

Iowa County History

Brought to you by the Iowa County Historical Society

Volume XXXV

No. 1

January 2010

Potpourri

PUBLIC MEETING

1 pm, Saturday, January 23, 2010

Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville

Speaker at 1 pm is: Dick Stephens of St. Charles, Illinois

Mr. Stephens will tell the story of his family's search for their roots in the ruins of the five generation Stephens Homestead in Governor Dodge Park. The story of their search will bring a pioneer Iowa County family to life as they fought to survive the early settler years.

*Stephens Farm on right
Buildings have disappeared*



Annual Meeting Report

The ICHS Annual meeting held on October 20 at Stonefield Apartments in Dodgeville was a major success. **Joan Bennett** held her audience of about 60 citizens in the palm of her hand as she told the story of the ICHS best seller, "Where Have All the Cheese Factories Gone."

The nominating committee consisting of **Don McGuire, Margaret Peat, Boyd Geer, Eileen Arndt** and **Neil Giffey** proposed a slate consisting of **Alice Griffith, John Hess, Marie Sersch, and George Wallenkamp**, who replaced retiring board member, **LeRoy Grunenwald**. They were elected by acclamation. We welcome Highland based historian, **George Wallenkamp**, to the Society.

The unexpected resignation of Director **LeRoy Grunenwald**, for health reasons, reminds us to thank him for his wise and dignified participation in board deliberations. May fortune smile on him in the future.

Found in the wall of Floyd School: a weathered certificate awarded to **Gene Sniff** for twenty perfect spelling lessons dated October 22, 1936, **Ruby C. VandeVee**, teacher.

See page 7 for member Ted Lewis's web site.

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
Don McGuire	929-7494
Margaret Peat	935-5532
George Wallenkamp	929-7676
Neil Giffey, Editor	935-5557

giffey@mhtc.net

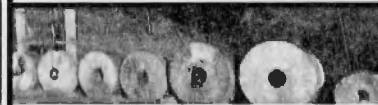
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Bernadine Nondorf Ternes
An Interview with a Floyd School Teacher
by Neil Giffey and Alice Griffith

By happenstance, on a day in May, the museum door opened and that rarest of personages, a rural school teacher entered. That rare person was **Bernadine Nondorf Ternes**, a veteran of rural school education as practiced in America after passage of the federal Land Grant program which was instrumental in promoting education as a right for all American children. Born on the family farm at Clyde, Iowa County, to **Bernard Nondorf** and **Elizabeth Louise Schauf**, she was the only one of her siblings to achieve a college education. She attended Walty School

Educated at the Richland Center Normal with summer school training at Platteville and with a huge supply of practical knowledge, Bernadine commented that she was expected to be both a teacher and a nurse to her young charges.

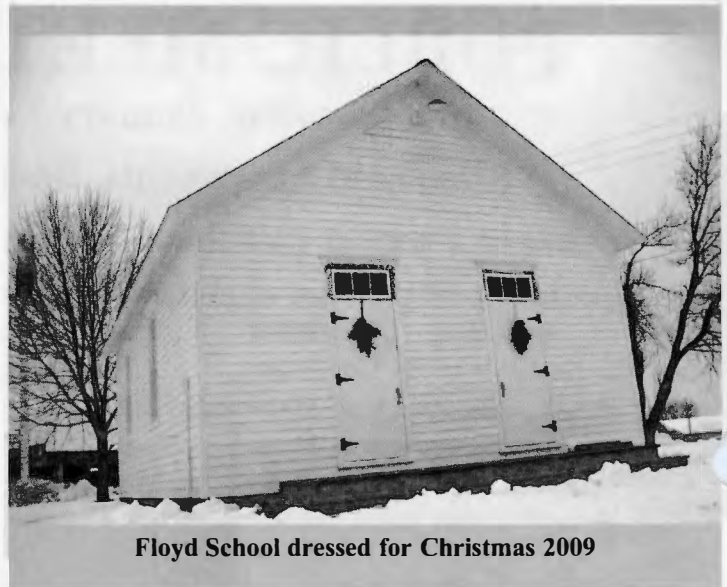


Bernadine Nondorf Ternes

On the day in question, accompanied by her family, daughter **Kathy Ternes Riley** and Kathy's husband (We lost his name, sorry.), Bernadine, now residing in Green Bay, Wisconsin, was making the rounds of her old Iowa County memories. The museum and Floyd School were among them.

