

# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

January 2016

### IN THIS ISSUE

Free Little Library	Page 1
Raccoon Coat	Pages 1, 6
Membership	Pages 2-3
Luella Parks Edwards Memorial	Pages 4-5
Aurel Baker Pardee	Page 6
From Our Readers	Page 7



### ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

The following is a partial list of items donated. Thanks to the following donors:

Pat Delaney—	Bride book, postcard, and photos
Mabel Finney—	Wedding dress, veil, cake top, suit, wedding picture, assorted Alice Baker documents
Jean Hren—	Photo
Larry McCormick—	Doc. Diploma of Ira Cummings
Carol Tritz—	Doll in display case, two books

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mark and Shana Jatczak

*Check out Eagle Historical Society on Facebook.*

*Please like and share to add more friends.*

### FREE LITTLE LIBRARY



### RACCOON COAT

Full-length coats made from raccoon hides became a fashion trend in the mid to late 1920s. Furs were great insulators against our cold winter weather, and if you were fortunate enough to own a car, they would help protect you from the open air while driving. Rudy Vallee, Red Grange, and the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame popularized the

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Photo at left.)* Noel Buscher visited the museum and donated a box of books for the Free Little Library. She read and enjoyed the books and wanted to share them with other young readers. We have many adult books but are always looking for children's books. Thank you Noel for your generous donation.

### EHS Board

**President**  
Jeff Nowicki, 2016

**Vice-President**  
Barbara Jatczak, 2018

**Secretary**  
Ryan Hajewski, 2016

**Treasurer**  
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Donald Ledrowski, 2018

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Elaine Ledrowski  
594-3301

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Art & Carrie Peavy  
594-5454

**Webmaster**  
Mike Rice  
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Ryan Hajewski  
Elaine Ledrowski

**EHS Museum**  
262-594-8961

### OPEN

Fridays and Saturdays,  
9 am to noon  
Wednesdays, 3-6 pm

**Website:**  
[eaglehistoricalsociety.org](http://eaglehistoricalsociety.org)  
**Facebook:** Like us at  
Eagle Historical Society

# 2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

## Seniors \$8.00

Yvonne Beranek  
 Paul Chalmers  
 Beatrice Eggleston  
 Mabel Finney  
 Rosanne (Carter) Frame  
 JoAnn Gilbert  
 James Johnson  
 Roger & Carol Johnson  
 Kathleen & Arnold Last  
 Bea Marquardt  
 Robert & Janet McCue  
 Carl & Wilma Pettis  
 Patty Riley  
 Ruth Anne Rolfe  
 Arlene Arenz Schmielau  
 Jean Steinhoff  
 Bob & June Steinke  
 Jim & Phyllis Steinke  
 Betty Weimer  
 Vonda Williams

## Individual \$10.00

Allen County Library  
 Annette Baker  
 Edward Baker  
 Robert Baker  
 Vickie Baker  
 Scott Bovee  
 Jean Bowey  
 Kathleen Chapman  
 Theresa Denio  
 Gert Fredenberg  
 Fred Gier  
 Ty Howard  
 Stephanie Kalnes  
 William Krestan  
 Karen Matters  
 Shirley Matters  
 Peggy Moots  
 Rose Raiter  
 Gay Semanko  
 Ed Stephan  
 Ann Trupke  
 Mary Jo Walbrandt

## Family \$15.00

Tim & Debra Angers  
 Nick & Becky Beitz  
 Brian & Lucy Breber  
 Ed & JoAnne Bryce  
 Ralph & Marion Heinisch Clark  
 Hazel & Terry Connors  
 Robert & Joyce Curran  
 John & Pamela Feltes  
 Rob & Pat Hawes  
 Ken & Ellie Hyland  
 Michael & Karen Kennedy  
 Douglas & Natalie Kornmeyer

