



www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org

RECOLLECTIONS

Monticello Area Historical Society News

Spring—Summer 2015

MAHS Annual Meeting and Dinner

MONTICELLO – The Monticello Area Historical Society held its 2015 annual meeting and dinner May 21, at Barnaby’s Monticello House in Monticello, with 42 members and guest attending. This year marks the society’s 20th anniversary.

May Burgy, treasurer, and Karen Brugger, secretary, were re-elected unanimously to the board of directors.

President Mary Davis was recognized for her many years of service.

Roger Klassy became a lifetime member.

MAHS’s new mission statement and vision statement were unveiled. (See pg. 5.)

During the past year, MAHS volunteers logged 350 hours. The museum had 415 visitors, with “A Woman’s Work is Never Done” on display for its second year. It was retired to make way for the new 2015 display “Slate Boards to Smart Boards.”

So far the new display has taken 160 volunteer hours and a generous donation from the Leon and Margaret Gempeler family to assemble. MAHS intends to provide small blackboards and chalk as gifts to young visitors to the museum.

Author Susan Apps-Bodilly provided entertainment and some amazing facts about the history of schools in Wisconsin, taken from her book, “One Room Schools: Stories from the Days of 1 Room, 1 Teacher, 8 Grades,” published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press. Most of the schools shown in Apps-Bodilly’s pictorial presentation are still standing, and some are open to the public.

When speaking to kids, App-Bodilly said, history is “about stories, your grandparents’ stories, your parents’ stories.” She presented pictures of her own parents’ schools and report cards. Her grandmother, Ruth Olson, was “a scrap booker,” she added, and those scrapbooks provided an enormous amount of tidbits, not only about her family, but also about the community.

Photos tell more than intended, App-Bodilly explained. The children she teaches notice especially the clothes of the pupils in old photos, she said.

And photos often trigger memories, thought to be long forgotten. They can even elicit memories of smells, she added.

Records of school board meetings also provide a trove of information about the history of schools. The treasurer’s record from Chain O’ Lakes notes when its school first got electricity – 1937.

App-Bodilly encourages young students to “think like historians” when investigating the past and to talk with their elders to learn what schools were like when they attended.

Following her presentation, Apps-Bodilly opened the floor for her audience to share their own stories of life in school way back when.

She holds a reading teacher license and has a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from the UW-Madison.

MAHS

Board of Directors

President - Mary Davis
 Vice-Pres. - Donald Kubly
 Secretary - May Burgy
 Treas. - Karen Brugger
 Member - John Casey
 Member - Michael Wayland
 Member - Hans Sulzer

Collection Manager

Collection Archivist

Karen Gempeler

Coordinators

Docents - Kay & Bill Dickson
 Programs - Donna Ferguson
 Membership - Carol Schultz
 Newsletter - Tere Dunlap

Wants and Needs

Docents needed for August 1, August 15, August 22, and all of September. Call Kay or Bill Dickson to sign up: 938-4315.

Garage Sale: September 11 & 12. Donate your sellable items (no clothing) to help support MAHS.

MAHS Collection Manager is needed.

Upcoming events

Kim Schutte, New Glarus, will be the featured guest speaker at the June 25 meeting.

Notes from April 14, 1938

Local businessmen pick Homecoming day July 30-31, unless any unforeseen circumstances arise. J.W. Barlow will be in charge. Different advertising angles discussed may purchase spot radio announcements.

No movie will be shown in Karlen Hall due to the highly publicized dance featuring tow bands, Ole's Old Time Band from Milton, WI and Don Gordon & Orchestra from Monroe, WI.

Ball game on Sunday with Washington All-Stars vs. Mt. Pleasant All-Stars. You oldtimers should get a kick out of this sizzler.

Children's mammoth parade Saturday 11 A.M. Decorated doll buggies, bicycles, etc. A genuine movie cameraman coming to town to take pictures of our GIGANTIC celebration and interesting village scenes. Homecoming activities will be taken in color and will be shown in the screen in Karlen Hall a few weeks later.

