



www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org

RECOLLECTIONS

Monticello Area Historical Society News

Year 2023, No. 1

★ *Inside:* **Poetry & "Grocery Hank"** ★
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MAHS Board of Directors

- President - Mary Davis
- Vice-Pres. - Kay Frietag
- Secretary - Sue Rieder
- Treas. - Karen Brugger
- Member - John Casey
- Member - Don Kubly
- Member - Kim Buehl

Coordinators

- Docents - Kay & Bill Dickson
- Programs - Paul Rieder
- Newsletter - Jules Cappelle
- Window Display—May Burgy
- Membership - Carol Schultz

Collection Archivist

Jules Cappelle
jules.cappelle@gmail.com

Museum Open

Saturdays May thru October
from 10 am - 2 pm
Our docent coordinators
Bill & Kay Dickson welcome all
volunteers.
Call them at 938-4315.

Dear Friends,

Spring is springing! The second floor of the museum is a very busy place. With the experienced guidance of curator consultant (and hands on worker), Danielle, we are getting our vast collections organized to better fulfill our mission statement; while still paying homage to the former Woelfer Drug Store. So many decisions! We have found and assembled additional shelving – thank you Don, Kim, Dave, Mike and the New Glarus Ace Hardware. And Thank Goodness for our elevator!! If you have any questions or would like to be part of this on-going process, please let me know.

Kay and Bill Dickson have been our docent coordinators for many years. They would like to turn this season’s calendar over to another volunteer. We are open May-October, Saturdays, 10 -2. The coordinator(s) is responsible for filling those slots – sounds daunting- but there is a good list of volunteers available.

A couple of area programs of interest in April:

Monticello Public Library: **April 12th** at 10 am **“How Dry Am I; Milwaukee During Prohibition”** presented by the Milwaukee County Historical Society.

Green County Genealogical Society: **April 22** 9am – 3pm **“Victorian Funeral Presentation”**. Must register in advance: info@greencogenealogywi.org

Our organization depends on dedicated, involved volunteers – consider how you can help!

Mary Davis (608) 558-7387

The following history of Monticello was researched by Karen Brugger

"Grocery Hank"

Some of us older readers remember going to Blum's Peoples Supply with our parents for groceries and dry goods and "Grocery Hank Elmer." I was the recipient of "Grocery Hank's treats of cookies, ice cream and candy.

From the January 10, 1980 Monticello Messenger-- "Elmer's Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage." Henry J. and Rena (Pease) were married January 7, 1915. They went to their wedding in a horse-drawn sleigh, the usual mode of travel for the day. It was a simple ceremony with no elaborate reception, no wedding pictures. Following the ceremony, the Elmer's left by train for a honeymoon to St. Louis to visit Henry's aunt and uncle. But the train got stuck in deep snow and had to be pulled out by another train. They missed their connection and spent their wedding night stranded in an unfamiliar train station. They arrived in St. Louis later than planned. His aunt and uncle had met 35 trains hoping to greet the newlyweds but finally went home. The start of the marriage was far from perfect but subsequent years went more smoothly Henry added.

Henry recalls their first date going to a circus in Monroe. While at a "trap shoot" in Monticello he asked her to the event, claiming his current girlfriend was unable to go. He added with a smile that he didn't really care about the circus, declaring "I just wanted to go with her." Rena had ridden with him as he operated Elmer-Wittenwyler Livery Service, taking salesmen and others from the Monticello depot to the business district. It was a horse-drawn bus with side curtains and would transport new arrivals and baggage for ten cents. At that time there were 6 to 8 trains to the Village daily and the Livery service was a busy one, having 18 different horses. It was begun in 1910 but the advent of cars diminished the business and by 1918 the business was sold and Elmer went to work at the Conrad Elmer farm north of town. After 3 years on the farm he was offered a job at People's Supply store which paid better than the farm job. For the next 45

years Elmer was known as "Grocery Hank" helping run the busy store which carried a wide variety of products. He admits to handing out a lot of free treats to children, adding "It didn't cost him anything." The starting salary was \$50 a month, double the \$20 a month working on the farm. He enjoyed the daily interaction with customers.

Rena was busy at home raising two little nieces left motherless when his sister-in-law died. He noted with pride she was a "good cook" having once cooked for the "road gang." There were few conveniences. She had a washing machine but it had to be agitated by hand, a washboard always close at hand. They had to go to the pump for water. Cooking was done on a wood stove. They thought they had really gone modern when they began to use kerosene.

They also remember the "lamplighter with his stepladder" who went down Main Street every night filling and lighting the kerosene lamps. Main Street had no sidewalks, wood walks came later. Everyone laughed at when the first car to come to Monticello. It was a Maxwell with a side crank. Cars were considered expensive toys with no practical purpose.

At that writing the couple were 86 years old, had just finished staining the exterior of their home, keeping a large garden and canning many jars for themselves and others. They were still doing their own housekeeping, maintaining a spotless home. Rena had baked 55 loaves of Swiss pear bread at Christmas.