Bill & Claudette Krestan  
 Robert & Barbara Kruse  
 Ed & Suzanne Mack  
 Ken & Mal Olson  
 Gary & Nancy Payne  
 Shari Sasso Family  
 Robert & Ellie Rewald  
 Tom & Terri Sorensen  
 Michael & Ann Sadler  
 Steve & Linda Steinhoff  
 Don & Pat Wilton  
 Steve & Wanda Wilton

# 2016 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

## Sustaining \$25.00

*Adduci & Lewis*  
*Citizens Bank (Eagle)*  
*Don & Darla Enright*  
*Bill & Jan Grotjan*  
*Frank & Pat Latona*  
*Richard & Nada Moeller*  
*Art & Carrie Peavy*  
*Jerry & Kay Perkins*  
*Conrad Potrykus*  
*Greg & Jackie Priatko*  
*Gerald & Carolyn Rosprim*  
*Rosann Sasso*  
*Toula Sievers & Kim Clark*  
*Diane & Jim Sillman*  
*Beverly Spurrell*  
*Bill & Jean Thiele*  
*Carol Tritz*  
*Bill & Judith Zell*

## Patron \$100.00

*Thomas Day*  
*Paul & Sandra Fisher*  
*Diana & Eloise Hall*  
*Jerry & Lori Heckel*  
*Heckel Tool & Mfg. Corp.*  
*John & Julie Mann*  
*William Orchard*  
*Sharon Royston*  
*Jill & Russell Steinhart*  
*Eagle Headquarters*

## Sponsor \$50.00

*Dorothy Clark*  
*Roger & Valerie Cole*  
*Eagle Business Association*  
*Betty Isleb*  
*Barbara Jatzak*  
*Donald & Elaine Ledrowski*  
*Don & Dottie Murphy*  
*Jeffery Nowicki*  
*James Pasterski*  
*Larry & Diane Wilkinson*

## Honorary Members

*Lisa Busche*  
*Bea Delaney*  
*Virginia Dudzek*  
*Harold Hinkley*  
*Martin Holzman*  
*Eileen Juedes*  
*Dorothy Kau*  
*Meryl Kelsey*  
*Richard & Jane Riddle*  
*Bernice Sadenwasser*

**Winners** of three \$50 complimentary bricks in the Early Bird Renewal Drawing are: Vickie Baker  
 Theresa Denio  
 John & Kay Reilly.

Congratulations!!!

We discovered the following undated story which was recently donated to the museum and thought you might enjoy reading about how one woman's initiative, energy, and countless hours of dedicated service to social issues transformed Eagle into a hub of activity during the early 1900s. Note the many causes Luella engaged herself in (highlighted for emphasis).

## **A BELATED MEMORIAL** *By Alice Baker*

Even though this memorial is a quadrennium late, it is none the less heartfelt and grateful to the memory of Luella Parks Edwards. Probably no woman, and possibly no person, did more for the people of Eagle than this staunch, active, intelligent woman.

Born on the Ides of March 1861, of Vermont parents, in the town of Vernon, she was endowed with dynamic energy and organizational ability rarely found in one person. While just an infant, her parents moved to Eagle.

No record is kept of her school attendance until the academic year of 1878-79 when she is listed on the Carroll College rolls. She attended this institution only one year.

Very little biographical information can be found concerning her. Even her marriage to Mr. H. B. Edwards of Whitewater, Wis., and the social rites connected with it at this late date are no longer available. No one has a photograph of her. Only in group photos can one see her slight figure and her pleasing facial features.

But members of the older generation have a high regard for her dynamic ability and grateful memories for what she contributed to the social and civic wellbeing of the town and county.

Mrs. Edwards' first attempt at organization was the **AFTER-NOON WHIST CLUB** designed for pleasure only, but that association became singularly useful as years passed and social needs changed.