We learned that after an initial two years as teacher at **High Point School** (1939-1941), she moved

to **Floyd School** for the 1942-1943 school year then back to High Point at the request of the parents in that district. In November of 1945, she resigned from the High Point position and became a wife and partner to **William John Ternes**. Ternes owned two bars in Highland, a profession not highly favored by Bernadine who had a young family at that time. Eventually



Floyd School dressed for Christmas 2009

they left the tavern business.

During her career as a country school teacher, she boarded two nights a week with a **Nelson** Family and recalls spending several days at the Peterson home during a blizzard. She recalls that **Willis Peterson** was on the school board, and that there were no irate parents. Her original transportation was a black and very shiny 1939 Chevy. The students respected and were perhaps in awe as they kept well away from the car. Books were expensive, scarce and few in number. The one staple of learning inside every rural school was a gigantic dictionary. The outside staple of country life was those frigid outdoor toilets.

As we might have expected, Bernadine fired up the potbellied stove every morning, filled the water pail and supervised the student body as they made the classroom fit for human habitation. To sum up, she liked the kids, she also found time to teach, and we are pleased to have met and learned from **Bernadine Nondorf Ternes**.

Iowa County Historical Society
1301 N. Bequette Street
Dodgeville, Wisconsin, 53533-0044

Dear Friends:

This January Newsletter is the perfect opportunity to say thank you to everyone for a very full and special year. First, thank you, **Dorothy Anderson**. Dorothy retired December 31, 2009 after 23 + years as devoted curator. She retired but she can't quit and her many hours of devoted service to the Iowa County Historical Society will continue as she joins our legion of volunteers.

And thank you to that legion of volunteers. Volunteers like **Joan Bennett, Melva Phillips** and many others who made our Where Have All the Cheese Factories Gone? a runaway "Best Seller."

Thank you to **Curt and Donna Peterson** for their donation of the Floyd School, thank you to the community groups and businesses that helped move the school to our campus, and thank you to the stone masons, brick layers, carpenters, painters and restoration specialists that are making the school a community showcase.

And a particular thank you to those who donate so generously to the Historical Society with their time, their checks and their ideas. You, our members and friends, sustain us and make all this possible.

At the heart of our program is the museum itself which provides us with exhibits that reach back in time and give young visitors a look back at history meanwhile giving their elders an opportunity to relive experiences from the past. (Nothing thrills me more than to see and listen to the interchange between a child's wonderment at a grandparent's, aunt's or uncle's reminiscence.)

Drop in almost any day and you can visit with our volunteers as they field genealogy calls from all over the United States, provide a fount of information to drop-in visitors on a myriad of topics, and note their work as they continue to research, document and computerize. We even sent our scrapbook on Iowa County Doctors to the Wisconsin Historical Society Website for their October feature on scrapbooks.

WHAT 2010 BRINGS DEPENDS ON EACH OF YOU

The success of Where Have All the Cheese Factories Gone? emboldens us. There are other books we'd like to do and others that we could reissue. But which books and what subjects?

The Floyd School is “weather worthy” and ready for furnishing. Harder than it sounds because at the same time we have too many furnishings and not enough; too many and too few ideas on what a rural 19th or perhaps 20th century school looked like inside, and which decade? What programs can we develop to bring the school back to life?

Everything that’s old is new again. Volunteers are indexing our obituary scrapbooks on the computer and if we can find funding, we would like to place the individual pages of all our scrapbooks on line. (The Barneveld library has done it with their scrapbooks. Check them out.)

We have a website, but it languishes for want of ideas and resources. We know we should do more in partnering with local libraries and community groups as well as with other historical societies but what and how?

Some of the special computer data entry our volunteers do isn’t always visible; for example:

Alice Rosenberger is indexing the obituary books. With amazing persistence, Alice has completed indexing the obituaries thru the 1990’s. Her work has made searching for obituaries immeasurably easier.

