

Iowa County History

Brought to you by the Iowa County Historical Society

Volume XXXIV No. 4 October 2009

Potpourri

ICHS Directors

ICHS Annual Meeting 7 pm Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville

The program speaker will be
Joan Bennett of Clyde
and Racine, Wisconsin.

A talented and compelling speaker,
highly knowledgeable about
Iowa County cheese factories,
Joan will trigger some memories
from her work with the diligent
committee who created
“Where Have All The Cheese Factories Gone?”




Joan Bennett

Alice Griffiths, Pres. 935-0574
Boyd Geer, VP 930-9084
Eileen Arndt, Sec. 935-2623
Marie Sersch, Treas. 935-5752
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LeRoy Grunenwald 943-8004
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Iowa County
Courthouse
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Something You Can Do



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Two horse Waggon 50 cts.
1 person and horse 25 cts.
1 horse carriage 35 cts.
1 person 10 cts.

Loose cattle 5 cts.
Extra horse above 2 on a team 10 cts.
Every head of loose cattle 5 cts.
Sheep and hogs each 3 cts.

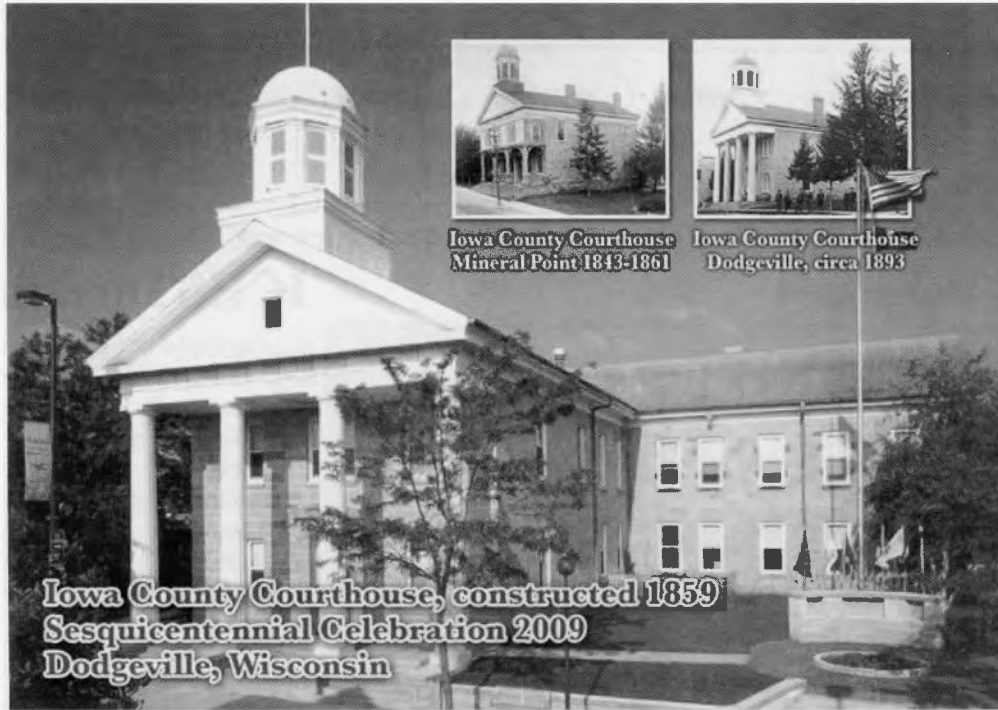
Potpourri
Union Ridge Cheese Factory
is identified
Bull Threatens Students and
Workers

The ICHS Ice Cream Social in July enjoyed record breaking attendance. It was a great way to learn about the Society and its many projects, to visit with your neighbors and to inspect Mr. Floyd's School as it waits for final restoration.