Seven BIG free acts and band concerts afternoon and evening.

Monticello Royal Neighbors Lunch Stand. Plate lunches for 25 cents. Also sandwiches, ice cream, pop.

Admission 25 cents or adults, 10 cents children and under 12 years free. THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE WHERE YOU CAN GET SO MUCH FOR YOUR MONEY.

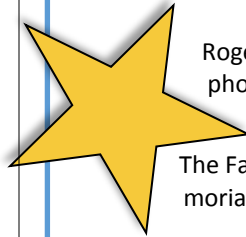
August 4, 1938 from Monticello Messenger

4000 persons passed through the turnstiles. Saturday attendance low due to busy season for farmers. Children's parade had 30 entries. 800 attended the dance Saturday night, parking space at a premium, some had to walk a great distance.

Voegeli—Jacob Voegeli and son, Royal, Monticello, motored to Portage where A/S Royal left for St. Peters, Minn., where he is stationed at the navy air base. A/S Voegeli had been spending a 10-day furlough at his home.

Monroe Evening Times, 3 Jan 1945, pg. 3. Men and Women in Service news section

Recent donations to MAHS



Roger Dooley for providing "Monticello History" photos featured the fourth week each month in The Monroe Times

The Family of Leon and Margaret Gempeler for memorial donation for the 2015-2018 "Slateboard to Smartboard" exhibit

Bruni-Miller for building the schoolhouse entrance

Mike and Hans Sulzer for transporting the structure

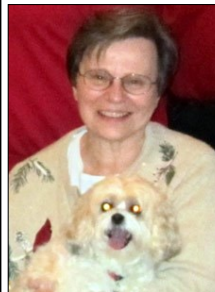
Mike Davis, Bill Dickson, and Don Kubly for tools and skills
Roger Gempeler for keeping the sidewalk shoveled and de-iced

Lion and Lioness organizations for March/April "Diabetes" window display

Amstutz-Marty Legion Post for providing pictures and items for May window display

Karen Brugger for donating and planting the flowers in front of the museum.

in memoriam



Diane K. Blum of Monroe died March 2, 2015. She was a MAHS member and editor of our quarterly newsletters until her death.

Diane was born June 18, 1946, the daughter of Ray "Coley" and Wilma (Zumkehr) Blum. She graduated from Monticello High School and UW Platteville.

She worked for Monroe Cheese Corporation and for Alpine Slicing and Cheese, and was a member of Zwingli United Church of Christ.

Diane was devoted to her family, pets and nature. Loved by many, she will be deeply missed.

She is survived by brother-in-law, Pete Goepfert of Monticello; numerous cousins; and her beloved pets: Maggie and Missy.

She is predeceased by her grandparents: Fred Zumkehr, Marie & Henry Duerst and Margaret & Emil Blum; parents, Ray and Wilma Blum; twin brothers; and sister, Carole Goepfert.

Rural School Recollections

Our newest exhibit features schools from long ago to the present. This article continues the history of the Loveland rural school, submitted by Richard Smith.

1860 — Teacher Miss Mary Gould contracted to teach three months, beginning 14th of May, wages \$6 per month. They decided to have four months winter school and three months summer. A male teach in winter and a female I summer.

From minutes of school meeting: John Isley will furnish eight lights of glass, one sheet of tin, two lengths of stove pipe in connection with two joints now in use and not paid for. Dry wood furnished at \$2.50 per cord.

The log school accommodated 35 35 pupils, no outhouses. First blackboard, no library. Three young men from our school district served in the Civil War 1861-65. They were Fridli Elmer, Gottlieb ZumBrunnen and Frank Loveland. At this time, selectees could hire another man to go in his place.

