

Iowa County History

Brought to you by the Iowa County Historical Society

Volume XXXVII

No. 3

July 2011

Potpourri

ICHS Directors

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Thursday, July 28, at Museum

1301 N. Bequette St.,
Dodgeville

Hours 5 to 7

Pie, Music, Fun,

Meal by Grandma Mary

For You & Your Neighbors



Alice Griffiths, Pres. 935-0574

John Hess, VP 588-7082

Eileen Arndt, Sec. 935-2623

Marie Sersch, Treas. 935-5752

Don McGuire 929-7494

George Wallenkamp 929-7676

Margaret Peat 935-5532

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by Fran Mueller Syverson



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Annual Meeting, not now, but October 25, 2011. Robert Grede speaks on his book, The Spur and the Sash, and you are invited. The story, both fact and fiction, is about **George Van Norman**, a Town of Moscow resident and the great great grandfather of author, Robert Grede. Write it down for October 25, 2011 at 7 pm. The **Annual Meeting**, a great talk, snacks and friendship at **Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville**.

Gary Geer, son of ICHS Archivist **Boyd Geer** and a librarian at the Thomas Cooper Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, has forwarded a paper with the whimsical title, "**How Overdue Books Caused the Civil War.**" Although the events taken from US Government records are true, a grain of salt is mandatory if you should plan to read the book by Robert Lopresti and A. A. Imholtz of Western Washington University.

The Editor wonders if a generous reader will step forward to pickup the extra cost of the color printing on pages 1 and 8?

Floyd School and the **Dodge Cabin** may be visited by appointment.

Thanks to **John Metcalf** for his continued local history support.

Sandy Bennett of **Mineral Point** brought to our attention the years spent by the late **Helene Stratmann-Thomas** recording and photographing local artists thus preserving Wisconsin folk songs and stories. Thanks, Sandy.

Stephens Farm Recalled

by Fran Syverson

Author **Fran Syverson** was known as **Emogene Mueller** when she lived with **Molly** and **Harlan Metcalf** on the Stephens farm. An alumna of Iowa County schools, she returns to Iowa County every year from her home in California. In 2011 she sent pictures ahead and will visit us again.

The enchanting tale below reminisces about a long remembered spring on the Stephens farm, now part of **Governor Dodge State Park**, but for many years an anchor for "early settler" farm families as they moved through the available farms of Iowa County, Wisconsin. You will find it as enchantingly descriptive as any thing you have ever remembered about your childhood. Editor.

Our Crystal Clear Spring Still Flows

by Fran Syverson

The crystal clear spring is still flowing back there in Wisconsin. I left it decades ago. I've revisited it any number of times, knowing I'll find it still there and flowing. For us, the vital part was where it welled up



Dawn Joyce Mueller Guseman,
Teddy and unknown dog

from the earth and into our springhouse. It was literally our life's blood: our drinking water and our refrigerator. The springhouse was damp, dank, cool and dark. It was huge and cavernous. Now, still damp, dank, cool and dark, it seems much smaller. That happens doesn't it, when we

grow up. Great-grandpa Stephens had chosen this site for his farm, having spurned settling in boggy, worthless land farther southeast, land which eventually developed and prospered as Chicago. He built the springhouse over the stream. It's an arching dome of limestone, set partially back into the hillside. Water spreads over a shallow, uneven rocky base for a few feet before being channeled into a vat. The vat was where 10-gallon cans full of milk still warm from the cows were set after being hauled down another hill from the barn. Sometimes it was us girls' job to aerate the milk to hasten the cooling before the cans were hauled to the cheese factory.



Joyce Mueller, Elizabeth
Stephens Hagerup,
Fran Emogene Mueller,
chicken house and horse barn
in rear



Molly Stephens Metcalf
mows the lawn

Yes, the springhouse was our refrigerator. It was in the shallow end that we would carefully place a big bowl of cherry Jell-O with sliced bananas, setting a rock atop a plate which served as the bowl's lid. We fervently hoped to retrieve the bowl later, when the dessert had stiffened, without encountering a snake cooling itself in the water.

