



# RECOLLECTIONS

OCTOBER 2011

## Museum news

### MAHS Museum

P.O. Box 463  
204 Main St.  
Monticello, WI, 53570  
(608) 938-4216  
MAHS@tds.net

### Hours of Operation

Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM  
or by appointment  
Closed for the season  
November – April

### Board Members

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

### Collection Manager

William Zimmerman

### Collection Archivist

Karen Gempeler

### Volunteer Coordinators

Docents - Kay & Bill Dickson  
Programs - Donna Ferguson  
Membership - Carol Schultz  
Newsletter - Roger Dooley

The last general membership meeting for this year will be held October 27 in the north room of the Zwingli Church. It will include a potluck supper at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting and program. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Beverages will be provided by the society.

For our members who no longer drive: In past years I've heard that some of you were reluctant to come to the potluck supper because you couldn't prepare a dish to pass. Your company is valued more than any dish you might bring, so please don't be shy, just come!

The museum will close for the season the last weekend in October.

Welcome **Donald Kubly**, our newest member of the board of directors replacing **John Stenbroten**.

The board of directors met July 28, 2011 to decide on a price schedule for pictures sold from our photographic archives. It was decided that single digital image files will be \$4.00 each.

If we provide the storage medium (CD/DVD disk) the charge will be \$5.00 for the first image and \$4.00 each for additional images copied to the same disk. Images printed on photographic paper will be \$5.00 per print. An additional \$5.50 will be charged for postage, packing and handling if the order is to be mailed. We can't produce color prints with our current equipment.

**Did you know** – Our monthly expenses for museum utilities and upkeep average \$10 - \$12 per day. Previous donations and fund raisers have paid for most of the major renovations. Now we have to begin raising funds to increase the endowment fund until the interest drawn completely offsets the museum operating expenses. Your continued donations will help us meet this goal!

It's been proposed that we have a "garage sale" fund raiser during next years community garage sale days. If you have small, saleable items that you might like to donate for this purpose, please set them aside or drop them off at the museum. **NO CLOTHING PLEASE!**

Thanks to the efforts of volunteers **Bill & Kay Dickson, William Zimmerman, Bob Voss,** and **Donald Kubly** the upstairs floors have been varnished, metal shelving assembled, rooms rearranged and artifacts are finally being stored in permanent locations. The job is by no means finished but it's beginning to look like a storage area instead of a landfill. Also a big thanks to **John Casey** for printing the mailing copies of our newsletter for the past year.

MAHS now has a Facebook location that we will be using for a few new MAHS photographs and announcements. Copy and paste the address below into your browser and, hopefully, you'll be transported to our page. If you have any suggestions for content send an email to [mahs@tds.net](mailto:mahs@tds.net).

**[http://www.facebook.com/pages/Monticello-Area-Historical-Society-Monticello-WI/246836745348791?skip\\_nax\\_wizard=true](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Monticello-Area-Historical-Society-Monticello-WI/246836745348791?skip_nax_wizard=true)**

Christmas is coming soon and we still have copies of the books "Life in a Farming Community", "Monticello Drizzle" and "To You Who Answered The Call" for sale.

If any member wishes to receive the newsletter via email send your request to [mahs@tds.net](mailto:mahs@tds.net) and I'll put you on the list.

### **Donations this past quarter**

**Eunice Witt** – 1-Ladies upholstered platform rocking chair used by Mrs. Mary Schultz of Schultz Crossing, circa 1890.

**Nancy Briggs** - Various newspaper clippings and photographs related to the Monticello school lunch program and advertising articles from Monticello businesses.

**Carl Duerst** – Muzzle loading shotgun once owned by Mr. J. Henry Staedtler.

**Hazel Kundert** – Large print of the old Monticello High School by David Ott.

Donation from the **Lynn Foundation** for digital copies of Lynn family photos.

**Ron Spielman** – Antique first aid items for the medical collection.

-----

### **Betty Ludington – A Woman who Dared the Skies**

In 1920 Betty (Schlittler) Ludington (1868-1965) purchased the first of three airplanes which she owned. She was a stunt pilot and performed aerial circus acts across the country. It was said that Betty was the first American woman to own and fly her own airplane. And it was said Betty became close friends with aviation luminaries such as WWI hero Eddie Rickenbacker and WWII commander Jimmy Doolittle.

Betty Schlittler was born on a farm near Monticello, Wisconsin, the daughter of Melchior and Elsbeth (Zweifel) Schlittler. Both of Betty's parents immigrated from Canton Glarus to Wisconsin where they married. The milk from the Schlittler cows went to the first Swiss (Emmentaler) Cheese factory established in Green County on the neighboring Dietrich Freitag farm.

(By the way, Amelia Earhart, perhaps America's best known aviatrix did not take flying lessons until 1921.)