A special meeting was held in 1868 to consider building a new schoolhouse and authorize the Board to borrow money for that purpose. Twelve voters were in favor of building a new schoolhouse and seven against. Argalus Loveland drew a plan and made an estimate of the probably cost. It was to be 22x30 feet. Descendants of Argulus Loveland were landowners in the district. The new building cost \$800 and was insured. This school was to accommodate 40 pupils, but often 60 attended during

the winter term. The old log school was sold to the highest bidder, Mike North, who moved it to his farm and used it as a dwelling.

Water was taken from nearby springs, later carried from the farm owned by Clarence Loveland, 1/4 mile away. There was one pail and one dipper. In 1915, a well was drilled on the school grounds. Many objected, there being a graveyard adjoining the playground.

No shoes or stockings were worn by pupils during warm weather. All used slates. Some of the pupils tell how they washed them, with spit and an elbow.

Games played were crack-the-whip and various ball games. The balls were homemade of yard and string firmly sewed together. Bats were made from a board, also homemade.

Wages paid for cleaning the school were usually about \$2. By 1871, the treasurer was required to give a bond. The clerk received \$5 per year. Wages paid to the teacher was \$30 a month in winter and \$18 in summer months.

45-50 pupils attended in winter. The stove was near the center of the room — those sitting near it were too warm and those farthest away were too cold. Of the pupils, about half were Swiss and half were Yankees. Swiss was spoken frequently on the playground.

By 1874, grammar was on the list of text books, but only the very advanced pupils studied grammar. The county superinten-



Loveland School 1888-1890 ?

Left to Right - Charles Marty, Henry Hefty, Roscoe Smith, Emel Elmer, Willie Baumgartner, Mary Zumbrennen, Louise Elmer, Winnie Baumgartner, Teacher, unknown, Anna Marty, Bertha Baumgartner, Sarah Zumbrennen, Ada Loveland, unknown, Martha Baumgartner, Casper Zumbrennen, Willie Benkert, Lizzie Hefty, Edna Baumgartner, Henry Loveland, Hoyt Barney, Iva North, Sabrina & Fannie Zumbrennen.



Recollections, cont. ...

dent visited the school once a year. The first dictionary was bought in 1879, and in 1880 the school had a map of Wisconsin and penmanship book were introduced. The names of Lem-on, Wiesenberg, North, Smith, Marty and Ritschard appear on the records.

In 884, Kate O'Conner taught the school, described as short and jolly, many of the boys towered over her. On a given signal all would grab their tin dinner pails, hammer on them with sticks and make terrible noise. She was wise enough to know all she could do was laugh and consider it a joke. Trying to whip them for disorder would have been an impossibility. They said of her, "She taught us and gave us liberty."

Another story pupils told was that they took a wire under the back seat, made a hole in the floor, pulled the wire through the floor to the teacher's desk, hooked it there with a stone on the end. Every so often someone would jerk it and make a tapping sound under the teacher's desk. She could never figure out what it was!

Attendance was not compulsory in those days. It was said, when skating was good, attendance was bad.

Later improvements were a woodshed, painting inside and out, blackboards, maps, library, World Books, new dictionaries, radio, playground equipment and electric lights.

The district began to furnish textbooks and hot lunch in winter, with each mother taking a turn to bring something at noon. The older pupils had to serve and wash dishes.

An additional half acre was purchased for a playground. At this time, this was written(1940s): three generations of the Smith and Hefty families had attended Loveland School, as well as four generations of the Loveland family. ❖

School Days

Music by Gus Edwards | Lyrics by Will D. Cobb (1907)

Nothing to do, Nellie Darling
Nothing to do you say
Let's take a trip on memory's ship
Back to the bygone days
Sail to the old village school house
Anchor outside the school door
Look in and see
There's you and there's me
A couple of kids once more

School days, school days
Dear old golden rule days
Readin' and 'ritin' and 'rithmetic
Taught to the tune of the hickory stick
You were my queen in calico
I was your bashful barefoot beau
And you wrote on my slate
"I love you, so"
When we were a couple of kids

'Member the hill
Nellie Darling
And the oak tree
That grew on its
brow
They've built forty
storeys
Upon that old hill
And the oak's an old
chestnut now
'Member the mead-
ows
So green, dear
So fragrant with clo-
ver and maize
Into new city lots
And preferred busi-
ness plots
They've cut them up
Since those days



"School Days" was written in 1907 by Will Cobb and Gus Edwards, about a mature couple looking back sentimentally on their childhood together in primary school.

