

Iowa County History

Brought to you by the Iowa County Historical Society

Volume XXXIV

No. 1

January 2009

Potpourri



Public Meeting—All Are Welcome

1:30 pm January 24, 2009

Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville

Speaker ... Gary Young of Boscobel as

General John C. Breckinridge with:

“America’s Civil War A Southern Perspective”

More on Page 4

ICHS Directors

Alice Griffiths, Pres.	935-0574
Boyd Geer, VP	930-9084
Eileen Arndt, Sec.	935-2623
Marie Sersch, Treas.	935-5752
John Hess	588-7082
LeRoy Grunenwald	943-8004
Don McGuire	929-7494
Margaret Peat	935-5532
Neil Giffey, Editor	935-5557
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In This Issue

Society Election Results

Margaret Peat of Dodgeville and Don McGuire of Highland were elected to open seats on the ICBS Board at the annual meeting the evening of October 28. Welcome to ICBS.

Thank you Retiring Directors

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to Therese McCarrager and Tom Wilson for their diligent service as directors.

Indexing Obituaries 14,000 Entries and Counting

Recently ... The data entry staff of volunteers at the museum crossed the 14,000 mark in indexing Iowa County obituary files. Although most of them were found in the Dodgeville Chronicle files the effort continues utilizing records from all available Iowa County newspapers. Thank a volunteer.

Next time you need to learn more about an ancestor or a public figure the computerized index mentioned above, when searched by surname, will find the actual date of the microfilmed newspaper obituary you need to complete your research. This ease and speed helps make genealogy more fun.

Special Thanks to:

Dodgeville City Council member Von Hiller for reporting the Dodge Cabin flag rope had broken and then rescuing the flag.

Mark Wepking, Dodgeville Businessman ordered and installed a new rope for the Dodge Cabin flag.

Mark operates “United We Stand” a dealer in flags and related items. in Dodgeville.

“Now Hear This”

Melva Phillips has requested that the Society solicit a volunteer to show Iowa County history slides to local scouts and area school groups. Call Melva at 608-924-5508 or contact the Museum at 608-925-7694 for details. Thanks.

Milton Persons and Ernie Gets Attention
Page 2



WRC
Woman's Relief Corp
Charters Early
Historical Society
Page 3

886 Final grades
Floyd School
Gracie Kinnear Teacher
Page 4

General Breckinridge
our guest on January 24
At Stonefield
See page 4

**A Brief History of the Old
Taverns in Stage Coach Days**
Page 5

Helena ...
The Old Shot Tower
By Grace Green Jones
Page 6

Acquisitions Microfilm List
Memberships
Page 7

Milton B. Persons Here In 1827

Milton Benton Persons (1808-1900) arrived in Iowa County in 1827 with the Missouri miners who traveled with **Henry Dodge** to the lead region in a desperate search for their fortune. To help future historians confirm 1827 as the founding date for Dodgeville, Persons generously noted on his business card that he "**Came to Dodgeville October 10, 1827.**" He also mentioned that he served during the Black Hawk War in Parkinson's and Gentry's companies. We are grateful for this gem of information on a business card which was undoubtedly printed years after arrival of the founders.

Since those busy and often illiterate miners did not keep diaries the Persons business card is the best testimony as to the founding date for the Dodgeville portion of the wildly popular "Lead Region."

The notes below tell of Person's early life as recorded in the personal notebook of a son, either **John** or **Henry Persons**. Read it carefully and you will recognize every word. Editor.

Milton B Persons
 Born Livingston Manor, Dutchess
 County N. Y. March 3, 1808
 where his father died when he
 was 2 yrs old. He then was
 taken by his Uncle Joseph
 Person to Schenectady N.Y.
 who resided in The Fourth
 ward. He had four Bros
 and one Sister.
 At the age of 7 yrs he moved
 to Birmingham Ala and eight
 miles from Birmingham.
 where he resided 2 yrs.
 He then moved to
 Jackson Co his father
 died he moved to
 Washington Co where
 as an orphan he shifted
 about for some time
 He then went to Missouri
 to the Lead region about
 1827 he remained 2 yrs.