Water flowed outside from the springhouse into another vat, a wooden one. The horses

drank from it: Nell and Polly, the old black mares, and Bill and Barney, the young roans.

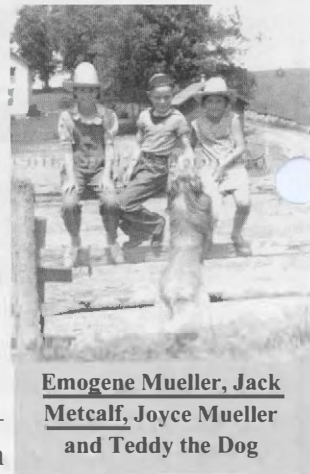
Our spring meandered 50 feet into a meadow then joined another rivulet. Together they tumbled — still do — over a cascade of rocks. Ferns line the banks on either side. Then, over an edge rounded from centuries of wear, the stream drops about 30 feet into a pond below. Not everyone has two waterfalls on their farm, and we loved ours!

The spring went on — goes on! After dallying briefly in the pond. It wends its way past April violets and jack-in-the-boxes. In the fall it floats russet and gold leaves like little boats. Small fish hang out in its sheltered nooks.

Finally, of course, our stream ended in the Wisconsin River, then the Mississippi, then the ocean. Eventually the water became a rain cloud over the farm, its droplets filtering into the soil and out again, into the springhouse, in Nature's constant renewal. Sometimes I fantasize, wondering in all those decades, how much water has flowed out of the springhouse, over the falls, and back as rain, keeping my crystal clear spring still flowing back there in Wisconsin.



The farm with the spring



Emogene Mueller, Jack
Metcalf, Joyce Mueller
and Teddy the Dog

John Metcalf Reviews the Past

by John Metcalf

*Encyclopedic is the best way to describe the sweep of the Iowa County historic past as commanded by native son, **John Metcalf**. John, a resident of Madison, is a loyal and much interested chronicler of the in's and out's of that past. Read below his thoughts, taken from recent emails, on Iowa County people. Editor.*

Hello, I got my latest edition of the newsletter in yesterday's mail. First, I did not know that Janie Harrison was a Carkeek descendant. Her mother was **Minnerva Reese**, and I know her family goes way back in Dodgeville history, but I don't know if it was her mother's family or her father's family that were Carkeeks. Very interesting.

There was an inquiry towards the end of the newsletter on the Cosens. **Abby Cosens** was an MD in Dodgeville. I guess I had heard that her husband was also an MD but had kind of forgotten it. Abby Cosens was the first **Worthy Matron of the Dodgeville Eastern Star Chapter**. The OES Chapter had its centennial in 1993. I seem to recall reading that Dr. Cosens (Abby) did not live long after her term as Worthy Matron of the chapter. She is buried--probably her husband, too--in **East Side Cemetery**. There is an "unofficial" Masonic section that I think I have mentioned before. If you go in the first gate at East Side, and go down to the bottom of the "middle section" where the Strong's lot is, and then go both north and east for a distance, all of the lots appear to be Masonic members' lots. If you go north to the lot of **J. Thomas Pryor**, he was the first **High Priest of the Dodgeville Royal Arch Chapter** that was chartered in 1908. The Pryors had a home on Walnut Street on the south side of the street about three quarters of the way up the second block going west from Iowa Street.

If you go pretty much due east in the cemetery from the Pryor lot, you will come to the Cosens lot. It is a large, dark gray, square stone. It has been a while since I have looked at it, but it is near one of my Grandmother Metcalf's cousin's stones--**Mrs. Dahl Richardson**. His second wife was a **Berryman**. He farmed in Wyoming Valley, but I don't remember which place he had.

I have a vague recollection that Abby Cosens died relatively young, and that it was related to her line of work--an epidemic of some sort. I may be wrong about that. I know that she was long gone before the flu epidemic in 1918. I think there used to be a photo of the first officers of the Dodgeville OES chapter--maybe it was of all of the charter members. I just don't recall. But there were both men and women in the photo, and East-

ern Star chapters have both men and women and officers. It was in the Masonic Temple in Dodgeville for many years, but I don't recall having seen it in quite some time. I know they had it on display at the 75th anniversary, which would have been in 1968, but after that I do not recall having seen it. I know that several antique items have been sold from the Masonic Temple over the years, and perhaps it was sold along the way.