Microfilm listed on Page 7
Have you checked it lately?
Your path to discovery

Views of the Iowa County Courthouse at 150 Years

Postcard and bookmark designed by the Sesquicentennial Committee



Scenes from the June 13, 2009 Sesquicentennial Celebration

Photographs by Anne Giffey



Courthouse foyer Richard Scullion Annex



Courthouse at an angle



Judge William Dyke's courtroom



A tour leaving the courthouse



The MC ... Judge William Dyke



Justice Roggensack and Judge Dyke

Courthouse Sesquicentennial Salutes 150 Years of Service to Iowa County

by Barbara Weinbrenner

As the sun slowly replaced the clouds in the sky, a crowd of over 200 people attended the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Iowa County Courthouse on Saturday, June 13. At 150 years old, the Iowa County Courthouse is the oldest existing active courthouse out of 72 active courthouses in Wisconsin. Construction began on the Greek revival style building in 1859 and was completed in 1861. Many architectural treasures showcase the skill of the Cornish stonemasons from that time period both inside and outside the building.

Tim McKinley, local attorney and one of the courthouse tour guides for the day, gave a delightful tour beginning in the **Richard Scullion** Annex lobby. McKinley explained the types of operations that are handled by the offices on the first floor: Treasurer, Register of Deeds, and County Administration. McKinley also mentioned that the Register of Deeds office assists people with tracing their family heritage some coming from a considerable distance.

The tour continued downstairs through the UW-Extension area, which provides research-based education to the county, and then proceeded up to the second floor to pause at the County Board Room where a tremendous display of Iowa County artifacts could be viewed.

Several fine examples of period clothing were on display. Four gowns that had been worn during the 1959 Centennial celebration of the courthouse had been stored in the courthouse "dungeon," a room beneath the first floor of the old jail, but had recently been rescued by committee members and cleaned for the event. Just beyond those gowns was the clothing that longtime Dodgeville barber, **Jim Stoddard**, and his wife **Ethel** wore during the 1959 celebration. Mr. Stoddard wore a fine black suit complete with bow tie and Mrs. Stoddard wore a long black dress decorated with embroidered flowers over the neck and breast. Their wedding pictures were also displayed.

Marsha (Phillips) Squire also generously exhibited clothing that belonged to her great-grandmother, **Ellen (Owens) Davies**. Mrs. Davies was the daughter of **John J. Owens**, who was a wagon maker at the **Stratman Wagon Works** in Dodgeville. A tidy black suit worn by **Tom McCutchin** as a little boy in Hyde was also displayed.

Cheryl Marr, great-granddaughter of **Ernest Wiesen**, architect of the Iowa County Courthouse, generously lent her family collection of artifacts for the County Board Room exhibit. Wiesen was educated at the University of Berlin and spoke and wrote seven languages.

Beside these items, fitted on a mannequin was a medium orange dress that was found in the courthouse attic next to a 45-star flag.

Several large black-and-white pictures could also be seen throughout the room. Visitors could step back in time



another view

while wandering past pictures of printing presses, the old **Spring Street smelter**, the old high school and city hall, both now torn down, the **Hyde Blacksmith Shop**, which was recently renovated, an aerial view of **Dodgeville**, views of main street, a DX gas station, the old jail in **Mineral Point**, and pictures of an **Illinois Central** train on a trestle near the **Blotz** farm and also at the station.

Of particular interest, several small samples of wallpaper, oilcloth, wainscoting, and tin ceiling panels from the original courthouse were available to view. **Neil Giffey** and **Bill Ehr** rescued these items when the 1995 addition to the courthouse began. Because of their foresight, the courthouse could one day be restored to its original condition.

Other artifacts of note in the County Board Room included: a piece of the first flag pole from the top of the courthouse, a leather wallet belonging to **Aldro Jenks**, who was the Iowa County Judge from 1898 until 1934, a key to the old courthouse in Mineral Point and handmade nails from the old jail in Mineral Point.