Ernie Gets Attention at Historical Society Annual Meeting

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Iowa County Historical Society on October 28 at Stonefield Apartments, **Ernie Boszhardt** of the U-W La Crosse faculty all but brought a crowd of sixty citizens to their feet with a lucid and dynamic power point show highlighting the archaeology and anthropology of those who inhabited the unglaciated area of southwest Wisconsin. He covered the Gottshall Rock Shelter of Highland, the Hopewell mound builders, the hunter-gatherers, and the Oneota culture who slowly ceased migrating as the supply of game, natural resources and living space was diminished by a growing population. The consequence of those growing numbers of people in smaller areas created pressure to form permanent villages and to raise their own food supply in Southwest-Wisconsin. The result was that by the time white settlers arrived in southwest Wisconsin they encountered a substantial number of peaceful farmers.



Ernie
Boszhardt

At the conclusion of the event held in Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville, the speaker answered numerous queries from the audience.

The annual meeting concluded with the addition of **Don McGuire**, Highland and **Margaret Peat** of Dodgeville to the board of directors joining **Boyd Geer**, **Neil Giffey** and **Eileen Arndt** who were re-elected to two-year terms.

The evening concluded with a social hour. The next ICHS program will be on 24 January and again is "open to the public." As noted on the front page the exceptional January program guest will be American Civil War Reenactor Gary Young.

Correction

The article in the October issue identifying the **Lewis Brothers** store pictured as located in **Linden** was much awry, the photograph was actually taken in **Highland**. Somehow, the source was moved south to Linden, a ten mile walk. The Brothers Lewis did operate general merchandise stores in both locations for a time but Highland was first. ...

The Dodgeville Chronicle for September 25, 1885 wrote that **Sol Lewis** had recently bought clothing in Chicago for his store in Linden after the opening at Highland.

The Woman's Relief Corps

The Society is looking for more information about the activities of The Woman's Relief Corps, WRC, Williamson Post # 77, Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Research in the Society microfilms has provided some gems of information about the activities of this long defunct patriotic auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic, (GAR). It is our belief that almost every town with one or more GAR posts also supported a WRC Auxiliary. We are calling around for information about those resident to Iowa County. For example the George H. Legates GAR Post # 125 of Mineral Point was chartered in 1883 and had a peak enrollment of 79 members 1889. This strong roster should have encouraged the formation of a Woman's Relief Corps in Mineral Point. We will continue to search for information.

Did You Know ...
The WRC chartered the very first
Iowa County Historical Society in 1937?

Yes you read right ... The WRC Woman's Relief Corps, Williamson Post 77 in Dodgeville, actually applied and received a charter from the Secretary of State of Wisconsin in April 1937. They received the

charter and were therefore authorized to form and to operate a non profit Iowa County Historical Society for the purpose of preserving the memories of early Iowa County.

After much emailing to state agencies, starting with the Secretary of State, the Department of Financial Institutions informed us that documents to form the "first" ICHS were filed on April 21, 1937 and the "entity" filed a termination on August 1, 1962. They also informed that the Wisconsin Historical Society now preserved the documentation in the manuscript archives in Madison. We will acquire a good copy of that rare document.

Harry Miller, Reference Archivist for the Wisconsin Historical Society, was kind enough to supply us with a list of the original incorporators of the early ICHS. All of the incorporators listed were WRC members at the time indicating that the intention to incorporate was hatched in the WRC. We hope to learn why that good deed did not bear fruit.



Badge...National WRC

Woman's Relief Corps ... Williamson Post # 77 ... Auxiliary to the GAR



This impressive array are members of Williamson Post # 77 Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to Williamson Post # 109 of The Grand Army of The Republic in Dodgeville. This is a moment frozen in time when volunteer organizations of women were auxiliaries to the male organizations in every community.

