

THE COLLECTOR

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Monticello Area Historical Society
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Roger Dooley to retire as Collections Manager

LONGTIME COLLECTIONS MANAGER SAYS GOOD-BYE

MR. DOOLEY BEGAN HIS SERVICES TO THE SOCIETY ON APRIL 17, 2001, BUT HIS LOVE OF ALL THINGS HISTORICAL BEGAN LONG BEFORE WHEN AT THE AGE OF 12 HIS GRANDMOTHER SHOWED HIM HER OLD TIN-TYPE PHOTOGRAPHS OF HIS UNCLES IN THEIR CIVIL WAR UNIFORMS....

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MUSEUM NEEDS DONATORS TO RETURN DEEDS OF GIFT

Did you know the museum cannot clean, display, catalog or do anything to a donated item until there is a signed deed of gift?

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Railroad Depot in Jim Town area of Monticello



Stout's Corner, now Kubly's Gas Station



Karlen girl in her backyard



Roger Dooley to Retire from Collections Manager Job

It was those moments that Mr. Dooley says, “fired up my imagination and started a lifelong interest in antiques”.

In anticipation for this article, I asked Mr. Dooley to answer a few biographical questions about his tenure with the museum. The following are his answers to those questions.

1. What was the most rewarding part of your job with the museum?

“The most rewarding part was discovering something really unique to the Monticello areas history, such as the 1849 Mt. Pleasant Township Superintendent of Schools ledger”.

2. What did you dislike most about the job?

“The fussy paper work that has to be completed for each donation, without regard to the number, size or importance of the artifact. Just like any

business, we have to keep an up-to-date inventory of assets, how many are on-hand, what condition are they in, who donated them, and where are they located”.

3. What is your favorite artifact in the collection?

“I have no single favorite...but my favorite category is photographs and negatives, especially family albums. It’s fun to come across something like a photo of Monticello’s first basketball team or young people going on sleigh rides up Main Street. It’s nice to scan an image, enlarge it, and be able to read the signs in windows. For example, the Main Street building occupied by Total Look was once Van Norman’s Drug Store on the north side. Carroll and Bontly’s Grocery



Elmer Lemon takes a shot for Monticello

Store on the south side, while upstairs Dr. Baird, the dentist, occupied the south end and a printing office was on the north”.

4. What is your favorite story uncovered as collections manager?

“There were so many stories, the most recent was how one of our Monticello policemen earned the nickname “Peeker” Zweifel. It seems, in performance of his duties, he liked to peek around the corners of Main Street businesses trying to nab our rowdy townsfolk, who might be bending the law a bit more than they should.

There is always the tale of the Halloween outhouse tippers who patiently waited for the little sanctuary to be occupied before they pushed the building over onto its front door. In this case, one of the pranksters slipped and landed in the cesspool!

One of the weirdest newspaper stories wasn't

about Monticello. It involved a teenage girl who arrived at the Minneapolis train depot as part of a freight shipment from Norway. Seems her family found they could ship her cheaper by weight, as cargo, rather than pay the higher passenger rate”.

5. What are some things you would like to see happen with the museum in the future?

“I'd like to see more main floor display space allocated for the display of recently donated artifacts before they are finally stored in the upstairs archive area. I'd also like to have the collection manager compile a quarterly list of donated artifacts and donors for the newsletter. Someday in the far distant future it would be nice to have a motorized freight elevator to replace the rope operated one we now use to haul things from floor to floor.”

After eight years Mr. Dooley will officially end his duties at

the end of November 2009. The Society Board is now in search of members willing to join together and fill Mr. Dooley's shoes as a small group effort rather than just one person.

Mr. Dooley is willing to help train our new volunteers and would like to remain working on the care of the collection with his partner, Karen Gempeler, but only on a part-time basis.

The Society would like to thank Mr. Dooley for his years of service, his indispensable contribution to the society and the museum, and to his tireless work in preserving Monticello's past for future generations.

Thank you Roger and Madeline....from the bottom of our hearts!

Museum Needs All Deeds of Gift Returned...

It has come to the attention of the board that many of our wonderful artifacts may never make it to the museum floor, due to missing Deeds of Gift.

According to Mr. Dooley, it is generally not known that every donation must be itemized with a temporary custody receipt and stored pending evaluation by the collections committee. If accepted into the collection, a deed of gift is created, signed by the donor and MAHS President, and then placed into our permanent collection.

The signed Deed of Gift formally transfers ownership from the donor to the museum. Only then

can the artifacts be measured, photographed, cleaned, completely described and entered into the computer program.

Donated items are always appreciated but do no good sitting on our shelves waiting for Deeds of Gift to be signed. In the near future, those items still waiting for Deeds to be returned will once again have new paperwork sent out to their donors.

Please sign and return them as soon as possible so that all of these wonderful items can be properly cared for and displayed for everyone's enjoyment.



Young Girls shoveling snow at the Karlen house



Historical Society needs volunteers to fill Registrar and Curation duties

SEEKING MEMBERS TO FILL DOOLEY'S SHOES

With Mr. Dooley's tenure as collections manager quickly drawing to a close, the MAHS Board of Director is seeking 2 people to step forward from our membership to fill these two vacant positions. The Board of Director members cannot take on these responsibilities, so we need our members to join in contributing to the preservation of Monticello's history.

We are seeking two people to fill the positions of Registrar and Curator. No previous experience is required and initial, as well as ongoing, training will be available.

The position of Registrar includes the following responsibilities:

- Keeping museum and society records
- Temporary Custody receipts and intake of donations
- assigning numbers to artifacts
- handles the Deeds of Gift records
- Catalogs artifacts
- oversees storage placement of artifacts

The position of Curator includes the following responsibilities:

- care of museum collections
- researches artifact histories
- aid in exhibit construction and artifact location
- help catalog and number artifacts

- importing photographs into the collection
- informing the Board of Director of any special needs the museum may have in order to preserve the artifacts
- work with the Collections Committee

Anyone interested in any of these positions and who would like to come to the museum and experience a walk through of the position responsibilities is highly encouraged to contact any of the Board Members to set up a learning session.

It is imperative that our members be willing to help out the museum and continue our progress toward preserving Monticello's Past.

Monticello Area Historical Society



1919 Veteran's Parade down Main Street

Think of the
Monticello
Historical
Museum for
your next
family or class
reunion!
Guided tours
available.
Contact an
MAHS board
member or
call 938-4216

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FROM:

MONTICELLO AREA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

204 N. Main Street
Monticello, Wisconsin 53570

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MAIL TO: