily relieve the present crowded condition of the museum.

Although donated and in very good shape for a 100+ year old building, the required moving and placing of it at the museum lot required a considerable expenditure. To date, the total is \$21,637.65 without any expenditure for the refurbishing. Some of this money is on loan from the Iowa County Historical Society Building Fund and will ultimately have to be paid back. The antique stove that came with the building is currently being refurbished at the expense of a generous couple with local ties. Volunteers will be coming forward to help with exterior and interior painting and other repairs to keep the refurbishing costs at a minimum. Donations and pledges from local businesses and citizens are encouraged and indeed are essential to the success of this major restoration project. Thanks for your consideration; your support is welcomed.

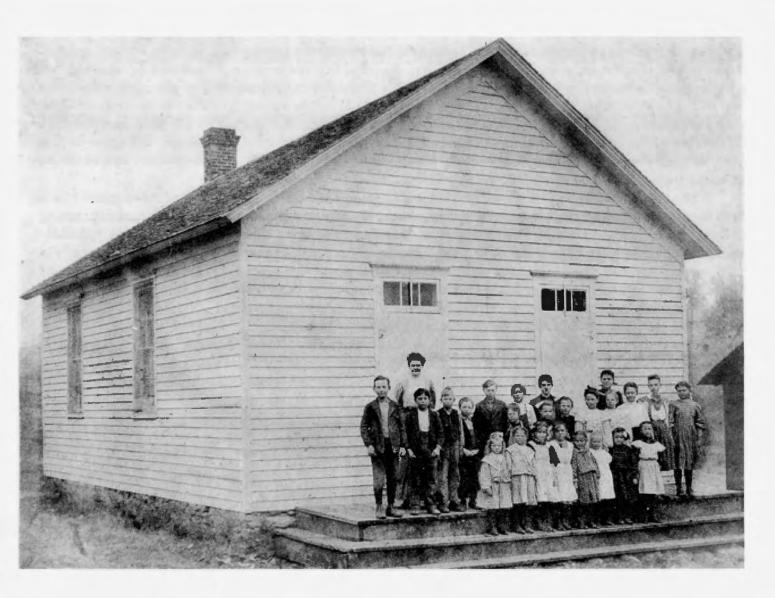
When the school is ready, the Society plans to hold a "Country School Reunion" for the purpose of inroducing it to the public probably in the Spring 2009. Whenever it is held, let's have a good old fashioned counry school reunion that includes all of the citizens who attended Floyd School, or any other country school, and
those of us who wished we had attended a country school.



This is believed to be the earliest photograph of Floyd School, the scholars and their male teacher. We are unable to identify them and hope that our readers will dash to that old album and/or to that box of faded ages or to their grandmother's reminisces about her Floyd School days, to help us identify the kids and their acher. Our guess, the scene was immortalized by an unknown photographer prior to 1900, possibly in the 1880s. Please help us to identify those pictured.

Floyd School in 1904

Photographer unknown



Students and their teacher, Pearl Daniels

<u>Back Row, left to right:</u> Albert Uptgraw, Leon Hendrickson, Earl Smith, Edwin Smith, Clarence Gulson, Peter Skyberg, Harland Forbes and Cora Bray.

Middle Row, left to right: Orin Forbes, Nora Nelson, Margaret Nelson, Olga Skyberg, Mabel Gulson, Alma Forbes, Leona Weber and Beulah Narveson.

<u>Front Row, left to right:</u> Esther Narveson, Gladys Narveson, Florence Weber, Mabel Smith, Viola Weber, Nettie Gulson, Alma Narveson and Hazel McCormic.

Floyd School
As she rested for many years



Floyd School Ready for the road



Floyd School
The caravan on Highway 23
approaching Dodgeville



Floyd School Filling the intersection at Dodgeville



Pouring concrete at new Floyd School site



The left turn toward museum site



A close shave ... backing to the foundation site



Floyd School donors, Donna and Curt Peterson



Floyd School Alums: Anna Whalen, Delia Wunderlin, Curt Peterson, Marvel Anderson

Photos courtesy of: Margaret Peat Alice Griffith Neil Giffey (Continued from page 4) The Rural Mail Carrier runded like there was more power).