The tour came to an end at the courtroom where **Jim Stroschein**, president of the **Mineral Point Historical Society**, presented a Power Point presentation titled "Treasures of the Iowa County courthouse." He explained that most of the information in the presentation was compiled by **Sesquicentennial Committee** members going from room to room in the courthouse recording stories and taking pictures. The Sesquicentennial Committee also compiled and published a book titled *Sesquicentennial Story* now available to the public for a small fee. The courtroom itself has been in operation since 1861 and has been updated with a projection screen and teleconferencing feeds making the building viable for present-day needs.

Stroschein showed slides of drawings from the original courthouse compiled by the Wisconsin Historic Survey. The Iowa County Courthouse was one of the structures selected for study by that group because of its fine architectural qualities. Pictures highlighting the skills of the Cornish stonemasons in matching the stonework of the original building to the first addition were shown as well.

When the presentation stopped briefly at a photograph of the break room of the separate stone building to the southwest of the courthouse, Stroschein explained that the building once served as a jail and iron cells were actually in use where the break room is now. The cells were stacked two high and the attendant to the prisoners would have had to ascend a steel stairway in order to deliver food and drink to the inhabitants.

Of particular note, Stroschein revealed that **Julian Carlton**, a servant at

continued on page 4

(Continued from page 3)

the **Frank Lloyd Wright** estate **Taliesin**, was housed in that very building following his capture for the murder of seven persons in attendance at Taliesin while Wright was away. Carlton, from Barbados, set fire to the structure using kerosene and then used a hatchet to kill those that the fire did not. Stroschein said that it is the single largest incident of mass murder in Wisconsin history. Carlton made two court appearances in the Iowa County courtroom before his long and agonizing death from consuming acid just prior to his capture.

Stroschein also talked at length about the dungeon, which is below the building that housed the jail. One must enter through a wooden reinforced door, which still has a wooden padlock attached. Bars are still intact inside bricked-in windows. About six feet off the ground, trap doors can be opened to reveal several stone vaults. Each vault is approximately five feet by six feet wide and 14 feet long. There are five in the basement and the committee believes that they were once used as holding cells for persons awaiting trial at the courthouse. The committee believes that the vaults were converted to cisterns for water storage. The water lines remain visible today as evidence.

Primitive plumbing is evident from a small opening through the south wall outside the former location of the tiny original cell on the main floor of the original 1859 structure. Here waste was likely emptied into a bucket.

When the courtroom was first in operation, prior to the use of electricity, a grand 10-arm kerosene chandelier lighted for over 30 years. Members of the Sesquicentennial Committee located the main shaft of the chandelier in the courthouse attic. Although the arms are missing, one can see from the size of the shaft that the chandelier was quite immense.

One of the treasures still present in the courtroom today is the judge's bench. It dates from 1861 with **Judge Luman Strong** presiding over the court when **Fort Sumter** was attacked, the event that ignited the Civil War.

Just before the end of the Power Point presentation, cyclists arrived from **Mineral Point** to report that they had talked over the long-running quarrel about the current Iowa County Courthouse being located in Dodgeville instead of Mineral Point and the outcome was one of forgiveness. **Mayor Greg Bennett of Mineral Point** and **Mayor Jim McCaulley of Dodgeville** shook hands to complete the ceremony. Following the **Forgiveness Ceremony**, a 33-star flag was raised by the Veterans of Foreign Wars to begin the courthouse Commemoration Ceremony where several dignitaries and public officials spoke to the crowd in front of the courthouse on Iowa Street.

Speakers included Wisconsin Assembly Representative **Steve Hilgenberg** and State Senator **Dale Schultz**; **Bill Ehr**, vice-chairman of the Iowa County Board; Iowa County Circuit **Judge William Dyke**; local historian **Neil Giffey**; **Kim Cates**, representative for Wisconsin Senator Herb Kohl; Attorney General for Wisconsin **J.B. Van Holten**; and Wisconsin Supreme Court **Justice (Pat) Roggensack**. Justice Roggensack told a heartwarming story about a little boy who questioned the Cornish stonemasons about their task while they were working on the Iowa County courthouse and one of them replied that he was building history.