Ann Peterson is cataloging current obituaries. Ann works on keeping us up-to-date on obituaries and works on other tasks as needed.

Janette Hartman was cataloging historic naturalization records. Janette has completed this task and is now updating the computer records of the family history files.

Shelly Bennett is scanning historic photographs and indexing obituary scrapbooks. Shelly has only just begun volunteering and her computer skills make her an especially valuable asset.

WHAT WE NEED IS MORE RESOURCES! WHAT WE NEED IS YOU!

That is why I am asking you to help us make 2010 a success. Please start by dropping us a note or e-mail with your ideas including ideas for books, for our website, for partnering and for the school. What was your school like? What remembrances can you share?

Alice Griffiths, President
Iowa County Historical Society

E-mail address: ichistory@mhtc.net
Website: iowacountyhistoricalsociety.org

Saved in My Doc. as: ICHS Newsletter insert for January 2010

“Sleigh Bells Ring, Are You Listening?”

Or “The Dandies and the Hussies”

On 2/14/1867 the following ad appeared in the Dodgeville Chronicle:

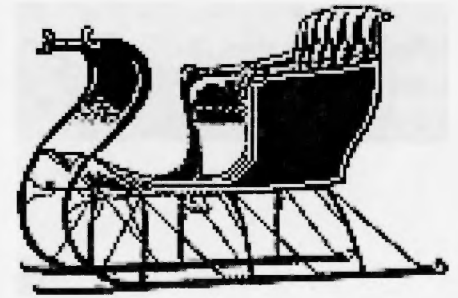
Wanted Immediately: Two active, energetic young men to take the undersigned sleigh riding. We claim to be good looking and as full of fun as seventeen year old girls usually are, yet during all this time of fine sleighing, no one has invited us [to] take a ride. If insisted on, we are willing to pay toll at every bridge crossing, culverts included. Resident on ___ St, Call any evening. Mary & Martha

The editor followed their ad with the following note: Here is a fine chance for a couple of young men. Think of two such girls being obliged to advertise for a sleigh ride, while there are so many gay young fellows about town. Then remember they are willing to pay toll. Go to work, young men and find these girls, and while doing so, decide upon which road there are the greatest number of bridges and culverts.

The next issue of the paper on 2/21/1867 printed a response to their ad:

If Martha and Mary will be good enough to inform me of their exact location, I would gladly comply with their request. I flatter myself that I possess the accomplishments demanded, have a fine horse, and a reputation of being a good driver, and a very careful young man, and am willing that they should be the judges as to energy of action when I present my bill at the bridge. Only one can be accommodated at a time. Signed JEHU

We'll never know if Mary and Martha got their sleigh ride but the next week it was announced that sleighing season had ended. One can only hope they got a ride in before the snow melted. (Contributed by avid readers.)