All for now.

Another email from John Metcalf

Neil, I was glancing at the ICHS newsletter over the noon hour and notice an acquisition related to **Dr. William Reese**. You may have run some articles on him in the past that I have seen but forgotten. But, in any event, I have a little background on him. He didn't become an MD until he was in his forties. I think his father or parents died young and he raised his siblings. He worked on the Chicago and Northwestern line as an excavator when the line came out from Madison in the 1880's. He lived, I believe, in Ridgeway Township north of the C&NW line, but I don't know which farm it was.

I don't think he ever drove an automobile. In the early days it would have been by carriage, and in later years **Melvin "Ole" Olson** was his driver in the early 1950's. I think he was practicing medicine well into his eighties. I've heard the story that he had a "white pill" and a "green pill" that he carried with him--apparently for different ailments. It makes one wonder if they were placebos. His niece **Margaret Jenkins** was his nurse and office manager for years. His office was in his home on East Merrimac. **Mary Sincox** lived there, last I knew, but

that was some time ago. There used to be a small metal sign on the house that read **Wm. Reese, M.D.** I don't know if it is still there, but it was painted over for years.

Continued on page 4.



Dr. Wm. Reese and Helene Stratman Thomas

John Metcalf Reviews the Past

Continued from page 3.

Margaret Jenkins was a bit "officious" and used to try to get patients to pay their bills on subsequent doctor visits. Dr. Reese would say "put the book away, Margaret," when she'd get her ledger out. She ran a hospital over the Corner Drug store during the flu epidemic in 1918. Before that all there was was the "pest house" on the west side of town. I don't know if she was in competition with St. Josephs or if they set it up just for the flu patients, but it preceded the Lutheran Hospital that was in the Grand Hotel. Anyway, it jogged my memory a bit, so I thought I'd pass it along.

I have **Dr. Reese's Masonic Penny**. When a Mason joins the Royal Arch, part of the ceremony is to receive a penny on which the Mason will "make his mark." Some where along the way I have Dr. Reese's penny that has his name on it. It is quite worn, as I recall. I will give it to the ICHS when I get around to it with its connection to Dr. Reese but also so people can see what a "mark" looks like. There are probably not many of them around these days.

Potpourri Continued

The **Bell Tower of the Iowa County Courthouse** has a timber inscribed "**1859.**" Who will volunteer their time and their camera to get a good picture of this historic memento? The Editor will be gratified.

Member **Shirley "Sandy" Bennett** sent a reminder that the **Wisconsin Historical Society** did an excellent article in the Winter 2010 issue of the **Wisconsin Magazine of History** about the exploits of Iowa County native, **Helene Stratman-Thomas**, as she spent six years in the early 1940s taking photographs and taping the folk songs of early Wisconsin before those who performed them were gone from the scene. She was an employee of the Wisconsin Historical Society, then called the **State Historical Society of Wisconsin**, working under the auspices of the **Wisconsin Folk Music Project**.

Christine de Laurentis of Houston, Texas has written to renew her membership and states that she reads the Newsletter from cover to cover. We love those words of praise.

Just in case ... we suggest that you attach an instruction sheet to your Will so that your family can honor your wishes as to the disposition of your family history archives. A suggestion is to offer the records to a **local genealogical society**. Do not wait. Do this today. A short note filed with your Will is sufficient.

ICHS Director **John Hess** of Arena-Spring Green spent some vacation time, several years past, in the city of Iowa County founders **Ste. Genevieve, Missouri**. John brought home a menu with an artist's rendition of the Old Brick House erected in 1780, and for many years housing an excellent restaurant. The Editor and his wife dined there daily for about a week in 1999.