Note: The late Helen (Merlyn) Loveland was one of the little nieces Henry and Rena raised. She was 2 years old and her sister Iris was 4 when coming to their home. Helen's daughter Marilyn Wittenwyler Asahina is a current member of MAHS.

Past newsletters can be found on our website:

www.monticellohistoricalsociety.org



Lea Kilgore-Nottingham

Monticello Native

Writes Prize Poems

**Mrs. A. R. Nottingham, Detroit,
Honored by Publishers**

Mrs. A. E. Nottingham, 84 W. Park Hurst, well known, in Highland Park and north Detroit for her creative poetry, this week received the first copies of her book, "Bittersweet," just off the press. It was published by Horizon House, as the first prize entry in a poetry contest that it held, participated in by 300 contestants from all parts of the United States. Mrs. Nottingham, who writes under the name of "Lea Nottingham," is an active member of the Detroit Writers' League and is at present its poetry chairman.

The above is from a Detroit newspaper. Mrs. Nottingham is the former Lea Kilgore. She was born here, taught in the public schools for several years, and has made frequent visits to her hometown.

The book is now on sale at the leading bookstores in Detroit. It contains 75 of the author's own poems, one of which is about Monticello.

Mrs. Nottingham a sister of Mrs. Geo. C. Steinmann, of this village.

Monticello Messenger, Mar. 18,1943

MONTICELLO

Monticello, like a jewel
Set between two emerald hills
Threaded on a silver ribbon
Which the narrow channel fills.
Fringed about with oak and maple
Serenaded by the birds
Center of the farmers haven
Home of countless dairy herds.
Calm and peaceful in the valley
No unrest that cities give,
Far away from crowds confusion
Where men still have time to live.

BITTERSWEET

Perhaps it takes it's name from life itself,
Which, sweet to every man has much of gloom.
Take heart, my friends, from lowly bittersweet,
When dark and lowering clouds your lives surround,
Lift high the flaming badge of courage, too,
And lend your bit of cheer to all around.
Gay bittersweet now brightens my dark room,
In ivory vase upon the mantel shelf.

GREEN COUNTY FLOWERS

O, where are the old fashioned flowers
That we hunted in childhood days
As we roamed around in the fields and woods
Through sunny summer days.

There stood the jack-in-the-pulpit tall
With Johnny-jump-up near by,
A golden ladies' slipper rare,
And cow slip yellow we'd spy.

The blue bells ready to ring for us
Frail buttercups dolls could hold,
And wild geraniums, pink and pure —
Old golden rods so bold.
Wild roses fragile, too, and fresh
The violets shy but sweet
With buds of brilliant shooting stars
And May flowers at our feet
Minnie and Maude, Viola and I
Four maids in search so gay—
As we wandered through the shady wood
Found many a bright bouquet.

**Bittersweet book can be found on our website
under publications.**

New Changes Now In Effect on I. C. Road

New changes in the time schedule of the Illinois Central road trans are now in effect, according to Geo. Griffey, local agent.

Instead of passing at Belleville as was formerly the case, both the morning and afternoon north and south bound trains pass at the local station. The morning north bound train leaves Monticello at 8:57 and arrives in Madison a 10 o'clock, five minutes earlier than before. The south bound train leaves the local station at the same time and arrives in Monroe at 9:14. It leaves Madison at 8 o'clock, one hour earlier than the old time.

The afternoon north bound train leaves Monroe at 3:43, arrives here at 4:03, and pulls into the Madison station at 5 o'clock, while the afternoon south bound train leaves Madison at 3 o'clock, the same ime as before, and gets here at 4:03. It arrives in Monroe at 4:20.

BARES MISERY IN RUSSIA

William English Walling Says Communism Has Faded—Barbarism Prevails, Hangmen Rule.

Washington, March 26.—Russia, with its people reduced to the poverty of barbarism, is now controlled by "an army of police, spies, hangmen and a handful of Communists who try to rule the country on the principle that all Russia is its private property and all Russians its serfs," according to William English Walling.

New Russ Munitions Plants.

Copenhagen, March 22.—The Russian war council has acted favorably upon the request of Leon Trotzky, people's commissar for war, that four new factories be established for the manufacture of munitions and other war materials, according to information from Moscow.

Allied Near East Experts Agree.

London, March 24.—The allied experts on the Near East, who for three days have been in conference here, have agreed on most of the questions raised by Turkey's counter-proposals to the Lausanne peace treaty.

Harding Rejects Festival Invitation.

Daytona, Fla., March 24.—It was announced that President Harding will be unable to accept the invitation of the Cincinnati chamber of commerce to attend the annual Cincinnati May festival.

IOWA GOES TO DAVY JONES

Old Battleship, Riddled by Shells, Sinks Sixty Miles Off Panama Canal Entrance.