Cheese Factory Expenses for 1934

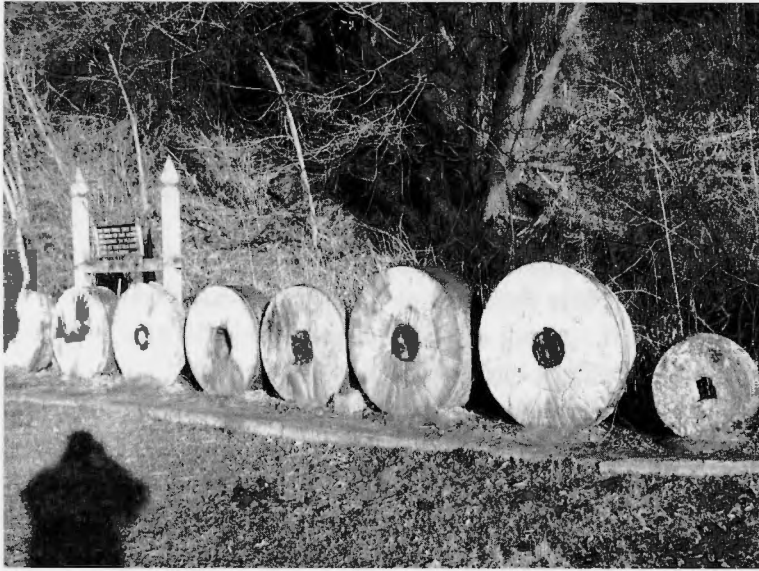
Clay Hill Cheese Factory

Expenses Paid 1934		
Apr. 11, 1934 -	Anna Stenlund for painting 1 day	\$ 2.00
May 5, 1934 -	Dept. Ag. + Markets - Stencil Wisconsin	.73
May 12, 1934 -	E. L. Lumsden Holm. Co. Paint	24.97
May 16, 1934 -	O. H. Stenlund 2 sacks lime (cl.)	.90
July 24, 1934 -	Perry Fire Ins. Co. Assessment	92.3
Aug 7, 1934 -	E. L. Lumsden Holm. Co. Perry's Repairs	4.89
Sept 17, 1934 -	O. H. Stenlund - to Doan Paper Lb. Co 1/2 gal roof cement	.90
Oct 8 " -	Eggman & Johnson Lb. Co. Paint	12.5
Dec. 17 " -	E. Blum .20 + paint for building + 50¢ for Putting	.50
Jan 2, 1935 -	1935 License	2.00
Jan 5, 1935 -	1934 Taxes	19.38
Jan 9, 1935 -	Morris Brattler Secretary Salary	40.00
Jan 9, 1935 -	Simon Stenlund Barberman	10.00
Jan 9, 1935 -	Oliver Helgerson President	5.00
		124.75
Tax on checks to Jan 1, 1935 -		2.94
		124.69

We can dream about expenses such as the diligent farmers of Clay Hill in Iowa County racked up in 1934. They worked for every penny and that was often their reward ... pennies.

Imagine this, the secretary kept an eagle eye on every transaction for \$40. Five dollars per year was lavished on the president and the salesman received \$10 per annum for selling the product of his neighbors' dairy cows.

Truly, the life style here in dairyland was scaled to modest expectations. Yet ... they persevered.



Millstones on display at Hydes Mill

Millstones ...

In Plain View at Ted Sawle's Hyde Mill

We understand that the Hyde mill property is listed for sale. The mill is the inspired work of the late Ted Sawle who won his battle with the State of Wisconsin to place the reconstructed mill on a navigable stream.

Completed in the 1970s, this was a major achievement for **Ted Sawle** who respected the artifacts and cultural of the past during his vigorous century long life.

It seems identification of the millstones is in order as we understand that they were assembled from a number of abandoned mill sites in the old Lead Region of Wisconsin. Noting that the property is listed for sale information about the origin of the stones would be welcomed. Please call your tips to the Editor.

Floyd School Progress Report

Look at Mr. Floyd's School Now

Exterior painted
Rewiring completed

Roof shingled
Chimney rebuilt

Windows rebuilt
New front doors

Interior walls, ceiling, floor cleaned
and painted

Student desks cleaned

New back door

Rear windows replaced with siding

Handicap ramp

*Thanks to your help
We are getting there*



Early Fall Scene At Floyd School

The Roll of Honor Board

honoring former Floyd School students, teachers and those who attended other Iowa County rural schools is on display in the museum. It will be moved to the Floyd School when the restoration is complete.

For details: See page 5 October 2009 Newsletter. Memorials available at \$100 per name.

Naomi the Little Girl in East Side Cemetery

by Barbara Weinbrenner

Bernice J. Flora Fieldhouse, my Gramma, remembers going to **St. Joseph's Cemetery** in Dodgeville near their rented farm by **Black's Grove** when she was a little girl in the late 1920s and 1930s. Each time her **Aunt Orphie** and her husband would motor over to Dodgeville from Janesville for a visit, which was three to four times in the summer and a bit less in the winter, the family would take time to walk over to the cemetery and look over the graves of relatives and other people they knew.

St. Joseph's Cemetery was pretty small then, maybe a quarter of the size it is now. Gramma says people didn't plant fresh flowers so much back then, that it was more common to plant a bush or a shrub. But once planting fresh flowers became popular, Gramma and Grampa planted them on relatives' graves in St. Joseph's Cemetery and the East Side Cemetery in Dodgeville for over 50 years. It was those flowers that got me interested in **Naomi** over at **East Side cemetery**.