1st row: Bertie Stratman, Mary Gribble, Sarah Thomas, Annie Kiley, Mrs. Reg Hughes, Agnes Elvod, Minnie Strong, — Thomas, Reese, — Rogers, Martha Pearce, Phoebe Symons, Hannah Johns, Jennie Stratman, Maude Stratman.

2nd row: Wilma Lewis, Eulalia Strong, Marian Strong, Mrs. Treweek, — , Emily Williams, Vera Berryman, Kitty Elliott, Lulloff, Hilda Larson, Sadie Price, Rogers, — , Rose Perkins, Annie Stratman,

3rd row: May Knickerbocker, Bess Elliott, Sally Strong, Daisy Reese, Bertha Ryall, Frieda Walters, Gertie Johns, Alma Kramer, Ferne Arthur, Jeanette Lincoln. *Please contact the Editor if you have WRC information.*

Report of Floyd's School.

The following is the report of the average scholarship and deportment of the pupils, from district No. 3, for the term ending July 11, 1886.

Name.	Scholarship.	Deportment.
Susie Wilson	95	100
Addie Hill,	85	100
Clara Larson,	79	100
Mary Larson,	70	100
Johnny Roach,	75	100
Millie McIntosh,	70	100
Robbie Smith,	75	100
Flora McBoyl,	50	90
Peter Smith,		80
Luman Roach,	65	100
Robert Wilson,	60	100
Sarah Roach,	84	100

B AND C GRADES.

John Wilson,	60	100
Lillie Johns,	65	100
Claud McIntosh,	68	100
Josie Roach,		95
Ellen Wilson,	80	100
Robert Wigginton,	45	50
Ethel Jones,	79	100
Charlie McIntosh,	85	100
Josie Smith,	90	100
Johnny Bray,	70	98
Ella Hill,	60	100
Elmer Rohr,	55	98
Florence Wigginton,	70	100
Mamie Smith,	68	100
Willie Robinson,	75	50
Charlie McBoyl,	60	100
Willie Collingwood,	75	100
Jamsie Smith,	40	100

GRACIE KINNEAR.

The scholarship and deportment report above was taken from the microfilm edition of the *Dodgeville Chronicle* for August 6, 1886. This is one of the earlier rosters of students we have located to date. Editor.

Public Invited

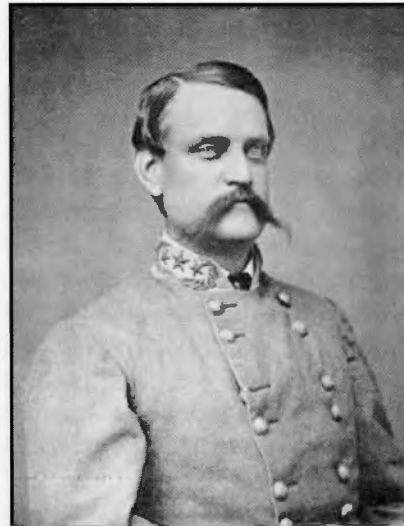
1:30 p.m. Sat. January 24, 2009

Stonefield Apartments,
Dodgeville

Gary Young will appear in Confederate uniform as General John C. Breckinridge on

The American Civil War ...

A Southern Perspective



General John C.
Breckinridge CSA

Young, a native of Boscobel, has served his country in the Navy on active duty and as a reservist retiring as a Captain in 1988. He was an organizer of the L. G. Armstrong Camp # 49, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, headquartered at Boscobel in the only surviving GAR Hall in Wisconsin. He is active in an eye popping variety of veterans organizations and serves as a minister with emphasis on serving veterans and he has fifteen years of active reenacting experience. *General Breckinridge will bring out the Civil War Buffs in Iowa County. You may not agree with the General, find out January 24, 2009*

Floyd School Update

The Floyd School was moved to its new location along side the Museum on September 2, 2008. But that is old news, covered well in the *Chronicle* by Jean Burns Jones as a "small town sensation along its eight mile journey".