One of the earliest societies in point of time (1903) was the **OPEN DOOR CLUB**. Its members included women of town and country who had a hunger for service in the projects of the expanding world of the first quartile of the Twentieth Century. Affiliated with the State organization, the club was to become a resource for other organizations. Its interests were: home economics, health, farm problems, child and adult welfare, political and legislative subjects and current happenings.

A review of the minutes of the meetings reveals their intense patriotic leanings and also their friendly outgoing acceptance of the foreigner. It was the time of the "Melting Pot" theory and to reveal their whole-hearted support of that sentiment, the club hunted up all the foreign women, feted them, and welcomed them to the Eagle neighborhood.

The ODC was only three years old when some of the businessmen recognized the need for village improvement and came to Mrs. Edwards for help in organizing the **EAGLE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION**. The first improvement that these men, and more women, sought was cement sidewalks. During the early spring months, roads were quagmires lasting sometimes almost a month. Owners could pay for their own walks, but there were some important paths that served the populace which showed the EAA that a community project must be undertaken. Money was needed!

This need was told to the ODC. How could the money, about \$100, be raised?

The ODC members scratched their collective heads and came up with the idea of a Country Fair. Villagers and farmers brought in their apples, melons, pumpkins, sheep, cattle, and horses. When the Fair was over, the net profit was \$104.75. With this unexpected munificence, cement sidewalks were built in front of the Methodist Church, the I.O.G.T. Hall, along the north side of the road to the Oak Ridge Cemetery, and walks for the homes of two indigent widows. The cementing of this long stretch, now Hwy. 67, antedated the hard road building by twenty years (1906-26).

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

In 1914 WWI came on. By 1916 appeals for help were made from overseas (Europe). Mrs. Edwards saw the demands of a Red Cross organization and immediately solicited helpers for this very crying need. Calling on her very willing card players for a ten-cent fee for playing, she received a generous response. Women who didn't know a club from a spade decided to play cards and with the many ten-cents raised money enough to buy a token supply of yarn and cloth for garments.

Mrs. Florence was made Pres. Of the **EAGLE RED CROSS**, and in securing this helper she had a peer organizer. Knitting socks and helmets could be done at home, but making the garments necessitated a center under supervision. The homes of the members became rotating centers. Sewing machines were needed and many (six). This difficulty was obviated by help of Mr. Don Pardee who took his Pick-up and transported the six machines each week to the various centers. Finished garments were sent to the Milwaukee Red Cross Center. When the Milwaukee women found out that Eagle was having difficulty making money to buy supplies but had many eager workers, they sent out some of their supplies for whom they had a dearth of workers.

For some time Eagle was affiliated with the Milwaukee Red Cross, and not until Miss Julia Rockefeller headed the Waukesha Red Cross was Eagle incorporated into the Waukesha County group.

In Post WWI years there was much concern about the prevalence of tuberculosis, especially was this true of rural communities. The whole state became conscious about conditions and was advocating county nurses to watch known cases and teach preventive measures.

In 1919 Mrs. Edwards went to the County Board, gave a talk on the great need of Waukesha County and nominated a nurse, an ITS graduate, who had served six months as a Red Cross nurse in Russia, and who had recently returned from a year-and-a-half term of Army duty in the Vichy sector of France. **Through Mrs. Edwards' influence the County Board hired the first Waukesha County nurse**, Aurel Baker, later Mrs. Harold Pardee.

Mrs. Edwards' last effort of organization was that of the **EAGLE PARENT AND TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION** affiliated with the State and National Organizations. The group still exists, but today it is no longer affiliated with the State.

How much did this busy, businesslike, canny, gifted woman bring to the people of Eagle? I am asking the readers of this article to evaluate her services.

The obituary of Luella Parks Edwards' mother, Susan, (at right) was published in the *Eagle Quill*. Her date of death was Jan. 17, 1908.

We do not have an obituary for Luella Parks Edwards but believe her date of birth to be March 15, 1861, date of death March 14, 1942, and her place of burial the Oak Ridge Cemetery.