Before the 33-star flag was lowered and replaced with the current flag, **Beth Meudt** of Dodgeville read **Edna Meudt's** poem, "Oldest Courthouse in the State." Meudt lived just outside of Dodgeville and was a well-known regional poet. She recorded the events of the Centennial Celebration in 1959 in the aforementioned poem. Ending the dignitary portion of the program, **Jack Reynolds** rang the courthouse bell.

Throughout the day, fine musical entertainment was on hand as the Fly Rights performed in Pocket Park on the south side of the courthouse, and horse and wagon rides complete with a tour guide to point out local historical structures. Among the buildings mentioned were the Masonic Temple, the Plymouth Congregational Church, the Lumen Strong house, the Orville Strong house, the Hotel Higbee, the Auditorium, and the Corner Drug Store.

To close the ceremony, the 33-star flag was retired and a time capsule with various items from the area was prepared for burial in Courthouse Park.



Iowa County Sesquicentennial Committee

Front: Greg Klussendorf, Donna Peterson, Nancy Pfothenhauer, Melva Phillips, Marian Reynolds, Jack Reynolds. **Middle:** Jim Stroschein, John Hess, Judge William Dyke, Kate Martin, Bill Ehr. **Back:** Neil Giffey, Steve Harrington. **Not pictured:** Ken Palzkill.

Something You Can Do

As you know, the Floyd School is safely settled on a new foundation adjacent to the Iowa County Historical Society museum in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Much has been done to preserve this symbol of the rural school system of Wisconsin. With your help we can complete the job.

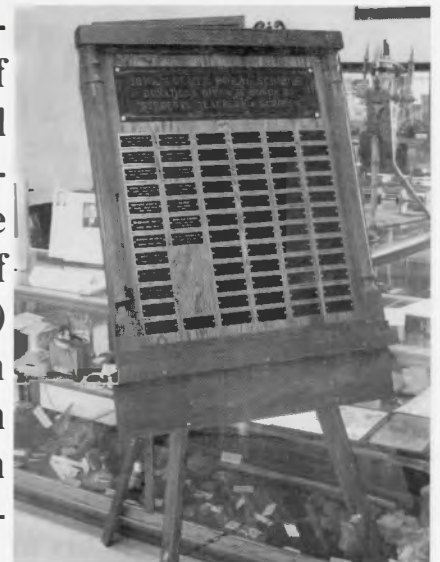
You may choose to donate or pledge support for Mr. Floyd's School, as the school was called in early times, for all or a portion of the opportunities listed below, and you may wish to volunteer some hands-on help.

New front porch
 New front doors
 Replace chimney
 Re-shingle roof
 Re-seeding and landscaping
 Exterior wiring
 Exterior
 a. scraping
 b. prime and paint
 Exterior wiring

Interior
 a. scraping paint
 b. prime and paint
 Interior wiring
 a. breaker box
 b. lights and outlets
 c. ceiling fan
 Repair windows
 Handicap door and a ramp
 Other items as need arises

Roll of Honor ... Floyd School

You may also wish to honor a person who attended Floyd School and/or the name and school of someone who attended an Iowa County rural school other than Floyd School. A 1" x 3.5" plate will be engraved with the name of the person honored and the Iowa County school they attended. The "Roll of Honor" board (*the generous creation of Curt Peterson*) is on temporary display in the museum and will be on permanent display in the Floyd School on completion of the restoration. The minimum donation per person honored is \$100. Please send your "Roll of Honor" enrollments to ICHS Treasurer Marie Sersch.



Roll of Honor
 Temporary location in museum

We Are Your Window to the Past

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

Potpourri ... Again and Again

Member Ted Lewis of 1006 Beatrice Dr., Orlando, FL 32810-5432, phone 407-628-3327, web site tlewis@cfl.rr.com requests information about his grandfather, Solomon Lewis, and his two brothers, Harris and Moses (also known as John). Immigrating from Lithuania, they established stores in Linden and Highland, Iowa County in the 1870s and beyond. (See January 2009 Newsletter) Ted would appreciate hearing from any descendants of the brothers and others who may have information about them and their progeny. Write, call or email Ted if you can help.