The 122 year old building was in reasonable good condition for its age, but there was extensive deterioration of the outer sills, and many of the floor joists no longer provided support. The restoration work to firm up the underside, level the floor, and give the old school a chance for another 122 years at its new location, was done by Keith Symon, who supervises construction for Habitat for Humanity homes. Randy Amble's R & K Masonry bricked in the beam pockets and added field stone to the poured concrete foundation

The building is secured for the winter months, awaiting the coming of spring, when the more visible restoration work will take place. That includes (1) a wooden landing, (2) new roof with chimney extension, (3) restoring, scraping and painting the exterior, (4) restoring or replacing windows and doors, (5) sanding and painting the interior, (6) cleaning up the hardwood floor, (6) wiring and lighting, (7) heating and cooling, (8) insulation, and finally (9) landscaping.

Funding for the move and the start of restoration came from the Society's Building Fund and many generous contributions, and additional in-kind and financial contributions are welcome and needed to fully complete the project. The Society is also applying for grants to fund the restoration and replenish the Building Fund. *John Hess.*

Glimpse of Seventy Years ago ... A Brief History of the Old Taverns in Stage Coach Days
Published in the Dodgeville Chronicle ... May 8, 1908

One hundred years ago the writer of this fascinating glimpse at "rapid transit," as then understood, was rightly awed by the advances in human transport in just one lifetime. He writes about life in the distant past of the 1830s, a time and a place we can hardly imagine. The story is printed almost as written in 1908. Are you ready for time travel? Editor.

It is very seldom in the rush and hurry of this day and generation what we stop to think of the methods of transportation used by the pioneers of the early days when this section of the country was yet undeveloped. **Dodgeville, Galena and Mineral Point** were among the earliest settlements on account of their many interests and many home seekers traveled the old **Military Road and Galena Road** by stage coach from **Milwaukee** to **Galena**, then the Metropolis of the West, long after the sounds of the locomotive resounded and echoed among the hills in old Wisconsin.

Four stage coaches with six horses each were on the road carrying passengers and mails, while the slow ox teams were drawing their heavy loads of lead to Galena to be shipped by packets. Returning teams took out provisions to the various mining camps and small settlements all along the road to Helena

Sam'l D. Griffiths who now lives in this city is one of the old pioneer teamsters of that early day tells many an interesting remembrance of the early fifties when **John Keyes** and **A. Fleming** were importers of freight from Galena and later **Thos. N. Williams, John Rensaw, Dave Wickham, Matthew Bishop, Jim and Sol. Richards** served the people as common carriers.

Fink and Walker owned the stage lines that run between Milwaukee and Galena. Few if any of the old drivers are alive today, but among the well known later drivers were **E. N. Kirby, "Bob" Nancolas, John Price**, and others whose names in many instances have ceased to be even a memory.

Many of our old readers will remember the old fashioned "Concord" stages closed in with glass doors on each side, with huge leather straps crossed over the spring behind, with a rail on the top for baggage.

The travelers going through the mining district in the early fifties generally came from Milwaukee to Dodgeville and stopped at the **Adams Hotel** which

was located where the **Stratman Wagon Works** is now. This hotel was built by **John Adams** in the forties. He was the father of ex-Governor **Alva Adams** of Colorado. **Charles Nobel** afterward purchased the property and did not run the hotel. A little later **Col. Stephens** purchased the property, ran the **Roberts House** and sheltered many a weary pilgrim at his famous hostelry.

All along the dusty and well trodden road of 50 miles to Galena were stationed at short intervals taverns, or inns, where refreshments were served to man and beast, and the stage or teamster stopped where night overtook them.

The first stopping place south of Dodgeville was "**Billie**" **Garlings** camping place. He did not keep a tavern but often fed and cared for ox teams and their rivers as nightfall.

The **Half Way House** was the next place kept by **Frank Hamly** and he ran a pretentious watering place in his time. In the busy seasons his barns were filled with oxen and horses, his tavern with travelers.