**–ARTICLE SUBMITTED BY ROBERT ELMER.**

## Monticello area sponsors recorded in the 1891 Green County Plat Book

**Altman, Jost.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Monticello  
**Babler, A.** Retired Farmer, Monticello  
**Babler, Henry.** Farmer and Breeder of Norman Horses and Poland China Hogs, Monticello  
**Babler, H. L.** General Blacksmith, also Manufacturer of Wagons, Carriages, Bobsleighs, and Cutters, Monticello  
**Bacon, Orrin.** Proprietor Monticello Roller Mills, Manufacturer of straight and Patent Fancy Flour, Corn Meal, Buckwheat, and Graham Flour, Monticello  
**Blum, John.** Dealer in Wines, Liquors, and Cigars, Monticello  
**Blumer, Sam.** Horse Breeder, Monticello  
**Breylinger, F. J.** Dealer in Hardware, Stoves, Tinware, Guns, Agricultural Implements, etc,  
**Clark, Jabez.** Farmer, Stock Breeder, and maker of Limburger Cheese, Monticello  
**Durst & Wallace.** Dealers in Hardware, Stoves, Tinware, Agricultural Implements, Sewing Machines, Pumps, Windmills, Carriages, Wagons, Paints, Oils, etc, Monticello  
**Elmer, Henri.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Monticello  
**Elmer, Oswald.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Monticello  
**Fenton, Wm.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Attica  
**Figi, John.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Monticello  
**Gerber & Trogner.** Dealers in Furniture, Undertaking Goods, Organs, Sewing Machines, Jewelry.  
**Hummuston & Persons.** Dealers in Live Stock and Grain, Monticello  
**Jordan, Wm.** Dealer in Harness, Whips, Robes, Blankets, Stationery, and Notions of all kinds.  
**Kern, Martin.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Monticello  
**Knobel, Casper.** Dealer in Wines, Liquors, and Cigars, Monticello  
**Legler, George.** Proprietor, Livery Stable. Commercial Travelers and the Public promptly attended.  
**Legler, John.** Proprietor "Central House" Recently refitted and refurnished. Accommodations first class, \$1.00 per day. Bar stocked with Choice Liquors, Wines, Beer, and Cigars  
**Lehnherr, J.** Dealer in Wines, Liquors, and Cigars. Maker of all kinds of Cheese, Monticello  
**Lewis, John, Jr.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Attica  
**Luchsinger, Peter.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Monticello  
**Milbrandt, Aug. E.** Farmer and Breeder of Norman Horses and Poland China Hogs, Monticello  
**Pierce, Jas.** Farmer and Breeder of Norman Horses and Poland China Hogs, Monticello  
**Silver, Artimus.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Attica  
**Stauffacher, Dietrich.** Farmer, Stock Breeder, and maker of all kinds of Cheese, Schultz  
**Steinman & Knobel.** Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, and all kinds of Cheese, Monticello  
**Studley, Clark & Co.** Dealers in Lumber, Salt, Coal, Stucco, Lime, and Brick, Monticello  
**Zwickey, H.** Proprietor "Monticello House." Wants of traveling public promptly attended to. Sample Room connected with house, Monticello  
**Taft, S. C.** Millwright, Carpenter and Joiner, Monticello  
**Voegli, Henry.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Monticello  
**Wright, E. F.** Town Chairman and Postmaster, Monticello  
**Zentner, O.** Farmer and Stock Breeder, Monticello  
**Zweifel, Gab. & Co.** Dealers in Meats of all kind, Monticello  
**Zweifel, Jost.** Farmer and Stock Breeder. Maker of Brick and Limburger Cheese, Monticello

Now it is the barbers who have reduced their prices to a sound money basis, and accordingly the lucky patrons of these institutions can get their whiskers amputated for 4 – 6 cents, and a haircut 10 cents. The market is said to be steady at those prices with no immediate prospect of a rise in prices.



*The old school building in Monticello is slowly being dismantled. Once the initial work is done, it won't be long before the school falls prey to the wrecking ball and the school will become no more than a memory for the many people who went to school there, sent their sons and daughters there, taught and worked there.*

**Irene Marty**, the Messenger's local correspondent, took some time recently to jot down some of her memories of the old school and to ask some other people who worked there or attended there about their memories.

Ms. Marty said, "Three of us toured the old building the other day. The rooms were dismantled. It looked desolate. My thoughts went back to when I was in high school and some of them made me a little sad...I'm the sentimental type I guess.

Our class of '31 was the first class to have a Junior Prom — we sent out printed invitations and had dance programs. All the school proms, plays and ball games were held in Karlen's Hall.

I remember the time we finished decorating the hall for our prom — with balloons hanging from the ceiling. The morning of the prom we found the air had gone out of all the balloons — so that meant we had to get busy and blow them all up again.