Aboard U. S. S. Maryland, Balboa, Canal Zone, March 23.—Riddled by 14-inch shells fired from a distance of eight to ten miles, the old battleship Iowa, which fought in the war with Spain and did service in the World war, went down sixty miles south of the Pacific entrance to the Panama canal, sacrificed for the better defense of the nation.

Monticello Messenger March 1923

Try Wonder Poultry Tonic, a guaranteed cure for cholera, roupe, white diarrhoea, in either chicks or laying hens.

R. W. Woelffer.

Spring Carnival Dance



Karlen's Hall, Monticello

THURSDAY, APR. 5

Music by
MILDRED DAHLSTRAND
and Her Orchestra

Featuring Miss Dahlstrand in Vocal Numbers

Hats, Caps, Serpentine and Other
Novelties

Everybody Invited Tell Your Friends

IDLEDALE FARM

HATCHING EGGS
3½c Each

from Heavy Laying Strain of
S. C. Brown Leg-
horns

Phone 313-3
Route 1. Monticello, Wisconsin.

Monticello Messenger March 1923

FOREIGNERS SLIP INTO U. S.

Thousand Aliens a Day Sneak in, Says
Secretary of Labor
Davis.

Washington, March 24.—The state-
ment that approximately 1,000 aliens
are smuggled into the United States
every day was made by Secretary of
Labor Davis in announcing that im-
migration officials at all ports and
along the Mexican and Canadian bor-
ders had been ordered to adopt more
stringent methods for barring illegal
entry of foreigners.

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.

HAIR STAYS COMBED, GLOSSY.

"Hair Groom" Keeps Hair
Combed—Well-Groomed.



Millions Use It—Fine for Hair!—Not
Sticky, Greasy or Smelly.

A few cents buys a jar of "Hair-Groom" at any drug store. Even stubborn, unruly or shampooed hair stays combed all day in any style you like. "Hair-Groom" is a dignified combing cream which gives that natural gloss and well-groomed effect to your hair—that final touch to good dress both in business and on social occasions.

Greaseless, stainless "Hair-Groom" does not show on the hair because it is absorbed by the scalp, therefore your hair remains so soft and pliable and so natural that no one can possibly tell you used it.



PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM

Removes Dandruff—Stops Hair Falling
Restores Color and
Beauty to Gray and Faded Hair
60c. and \$1.00 at Druggists.
Riscox Chem. Wks. Patchogue, N. Y.

HINDER CORNS Removes Corns, Cal-
louses, etc., stops all pain, ensures comfort to the
feet, makes walking easy. 15c. by mail or at Drug-
gists. Hiscox Chemical Works, Patchogue, N. Y.

That All Depends.

Flubb—"When I married my wife
we each signed an agreement." Dubb
—"Another one of those 'scraps of
paper,' eh?"

TEMPTING DISHES FOR INVALIDS.

It is often hard to serve a food that
is both beneficial and tasty to persons
recovering from illness. Jellies made
with Plymouth Rock Gelatine are often
more welcome to the convalescent
than any other food.—Advertisement.

A man isn't necessarily a failure
because he has failed.

Most people grieve \$2 worth every
time they lose a dollar.

Monticello Messenger March 1923



We hope to see you April 12 at 10:00am

Monticello Public Library

"How Dry Am I: Milwaukee During Prohibition."

Prohibition is considered one of the largest legislative interventions in the history of the United States. At the same time the 1920s were more than just flappers, speakeasies, and bootleggers. What were the roots of the movement and how did people resist it? This talk explores the people, places, and organizations instrumental in the Prohibition movement and 1920s Milwaukee.

Ben Barbera, curator of Milwaukee County Historical Society, will host this presentation. We thank the Community Club of Monticello for sponsoring this program!

Knox Box Donated

Thanks to the generous donation by Dale Atkinson of Tri-Insure LLC, the museum has a Knox Rapid Access box. It is located on the front of our structure under the welcome flag. Inside the box is a key to the front door in case of a fire emergency. The key to the Knox box is in the fire truck and can be accessed by a fireman only after they put in their identification. The box will allow easy entry to minimize damage to property and provide safe entry to our volunteer responders.

New on Main Street



Welcome to **Sugar River County Bakery** where the bakery is just like grandma made. Bakery products to take home or eat in with coffee.



Welcome to **Kiss My Mutt**. We believe this is the first business to care for animals since the blacksmith. A favorite photo on display is the interior of the blacksmith shop with horses in the background.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Membership year: May—April

Individual dues - \$20/yr
Family dues - \$30/yr
Lifetime dues - \$500

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 AT 7:00 PM. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME.

MAHS Museum

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

Hours of Operation

The museum will be open
May until October
but can be open by appointment for anyone or a
group wishing to stop by.

For special group or individual tours,
call the museum at (608) 938-4216 or send your request to
jules.cappelle@gmail.com.

Admission to the museum is free and
a quarterly newsletter from Monticello
Area Historical Society is included with
your membership.

Please consider including the
Monticello Area Historical Society in
your will.

A guided tour of the museum can be
arranged for all groups anytime.

MAHS Museum

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