At **Mineral Point** the stage stopped at the old "**Ab Nichols Hotel**" where there was "always room for one more" no matter how many comers. **Mrs. Nichols** was a most excellent hostess and her hospitality to those about her was without

bounds. Later **The Terrill House** and the **Blodgett Tavern** were the main resorts.

After leaving Mineral Point **John Grabers** was the first stopping place and while it was too near Mineral Point to deal in solid foods, yet it handled considerable of the "wet" goods.

The next stop was at **Sam Warner's** where "**Aunt Pop**" regaled the pilgrim with refreshments both solid and in liquid. Many a yarn was spun at her fireside. It was a favorable home to the traveler.

A few miles farther on and "**Cottage Inn**" where the veteran, **Nathan Olmsted**, held forth for six decades, was reached and every teamster and stage driver as well as passengers were ready to receive his hearty greeting. The Inn still stands as a monument of early days.

This reminiscence ends at the Four Mile House kept by Mr. Waffler and situated but a short drive to the then great city of the northwest, Galena. Editor.

"always room for one more,"
Ab Nichols

The Old Shot Tower at Helena

Continued From April 2008

by Grace Green Jones

Grace G. Jones wrote a lengthy paper under the above title, circa 1907. She was a longtime observer of life and politics in Iowa County. Printed in this Newsletter many years ago it was again brought to our attention by Leon Nelson. Editor.

I find but one reference to the name "Helena" and it seems to have been applied to this village. The "Iowa County History" states it as having been given by one of its early founders in honor of some woman, which is not an unusual conclusion.



Shot Tower at Helena—1836

lena, chiefly in exchange of supplies.

Whitney soon established a store and house for the accommodation of his men. In 1835 a canal was begun at the portage. Sixty men were engaged in its construction with John Wilson in command. This project had to be discontinued because of high water. The whole party, including the family of Mr. Wilson, was induced to come to Helena. The Wilsons for a time boarded some of the men in the company house. In a year's time the town showed considerable growth - - a new store, cooper shop, blacksmithy shop, barracks for the men and a warehouse.

About this time Lieutenant Jefferson Davis was a frequent visitor at Helena, being stationed with troops at Fort Winnebago. He resigned in 1835 and left the territory for good.

In 1836 most of the sixty men were discharged and many returned to New York. Henry Teel of Ohio took the place of Mr. Wilson, who then moved to a Missouri plantation. He returned, however, in 1839 and took up the making of shot kegs, which he continued for the next ten years. During this time he figured prominently in the life of Helena.

In the county records at Dodgeville may be

found the plat of Helena, recorded in 1837. This plat shows quite a number of streets and building lots, but the village in reality and at its best consisted of but two streets meeting in an angle on the river bank. The little flat just north of the Clancy cottage was the holiday parade ground - - - used on the Fourth of July, circus day and similar occasions.

The warehouse, a five-story building with the first two stories being of stone, stood at the bottom of the hill next to the river below the present Tower Hill barn.

In 1836 the Shot tower had been sold to Buffalo parties, though Daniel Whitney was still a member of the company. The name was changed from "The Wisconsin Shot Company" to "Wisconsin Mineral and Transportation Company". Probably this enlarging of its capitol had been part of Whitney's plan from the first. Benjamin Web was his agent, though David B. Whitney, a cousin of Daniel Whitney, sometimes acted for him. This David B. Whitney died in 1838 at the age of 34 years and was buried on the side hill, southeast of the Tower,.