This year is the beginning of a four-year cycle of memorials and other events calculated to renew the American memory of the American "**War of the Rebellion,**" commonly called the **Civil War**. Local and national patriotic groups will be front and center for the duration of the period of 150 years beginning with this year 2011 and concluding with 2015. At ICHS **Eileen Arndt** and **Mary Knutson** are engaged in the challenging labor of love to record the service records and the achievements of the approximately 900 Civil War Veterans who served from Iowa County.

"**Where Have All the Cheese Factories Gone,**" the record breaking ICHS publication, is approaching the 800 sold mark. We can fill your order with alacrity.

Jacob Van Norman, born in Pennsylvania, raised in New York State, prospered in Iowa County, Wisconsin, is the subject of a book titled "**The Spur and the Sash,**" just released by his great great grandson **Robert Grede**. Grede will speak at the **ICHS Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville**. The lecture begins at 7 pm. See you there.



Jacob Van Norman

Not So Long Ago

Two pages from the 1915 University of Wisconsin: Experiment Station Bulletin
Donated by Bob Thomas



COUTURES DESIGNED AND MADE BY HOME ECONOMICS STUDENTS

COURSES IN HOME ECONOMICS

Home Economics is a separate department which is connected with the College of Agriculture for administrative purposes, and the faculty of this College gives instruction in certain subjects, such as household chemistry and bacteriology.

The faculties of the various other colleges, schools, and courses of the University give instruction in certain required and elective subjects offered to students taking the Course in Home Economics.

FACILITIES FOR INSTRUCTION

The Department of Home Economics will be found in the Home Economics and University Extension building where the laboratories are located in the wing and on the fourth floor of the main building.

The Department is provided with a lecture room and class room facilities besides the following laboratories:

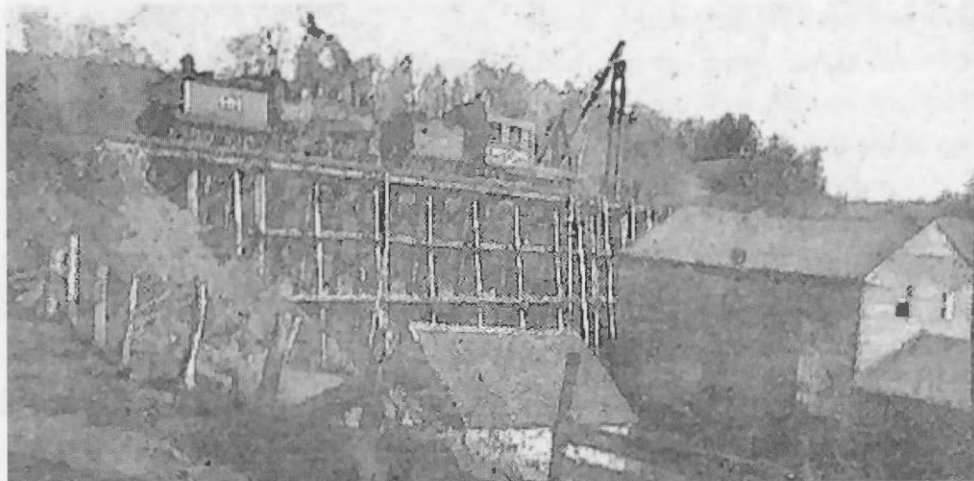
- Two food laboratories,
- Two applied chemistry laboratories,
- One dietetic laboratory with practice kitchen and dining room adjoining,
- One weaving laboratory,
- A textile laboratory,
- A dressmaking laboratory,
- A house architecture and house decoration laboratory,
- An art and design laboratory,
- One applied arts laboratory.

Each laboratory will accommodate 24 students at a time.

All the laboratories are fully equipped with apparatus necessary to teach the historical development of the subjects as well as the most modern phases of home economic study. Chemicals and chemical apparatus are provided for intensive study in applied chemistry.