Byron G. Harlan was an early recording star who made it a hit. (Hear an old recording: <http://cylinders.library.ucsb.edu/mp3s/3000/3231/cusb-cyl3231d.mp3>)

Louis Jordan recorded a jump blues version of "School Days" in 1949 under the title "School Days (When We Were

Kids)." Although it had little in common with earlier versions of the song other than the words of the chorus. The original melody was replaced with a twelve bar blues and the lyrics of most of the verses were replaced with nursery rhymes.

A parody was written by Harry H. Montgomery (1920-1987):

School days, school days,
Shooting craps and pool days;
Chugging-a-lug at the local bar,
Shooting it up from a hopped-up car.
You were my tramp from head to toe,
I was your two-bit Romeo;
You wrote on my slate, "Be careful, Joe,
Or we'll have a couple of kids."

"School Days", [Byron G. Harlan](#) (Edison Gold Moulded 9562, 1907)—[Cylinder Preservation and Digitization Project](#).

Lyrics at <http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/games/songs/childrens/schooldaysmp3.htm>

What's in your closet?



Monroe Evening Times, June 10, 1960 Pg. 6

NEW PRINCIPAL—The Monticello school board has announced that Carl E. Schroder, Pembine, has been hired as supervising principal of Monticello schools for the 1960-61 school year. He was former principal at Pembine and Amery. He received his Bachelor of Education degree at Stevens Point State College and did graduate work at Milwaukee State. Mr. and Mrs. Schroder, who have a daughter, Mrs. James Dixon, Mt. Clemons, Mich., will move to Monticello during the summer. He will succeed the late Herman A. Becker, veteran principal who was killed earlier this year in an automobile accident.

MAHS's mission and vision statements were updated in May:

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Monticello Area Historical Society is the acquisition, documentation, preservation and exhibition of artifacts relating to the history and culture of the Monticello area. This collection will be located in our museum, the former Woelffer Drug Store on Main Street in Monticello, Wisconsin.

VISION STATEMENT

The Monticello Area Historical Society strives to promote an interest in the uniqueness of the Monticello area by collecting and displaying artifacts that tell our community history. We further endeavor to enrich the community by connecting them to the past and saving the present to enhance the future.

TO BECOME A MAHS MEMBER

Please mail this form and payment to the museum address or give them to our membership chairperson.

Membership year: May through April

► Type of membership:

- Lifetime membership - \$100
- Individual annual dues - \$10 /person

► CASH CHECK PAYABLE TO MAHS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN

THE MONTICELLO AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 4TH THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH, **EXCEPT** JULY, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, IN THE NORTH ROOM OF ZWINGLI CHURCH ANNEX IN MONTICELLO, WIS.

MAHS Museum

P.O. Box 463
204 N. Main St.
Monticello, WI 53570
Phone: (608)938-4216
Email: mahs@tds.net

Hours of Operation

Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
or by appointment.

For special group or individual tours,
call the museum at (608) 938-4216 or send your request to
mahs@tds.net.

Closed for the season November—April.

Did you know?

~~Yes~~ The citizens of Monticello are building two churches,, one a wooden building for the use of the M. E. Society of that place, and the other a stone building to be occupied by the Baptist society.

From The Monroe Sentinel, 24 Jul 1861, Wed, Page 3

MAHS Museum

P.O. Box 463
204 N. Main St.
Monticello, WI 53570