Territorial Capitol Belmont-1836

The territory had been organized in 1836 with General Dodge as first governor. The first legislative session was held in Belmont not far from Mineral Point. **The building occupied is now standing and is being used as a barn. Unless steps are taken soon, a valuable landmark will be gone through neglect and indifference. (Since Restored)**

The records of the census ordered by Gov. Dodge are very interesting. The total white population was 11,683. Iowa County, the smallest in territory, had almost twice the population of any other, it being 5,234; Milwaukee County was next with 2,893; Brown had 2,706; and Crawford, the largest in area, had but 805. The reason for this was the mines - - this region was known then, as now, for bearing one of the greatest lead deposits in the world. *To be continued.*

Acquisitions

Lyla Vinje, New Glarus, WI: jugs crocks various sizes, bean pot, ink bottle with cover, gray stone-ware mixing bowl.

Richard Greene, Council Bluffs, Iowa: Manuscript—Mifflin Cemetery, Iowa Co. WI as of April 28, 2004, by Michael A. Leonard and Melvin and Mary Ann Atkins Leonard.

Delia Wunderlin, Cobb, WI: framed picture Teacher and students in one-room school.

Carol Ruetten, Spring Green, WI: Scrapbooks, teaching materials used by Leanna Richardson Johnson, ledgers relating to Hyde Store, Hyde cheese factory, Arena—Ridgeway Telephone Co.

LeRoy Grunenwald, Livingston, WI: Short biography of Laura Goodsell and Aldro Jenks.

Hyde Smithy On The Rise

The Hyde Historical Territory organization is busily furnishing the restored Hyde Smithy with period black-smith tools. They plan to hold an open house in the Spring of 2009, details to follow. The Smithy has been reconstructed on the **Klint and Wanda McCutchin** farm near Hyde.



Newspaper Microfilm at ICHS

Adamsville Advertiser April 17, 1891 only
 Arena Wis. Star, 1874-1876 and 1877-1886, becomes Dodgeville Star in 1883-1886,
 Dodgeville Chronicle, 1862 through June, 2008
 Barneveld Banner, some issues missing
 The Hollandale Review, some issues missing
 Rural Eye, 1887-1887
 Rural Eye of Arena, 1887-1888 and 1888-1889 becomes
 The Eye and Star, 1890-1893
 The Eye and Star 1893-1895 becomes
 New Star, 1895-1896
 New Star, 1896-1897
 New Star, 1898-1900
 Miners Free Press, Mineral Point, 1837-1843, some issues missing
 Miners Free Press, Wis. Tribune, Mineral Point
 Mineral Point Home Intelligencer 13 Sept. 1860 and 31 May, 1862
 The Gleaner, Arena, Nov 8-Dec. 6, 1894
 The Southwest Wisconsin, Linden, 1854-1907
 Index to Wisconsin Miscellaneous Newspapers

Think about it. The brick wall in your family research may tumble if you search ICHS microfilm using the Index of obituaries.

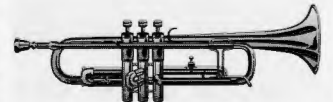
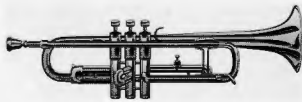
Membership Application

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 XXXIV No. 1 Jan, 2009

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 RESEARCHThe Society has Iowa County archives for: history-cemeteries-
obituaries-photographs-newspaper microfilm-artifacts**Curator Dorothy Anderson**

Museum Phone 608-935-7694

Email: ichistory@mhtc.netMuseum: open year-round except for holidays.
Weekdays 1-4 pm and by appointment
at other times.Web site: iowacountyhistoricalsociety.orgNON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
DODGEVILLE, WI
PERMIT NO. 86

Address Service Requested

*Are you up to date
on donations and dues?*
Marie Sersch can help, see her address
upper left corner of this page.**Calendar of Events****Public Program**

1:30 pm January 24, 2009

Stonefield Apartments

Dodgeville

Gary Young ... Reenactor**of Boscobel, Wisconsin****will be uniformed as Confederate
General John C. Breckinridge
presenting the Southern Perspective
of the American Civil War***Light lunch to follow***Floyd School***We haven't forgotten.**You will be informed**when the dedication date is set.**Meanwhile ... restoration continues.**Your gifts are essential to the restoration.*Hyde Blacksmith Shop before the move
Open in 2009