The ultimate power with the standard Model T agine was from a two speed rear end called a "Ruckstell Axle" made by Eaton Axle and Spring Co. in Cleveland, Ohio and sold in a kit form by the Montgomery Ward Co. (mail order). This gave two speeds in low, two speeds in high and two speeds in reverse.

Dad's adventures with the Model T and with horses came to an end in 1931 with the better roads and his new Model A Ford. However, it did not end the difficulty of getting through the snow in the winter. For Dad, this continued until he retired on October 31, 1962.

The authors, Donald John Fieldhouse and David William Fieldhouse, are the sons of Virgil and Elva Fieldhouse. Editor.

New and Renewed Members ... Welcome

Vickie Stangel, Dodgeville, WI Christine H. De Laurentis, Houston, TX Particia Blotz, Dodgeville, WI Dale & Kathy Chellevold, Dodgeville, WI Janette Hartman, Dodgeville, WI David & Gretchen Pearson, Dodgeville, WI John E. Berryman, Mt. Horeb, WI Walter Campbell, Upland, IN Christopher Nuzum, Dodgeville, WI Carol Thomas, Dodgeville, WI James & Susan P. Coatney, Cobb, WI Sven Eliasson, Dodgeville, WI Julie Bruhn, Spring Green, WI Janice Olson, Avoca, WI Vernon Bell, Dodgeville, WI Larry & Esthre Travis, Madison, WI Michael Kyte-Martha Ford, Moscow, IN Evelyn Janda, Madison, WI Leonard C. Campo, Blanchardville, WI Barbara Perkins Reed, Madison, WI Bill Beiska, Dodgeville, WI Delia Wunderlin, Cobb, WI Donna Christenson, Arena, WI Gogene Thompson, Durango, CO Donald McGuire, Highland, WI Kim Peterson, Boyden, IA Tim Hall Family, San Diego, CA

The only new thing in the world is the history you don't know. *President Harry Truman*

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 become The New Star, 1895-1896
Rural Eye of Arena, 1887-1888 and 1888-1889
Becomes ...

The Eye and Star, 1890-1893 New Star, 1896-1897 New Star, 1898-1900 Dodgeville Chronicle, 1862-2008 Barneveld Banner, some issues missing The Hollandale Review, some issues missing Index to Wisconsin Miscellaneous Newspapers

Recently discovered additions to ICHS archives

Adamsville Advertiser, April 17, 1891 The Gleaner, Arena, 8 Nov—6 Dec. 1894 The Southwest Wisconsin, Linden, 1854-1907 Miners Free Press, Mineral Point, 1837-1843 Miners Free Press, Wis. Tribune, Mineral Point

The Letter from Home

was appreciated during the American Civil War. Search your attic for family correspondence from all eras.



The above scene shows that letters from home and badly battered newspapers were the best lifeline to home, family and friends during the trying times of 1861-65. Do you have letters to share?

Lewis Brothers Successful Merchants in Highland and Linden

An interesting and almost forgotten page from the early history of **Highland** and **Linden** shows the importance of early retailers to pioneer mining and farming communities and the often long and tedious path they followed to America.

Based on a detailed family history provided the ICHS by Ted Lewis of Orlando, Florida, with the assistance of Alan F. Blanche, the brothers Harris, Solomon and Moses (later called John) emigrated prior to 1870 from Mariampole in what is now the independent nation of Lithuania. After a short interlude in Chicago, the brothers traveled to Iowa County opening "general merchandise" stores in Highland and Linden. The image at right shows the Linden store in about 1870. Standing in front are: Harris Lewis in vest, at left with hands in pockets and Solomon Lewis, left of door in fur cap. The small boy is Sam Lewis with his father Moses Lewis to the right, wearing a vest. The others are Linden townsmen and are not identified. Likely ... they are Cornish miners with a bit of time on their hands. The Lewis Brothers also were in



mining management and ownership at Highland. The archival entry in the ICHS cataloging system includes this notation: "The accessions file contains the probate/wills of Harris and Moses, showing their success in merchandising as partners in the 'Lewis Brothers' store." An extensive biography of Solomon, contributed by a descendent, is also part of the ICHS files. Solomon Lewis later became a success in Chicago.