Another Not So Long Ago

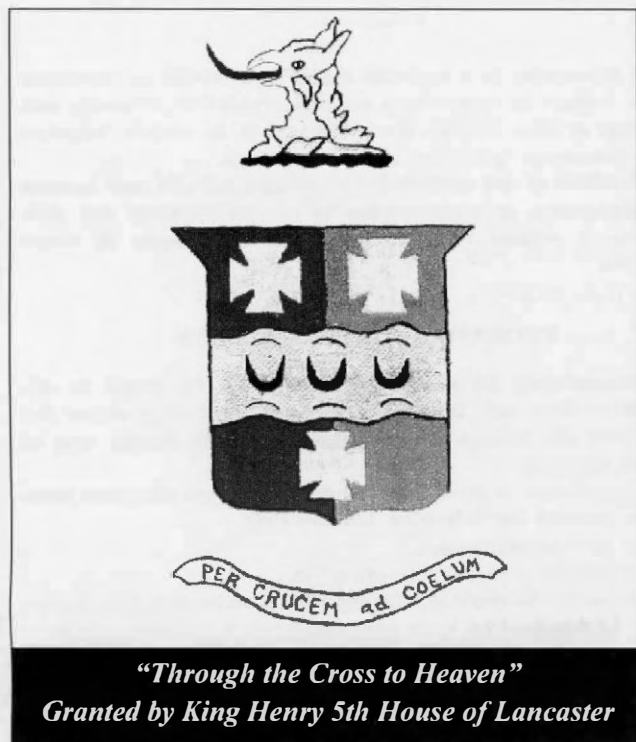
**Illinois Central
 Rail Road work train
 upgrading the Blotz
 farm trestle, east of
 Dodgeville in Iowa
 County, Wisconsin,
 circa 1900 and now
 farmed by Tim and
 Laura Jean Blotz.**



The First American Goodsell

Compiled by LeRoy Grunenwald

Thomas Goodsell, the subject of this sketch, was the youngest son of **Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Goodsell**. Born in Flint County, Wales, he was given a sum of money by his father and advised to settle in the New World as there was very little opportunity in England for anyone except the eldest son, who would inherit the estates and title.



The voyage to America took four months. He settled in **Branford, Connecticut**, a Welsh and English settlement which had been granted land by the crown. With the remaining money given by his father, he purchased 188.5 acres of rich farm land, now known as Goodsell's Point.

As a planter he acquired considerable wealth, with which he purchased a trading schooner which he used to carry on commerce with the Mother country.

At his death in 1713 his estate was appraised at 4,500 pounds, approximately \$22,000 in 1944, making him a wealthy man for the times.

The inventory of his estate discloses many interesting things not the least of which is the fact he was a slave owner. He owned three slaves, two men and a woman, who were inventoried at 550 pounds.

He died possessed of an extensive library, extensive for those days, which consisted of 9 old books, one quire of paper (12 sheets), one account book, one old bible, one English dictionary, one book of divinity, and one book on navigation. Also inventoried were one brass clock, one sailing compass, one sailing boat, two walking canes and one painting of **King George**.

All of the estate was left to his wife, **Sarah**, daughter of **Samuel Hemmingway**, one of the most influential and prominent members of the colony of Connecticut.

Records indicate Sarah could not read or write for she was unable to sign certain legal papers except by her mark. She died in 1725. From this union were born nine children. Two sons, **Thomas** and **John**, went to Yale College accompanied by one slave, named **Will**, as a servant befitted the sons of wealthy gentlemen, to cook and care for their bodily needs.

All slaves were set free before Sarah's passing but served until her death. Will remained with John Goodsell and his wife until his death at which time he was buried in the Goodsell family plot in Fairfield as one of the family.

Condensed from the Goodsell Family Records by LeRoy Grunenwald, Livingston, Wisconsin eight generations removed from Thomas Goodsell.



Fran Syverson, author of the fond memories on page 2, has been feverishly arranging to visit the myriad of friends and relatives from her youth in Iowa County. Editor Neil Giffey was among those who enjoyed too fleeting an hour with Fran.

Accessions

Lawrence Fenton, Columbia, MO: Photographs of Bloomfield Manor Nursing Home.