I've been curious about Naomi since the late 1970s when I was four or five years old. Each week during the summer, Gramma and I would walk the nine blocks to East Side to water the marigolds on the stones of Flora and Fieldhouse relatives in sections three and five. We would leave her beige house on South Level Street, continue east down Division Street, pass by the greenhouse, now replaced by apartments, and pass through the first entrance to the cemetery.

Naomi Rowe's stone, three-quarters the way down in section one and a handful of stones in was, and still is, one of our favorite stops. Her white and light gray marbled stone is in the shape of a knee-high tree stump and careful eyes can spot it from the cemetery road. There is a medium-sized urn balanced on the top and the oval picture of her on the front of the stone makes it different from many of the other older stones in East Side.

In the picture, she is standing on a wicker structure and has a slight smile on her face, which is framed by chin-length hair with bangs and elfin ears. The knee-length, light-colored dress she is wearing is billowed out and her tights are bunched at the knees. Shiny black shoes with narrow straps complete her outfit. She is holding something in her hand, likely a flower. It is difficult to make out.

Just over two years old when she died, Naomi was born on March 2, 1916. At the time of her death, she was one of three children, but the only daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. William H. Rowe**. Her brothers, **Seymour** and **Lyman**, and her family lived in **Brooten, Minnesota**, northwest of Minneapolis.

When I was a little girl, I had always wondered what happened to her and I never knew until now. According to her obituary in the June 12, 1918 issue of The Dodgeville Chronicle, little Naomi first contracted whooping cough, which was followed by tonsillitis, measles and pneumonia, all within a span of six weeks. She succumbed in the evening hours of Tuesday, May 28, 1918, at her parents home. Following funeral services in Brooten and then in Edmund at the home of her aunt and uncle, **Mr. and Mrs. D.A. Peterson**, she was interred in East Side on Saturday, June 1.

Her stone is nestled in among her Rowe relatives and although her picture has gone missing from the stone in past years, it is again intact thanks to **Brad Broaden** of rural Dodgeville who found and reattached little Naomi's picture.



ordered that Joel T. Sanderson be allowed the sum of fourteen dollars on account of bounty for wolf scalp as per affidavit made and filed

Nov 6/14

Test your eyesight.

Hint ... It's something about wolves and was recorded in 1848.

Improvements at Ruggles Farm

*From the **Dodgeville Chronicle** of December 23, 1870, we find this little item boosting of the foresight and management prowess of **William P. Ruggles**. The author is unknown. The article is reproduced here as written with added notes from "The History of Iowa County, Wisconsin – 1881." Editor.*

Called on friend Ruggles the other day; found him busy of course. Who ever found him otherwise? After looking around his place, we went in and partook of the good things provided for the inner man. If anyone wishes a history of Iowa County, we would advise them to call at Capt. Ruggles, for a better his-



Ruggles Farm and Stage Coach Stop ... Date unknown

tory than he and his lady can give can't be found. Mr. R. is one of the first settlers in this part of the country, having lived on the farm he now occupies over 30 years and during that time has been endeavoring to improve his place, the consequence is that he has probably the best improved farm in the county. His barn is the largest one we have seen, was built in 1852, is **100 feet in length**, and though it is so large, it is not large enough; every available space is perfectly full.

The latest improvement, however, is a building for the purpose of fattening and butchering hogs, the most convenient building of its kind we have ever seen; it is hog pen, corn crib, and slaughter house, combined. The size of the building is 36 by 20 feet, built on a solid stone foundation and raised about 4 feet from the ground. At each end of the building are pens built 10x11 feet, with doors from one to the other for the convenience of moving the hogs. Above the pens, at each end of the building are corn cribs 10x20 feet, capable of holding 1,200 bushels of corn; the whole is lined with 1 1/2 inch oak plank. Doors and

gang ways are provided for the purpose of driving the hogs into the pens or driving them out into a wagon or sleigh. The whole is accomplished without handling the hogs from the time they are put in until they are taken out.