From Tom Wilson ... Observations for Society Improvement

Dear Editor:

This October I will have completed three years as a director for this Society. My fellow directors have impressed me with their knowledge and dedication to the Society and some of them donate substantial time and money. My contribution at the meetings has been to throw out a few new ideas and if anything needed lifting or moving, I got to help. Daytime meetings probably work better for people that are retired or self-employed. I would encourage anyone that is interested in serving on the board to contact one of the directors or find someone to propose their name for election at the upcoming annual meeting at 7 pm on October 28 in Stonefield Apartments in Dodgeville.

I've always found myself to be a better observer than joiner. I see membership in the Society as painless and inexpensive, but most of the members have very limited involvement with the Society. It also strikes me as odd that this Society doesn't have more general meetings. It would seem that this organization would achieve goals and objectives quicker if they had more input from members. If our Board established or filled committees with folks that weren't directors, I'd volunteer and others would too. Much of our membership is made up of people already retired and they may have spare time.

The Society's Newsletter is an enjoyable read. Some of the articles are entertaining and all are informative, but I also believe the Society would get more bang-for-the-buck if a section was dedicated to addressing the existing and upcoming needs of the Society. As I understand it, our museum has an older computer and either an upgrade or additional computer is needed; if this was presented to the membership, helpful suggestions or a solution might be attained.

I thank everyone for allowing me to serve on the Board.

Accessions

Hazel Kelly, Dodgeville, WI: Skillicorn and Kelly family histories.

Theodore Lewis, Orlando, FL: Photo: Lewis Brothers Clothing Store in 1870s, Linden, WI.

Melvin Hendrickson, Wheaton, IL: High Spots, Life of C. L. Richardson; photo; Floyd School, to copy.

Phil Schwabe, Muscoda, WI: Presbyterian Church records, Pulaski, Iowa Co. WI.

Donald McGuire, Highland, WI: Book: Service Record of Men and Women of Highland, WI.

Lyla Vinje, New Glarus, WI: MS Barneveld Community Profile, 33 books various titles, krumkake iron made in Norway.

Patrick McGranahan, McFarland, WI: Artifacts. Theodore Lewis, Orlando, FL: MS Resume of my Life. 3-12-1973.

St. Ansalm Church, Ross, CA: Family history/ photographs, Vol. III, "Family Eagan."

Timothy & Karen Hall, Chula Vista, CA: CD with Chart and Genealogy-Franklin Family, memoirs of Merton B. Franklin and F. D. Jones, ms of Uncle David, 39 family photographs.

Barrie Raynor, Shropshire, UK: Correspondence, ms, photos, charts re: immigration of William Raynor to the US; photocopy-Chapter 1 "The History of the Township and Village of Mazomanie."

"He who has no fools, knaves or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightening." **Old English Proverb**

The Editor apologizes for the small errors in the July Newsletter. We promise to try harder.

We are your archive

Family histories, photographs, microfilm and other records are cataloged and added almost daily to the ICHS archives for Iowa County, Wisconsin

Retiring Society Director and former ICHS President Helen Radtke of Mineral Point was honored by the Society at the Dinner-Dance April 27. According to a rumor she has retired in name only. Helen, we salute you.

区 区 区 区 This item was dropped from the July 2008 issue in the pressroom. We are sorry for the oversight. Editor.

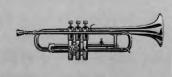
Membership Application

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 year is July 1st-June 30th



NameCity	Street State	P. O. Box	
		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 XXXIII No. 4 October 2008

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 Iowa County archives for: family history-cemeteriesobituaries-photographs-newspaper microfilm-artifacts

> Curator Dorothy Anderson Museum phone 608-935-7694 Email: ichistory@mhtc.net

Museum: Open year-round except for holidays.

Weekdays 1-4 pm and by appointment
at other times

Web site: iowacountyhistoricalsociety.org

Calendar of Events

Annual Public Meeting
7 pm Tuesday, October 28, 2008
Stonefield Apartments
Dodgeville

Indian Mounds and
Archaeological Heritage
In Iowa County
A Power Point Show
By "Ernie" Boszhardt
U-W LaCrosse

Election of Directors

<u>Program, Friends, Snacks</u>

<u>Be our Guest - Bring Friends</u>

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A few among many visitors on siting day visit with President Alice Griffith



Floyd School on wheels and ready to roll courtesy of Curt and Donna Peterson