Neil Giffey, Dodgeville, WI: Collection of newspaper and magazine articles and photographs relating to sculptor Adolph Roegner of Milwaukee, WI.

Anonymous Bookseller: "Our Family" about the Lloyd Jones Family.

David Ladd, Dodgeville, WI: Photographs of Mt. Hope School and students.

Sharon Bartle, Dodgeville, WI: Copy of Francis C. Bartle interview 1991-1995 by Neil Giffey re: California gold rush experiences, mining company payroll lists, obits and various articles re: the Bartle line in Iowa County, WI.

Susan White, Wisconsin Dells, WI: Framed photographs of Stratmann Wagon Works and Klondike Club. Original to be returned to Ms. White.

Melvin & Shirley Hendrickson, Whea: Miscellaneous small tools as used in settler era.

Janette Reeson, Ridgeway, WI: Photographs of Ted Sawle, Hyde's Mill, Catherine Tregaskis, Wm. & Jeanette Sawle and documents from Hyde's Mill ledger.

Membership Application

Iowa County Historical Society

MAIL TO: Treasurer, Iowa County Historical Society
P.O. Box 44, Dodgeville, WI 53533-0044

Membership dues and categories

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
Institutional Membership			\$25.00
<i>Membership year is July 1st—June 30th</i>			

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, 2011

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

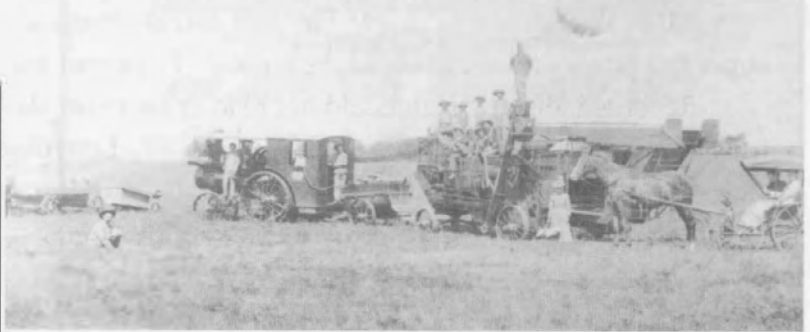
Mineral Point Home Intelligencer 13 Sept. 1860 and 31 May, 1862

The Gleaner, Arena, Nov 8-Dec. 6, 1894

The Southwest Wisconsin, Linden, 1854-1907

Index to Wisconsin Miscellaneous Newspapers

Weekly newspapers and the ICHS index of obituaries are great finding aids at the Iowa County Historical Society, stop in.



Threshing at Trankle Farm, by Dieter and Son

Name _____ Street _____ PO 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 XXXVI No. 3 June 2011

Iowa County Historical Society

1301 N. Bequette St., P. O. Box 0044, 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****Institutional membership \$25.00***Membership year is July 1st—June 30***ICHS SERVICES-GENEALOGY-HISTORIC RESEARCH**

The Society has archives for Iowa County: history-cemeteries-obituaries-newspaper microfilm-artifacts

Archivist: Boyd Geer, Curator: Janette Hartman

Museum phone 608-935-7694.**Email: ichistory@mhtc.net****Museum open year-round except for holidays.****Weekdays 1-4 pm****By appointment at other times.****Website: iowacountyhistoricalsociety.org**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U. S. POSTAGE
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DODGEVILLE, WI
PERMIT NO. 86

Address Service Requested

Calendar of Events**Ice Cream Social****5 pm, Thursday, July 28, 2011****Museum Grounds****1301 N. Bequette, Dodgeville, WI****Pie, Ice Cream****Plate Lunches****by Grandma Mary****Music, Friends, Food, Tours****ANNUAL MEETING****7 pm, October 25, 2011****Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville, WI****Robert Grede tells the story of his great great grandfather, Jacob Van Norman, from the his new book, "The Spur and the Sash"****Floyd School is located on the museum grounds and may be visited when the museum is open or by appointment.****The 16th International Gathering of
Cornish Cousins + Cornish Fest****AUGUST 10-14, 2011****Mineral Point, Wisconsin**