In the center of the building is a space left 14x20 feet, in one corner of which is a well built brick furnace, with a 60 gallon kettle, for the double purpose of heating water for the dressing of hogs, and for boiling or steaming their food.

Above and across the center space is erected a windlass 14 feet wide, worked by a crank by which means the largest beef can be raised with ease.

The cost of this building is about \$500. Every well-to-do farmer should have such a building; it will pay for itself in a very short time.

*Born in **Barre, Worcester County, Massachusetts** a descendant of Revolutionary War veterans, Ruggles attended school "only when it was storming" and lived the dawn-to-dusk life of a farm boy of the times. He was elected captain of the local militia company. Later his younger brother Daniel became a Major General in the Confederate Army.*

*Deciding to seek his fortune elsewhere, Ruggles took a boat to Chicago then on to Galena offering that he wouldn't have given \$10 for Chicago at that time. After a time in Galena, then humming with activity, he set foot (on foot) for Iowa County, arriving here in 1838 with \$100, a horse and an old stub-and-twist shotgun. He worked in Ridgeway Township for \$20 per month, later working for **George W. Hickcox** at the "**Hickcox Sawmill**" and then at the "**Hickcox Flouring Mill**." Deciding to marry after contacting a young woman in Ohio, he walked to Milwaukee, no mean feat, and found better transportation. On inquiry by another traveler, he replied, "I am going in search of an old maid that I have never seen." The woman in question was **Lucinda Scott**; her union with **William P. Ruggles** lasted for more than 40 years.*

Ruggles combined superior energy and skill to become a highly successful farmer-business man on the Wisconsin Frontier.

***Klinton and Wanda McCutchin** are the long time owners and custodians of Ruggles Farm, Ridgeway Township, the oldest intact farm in Iowa County.*

Acquisitions

Sandy Bennett, Madison, WI: 28 photos—Florence Gardner Holland's first grade classes at Dodgeville 1949-1980. Missed in October Newsletter.

Beverly & James Hoemke, Dodgeville, WI: Needles and ad for Wayside Discount Center, Dodgeville, WI.

Daniel Thompson, Houston, Texas: School bell, crop judging trophy.

Lucille Burris, Avoca WI: School house globe light fixture.

Melvin & Shirley Hendrickson, Wheaton, IL: Digital images James Lloyd Jones & Laura E. Hickox Jones, one digital image of Red Oak School.

Mary Carlstrom, Blue Mounds, WI: Photo—Ridgeway Hotel ca. 1976.

Ted Lewis of Orlando, FL has an interesting Lewis Family website at: lewislithuania.com ... Take a look.

Federal Census Microfilm

These census microfilms were recently cataloged

Minn. counties: 1880, Ottertail, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Carver, Cass, Chippewa, Chisago, Clair, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow, Wing, Dakota, Marshall, Martin, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower,
Wis. 1930, Dunn County.

Oregon 1930, Clackamas County.

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: Treasurer, Iowa County Historical Society

P. O. Box 44, Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044

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 XXXV No. 1 January 2010

Iowa County Historical Society

1301 N. Bequette St., P. O. Box 44
Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044

MEMBERSHIPS

MAIL TO: Treasurer, Iowa County Historical Society

P. O. Box 44, Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044

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: history-cemeteries-
obituaries-photographs-newspaper microfilm-artifacts

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

**NON-PROFIT
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Calendar of Events

Public Meeting

1 pm, Saturday, January 23, 2010
Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville

Speaker at 1 pm is:

Dick Stephens of St. Charles, Illinois

Stephens will tell the story of the family search for the ruins of the five generation Stephens Homestead in Governor Dodge Park. The story of their search will bring a pioneer Iowa County family to life.

May Day 2010

A party at Floyd School.
Details in April Newsletter.

"Where Have All the Cheese Factories Gone?"

A History of the Cheese Factories and
Creameries of Iowa County

\$39.00 ... Plus S & H

A best seller

Contact: Treasurer, Marie Sersch,
ICHS Box 44, Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044



Thomas Barn ... Barneveld
Built for the Centuries