There used to be a platform on the east end of the assembly room where there was a piano. At noon, all the high school students had to meet in the room to be dismissed by the principal **Mr.**

**Rich. Ruth Youngreen-Zentner** played the piano for us to march out.

I talked to some of the folks who went to school. The red brick three-story building was built in 1913. This was for all grade and high school classes. The school was remodelled several times and in later years was used as the Senior High School only.

**Royal "Bo" Woelffer** tells of the remodelling done. On the top floor, the assembly room ceased to be and was converted to a library and for use as a partial classroom and study hall. The office was relocated in the 60's. The English, library and science rooms were converted in the early '70's to the art department. A wall was opened to enlarge the area for storage.

In the 50's, the Home Economics room became the commercial room then later the science room. The three elementary rooms later became the English, social studies and commercial rooms. The band room of the 30's became the first grade room and was later converted to the art room for pre-school. The history room of the 30's became the band room, then later the home economics room.

Seven students graduated in 1914, the first full year the school was in use. They were **Bernice Richard-Niles, Frieda Benkert,, Helen Freitag-Stuessy, Wilbert Dick, Alvin Gemperli, Hilda Babler and Coyla Jordan-Nelson. Frieda Benkert**, who later came back to teach third and fourth grades there, said, "It was wonderful to teach in the new school."

**C. L. Stillman** was the principal when **Rose Stauffer** entered high school. The girl he later married was **Jewel Mitchell**, a first grade teacher. Rose said that, because the building was not completed, the freshman class held their classes on the second floor of what used to be the firehouse.

**Wilbert Dick**, class of 1914, said the first basketball team was formed in 1913 and 1914. Wilbert remembers how he and some of the boys wrapped pieces of leather around the bell clapper

in the assembly room to keep the class bell from ringing.

**Hilda Stauffer-Miltbrandt** said their class of 1927 was the first to put out an annual.

**Edna Babler**, class of 1925, reports that "More than half of our class went to Normal School and college to enter the teaching profession. Our class had the first girls' track team with **Edyth Blum-Stoll** as coach. We went to Milton to compete — but lost."

**Yolanda Richards**, class of 1922, said that class was the largest to graduate up to then. "There were squeaky steps and we had to learn to side-step them if we wanted to make a get-away. I came to high school from the country in a horse and buggy and later in a Model T Ford Coupe."

**Ruth Abley**, class of 1922, "During the war the German language was no longer taught. The seventh and eighth grade girls knit scarves and squares which were then sewed together and made into blankets for the Belgian children."

**Kenneth Kennedy**, a runner, tried out for the Olympics and came in fourth. Monticello won the basketball tournament held at Beloit and went on to the state tournament. We had a track team that won at Platteville. **Earl Foster** was the coach. The games were all played in the Amstutz hall, later known as Wyss's Hall.

**Harvey Milbrandt**, 1923 graduate: "There were thirteen in our class, three girls. We had the first football team. We started out poor but ended up with a victory over Monroe on Thanksgiving Day...we played in the mud and snow...**Ros Richards** went through a water hole to make the touchdown that won the game for us. We also had basketball and track. We played ball in Wyss's hall, but felt it was so small..."

**Marian Moser-Sinnet**, class of 1940, said there was no home economics class when she was in school. "I took typing from Portia Weeks, who was a very good teacher," she reported.

**George Grenzow**, class of 1937, remembers

that band started with John Hughes as director. He taught band in five different schools and came to Monticello one day a week.

**Kathryn Schultz-Grenzow**, class of 1941, said she went through the whole school building recently. "Even though the outside looks good, the inside is in poor condition. There has been much repair work done over the years."

**Hazel Zweifel-Kundert**, a former teacher, shares these memories: When Supt. **Herman Becker** died **John Ponyicsanyi** and **Whitey Hill** became co-superintendents until a replacement could be found. **Adeline Fries** and **Hazel Kundert**, elementary teachers, alternately gave up free periods to supervise study halls in the high school. This study area was held in two rooms separated by the hall, which had very squeaky floors. By the time the teacher reached the room where undue activity was in progress, everyone was working diligently as the squeaky boards gave the necessary signal that supervision was on the way.

**Lora Dick**, first and second grade teacher, was rather startled one day during the building program to see smoke curling up from a crack in the floor in her room. An oily rag had evidently caught fire. The fire was quickly taken care of, but it was fortunate that she discovered the problem before any damage was done.

During the first building program, doors did not arrive to fill in the opening created when the first floor fire escapes were installed. A canvas was placed over the openings, but this didn't do the job adequately. Consequently, in October and November, the students and teachers spent much of their school time wearing coats and boots.

For some time, the elementary Christmas programs were held in the upstairs study hall. It was usually filled to overflowing with students and parents. When class passed, the program came to a temporary halt until high school students exchanged books in their desks and went on to their next classes.

—*MONTICELLO MESSENGER, JAN. 24, 1980*