Cheese Factory Identified with an Intimidating Bull

A word from Director Margaret Peat:

At the time our cheese factory book came out to the public, my sister, Carol (Walker) Kjelskus, was with me from Kansas City. We had the privilege of reviewing it together and reminiscing. We both attended Union Ridge School, all eight grades. My first grade teacher and Carol's in eighth grade was Genevieve Ruppert. Looking at the picture of the unidentified building on page 85 of Where Have All The Cheese Factories Gone? Carol remembered the old factory in its deteriorated state. The living quarters were gone but the factory was partly intact. During school time she remembered men taking out the vats and/or equipment. The men were suddenly chased away by August Otters' bull. Otters owned the land surrounding the factory and the school.

I remember when the school children had to stay in the school house because the disturbed bull was at the fence. In winter we could sleigh ride down the hill. My sister remembers avoiding a basement dug back into the hill where living quarters once were before the brush and trees took over. I can only remember a pipe sticking out from the cement. It was 73 years ago that I started first grade. It is clear in sister Carol's mind that the image on page 85 is the Union Ridge Cheese Factory.

Any comments, any memories? We solicit your suggestions.

Attention History Students

If you need historical information about Iowa County places, businesses or people, come check the archived resources at the Society museum at 1301 North Bequette Street. We have histories of municipalities, rural schools and even information about towns that no longer exist. It all started with lead mining and food production.



Our archives grow every day.

HOW TO REACH US ... SEE PAGE EIGHT



Accessions

Jim Bennett, Dodgeville, WI: Updated record of burials at St. Malachy Cemetery, Town of Clyde, Iowa Co.
Janine Tracy, Hollandale, WI: 2 honey pails.
Alice Griffiths, Dodgeville, WI: Book: Hoard's Dairyman Dairy Collectables.
Yvonne Danhouser, Mineral Point, WI: Photos of Hyde Cheese Factory.
Sandy Arneson, Durham, NC: Stereoscope and 63 photos, postcard album, written provenance.
Cindy Downs, Blue Mounds, WI: Dodger Yearbook 1983.
Curt & Donna Peterson, Dodgeville, WI: Document: stock certificate, Five Point Cheese Factory.
Phillip Ley, Mineral Point, WI: Digital images of roof renovation Iowa Co. Courthouse 2001.
Wis. Society of Land Surveyors, SW Chapter, New Glarus, WI: Survey records of Robert L. Joiner on compact disks.
Melvin & Shirley Hendrickson, Wheaton, IL: Digital images Twp. Wyoming schools.
Mary Ann Raynoha, Madison, WI: Stained glass window, old St. Joe's Church, Dodgeville; Genealogy of John & Elizabeth Jane (Rule) Crase.

Newspaper Microfilm at ICHS

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

How fascinating to realize 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**

ICHS P O Box 44 Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044



Salvation Army Band at Rewey

Membership dues and categories

Membership year is July 1st—June 30th

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|---------|
| 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



Salvation Army Band at Rewey

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. 4 October 2009

Iowa County Historical Society

1301 N. Bequette St.

P. O. Box 44

Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044

MEMBERSHIPS

MAIL TO: MARIE SERSCH

ICHS ... P. O. Box 44 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-cemeteries-obituaries-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.orgNON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
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Calendar of EventsAnnual Public Meeting

7 pm Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Stonefield Apartments ... Dodgeville

Joan Bennett

of Clyde and Racine,
Wisconsin will discuss the
massive and interesting
effort behind“Where Have All The
Cheese Factories Gone?”*Available at the meeting*Election of Directors
Food and FriendshipBooks representing every corner of Iowa County will be on display and for sale at the Annual Meeting ... including : “Where Have All The Cheese Factories Gone?”

Rosedale Cheese Factory, Linden Township