#### Death of Mrs. Susan Parks

Last Friday news of the death of Mrs. Susan Parks, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. P. L. Heinrichs, of Davenport, Iowa, came as a surprise to her friends at Eagle. She had but recently gone there on a visit and was sick only a few days. The remains were brought to Eagle and interred in Oak Ridge Cemetery Sunday afternoon beside the remains of her husband, Francis, who died a few years ago. Her maiden name was Susan Webb, and she was born in England, April 15, 1826, and came to America six years later to Brandon, Vt. In 1854 the family came to Eagle, where she was married on November 28, 1855, and with the exception of a time in Mukwonago and East Troy, always resided here. She leaves surviving her a son, W. Parks, of Pocahontas, Oklahoma, two daughters, Mrs. P. L. \_\_\_\_\_ and Mrs. H. B. Edwards of Eagle. During her residence here Mrs. Parks always maintained friendly relations with all the people. She was of a domestic taste and devoted her time largely to her home and family. We extend our sympathy.



The excerpts below were taken from an article published in the *Elkhorn Independent* on Thursday, January 11, 1973, and reveal additional facts about Aurel Baker Pardee. (See previous article.)

Mrs. Pardee served as an American Red Cross nurse in Russia during part of World War I, and Miss Alice Baker taught in a school in China during the late 1930s.

The nurse, who had completed her training in 1912 through the Cook County hospital in Chicago, was among a part of 15 sent to Russia with a completely equipped field hospital unit. Mrs. Pardee recalled leaving on St. Patrick's Day after having served as superintendent of nurses at DeKalb City Hospital.

She was sent to Kiev, in the south central part of that nation. The Normal Polytechnical Institute College was turned into a hospital facility for treatment of wounded Russians. Her stay was really of a short duration, only six months, before the entire unit was pulled out. Late in the war she was again sent abroad, this time to France in 1918.

After she had been home a while, she was hired in 1920 as the first public health nurse in Waukesha County. She held that position for a year before getting married on Thanksgiving Day. She has continued to live in the Eagle area since 1935, and following her parents' deaths, she and her husband came to live with her sister, Alice.



### **RACCOON COAT (Dressing For Winter In Wisconsin)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

coats by wearing them to football games. As one of the least costly furs (selling for about \$325-\$450 each) male college students soon sported raccoon coats (often with straw hats called boaters and white spats on their shoes) to football games and parties and were nicknamed "collegiates" or "sheiks". Artist James Van Der Zee's painting, *Couple in Raccoon Coats*, George Olsen & His Music's song entitled *Doin' the Raccoon*, and Norman Rockwell's cover of *The Saturday Evening Post* on Nov. 16, 1929 also greatly influenced this short-lived craze during the Jazz Age. View the famous painting or magazine cover by typing "Couple in Raccoon Coats" or "Rockwell Raccoon Coats" into a search engine. Listen to George Olsen's uplifting tune with lyrics by typing in "Doin' the Raccoon YouTube".

Don Ledrowski (*photo at left*) models such a coat which is temporarily on loan and on display in our museum. Check it out on a Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday during our open hours (see page 1).

### **FAMOUS QUOTES:**

- It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something. *Franklin D. Roosevelt*
- A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way. *Mark Twain*
- I could not at any age be content to take my place in a corner by the fireside and simply look on. *Eleanor Roosevelt*
- If you cannot convince them, confuse them. *Harry S. Truman*
- Lead your life so you wouldn't be afraid to sell your parrot to the town gossip. *Will Rogers*

We received the following responses to the article regarding nicknames published in our October, 2015, newsletter.

Oct. 26, 2015

Dear Friends,

I just love getting your newsletter. I live in Orfordville. It's a small town, and the people are great here. But it's not Eagle. I was born on Diamond Hill and miss the friends there.

Could you all write about these?

- ♦ Krestan's Store and Bill, Sr.
- ♦ The Drug Store
- ♦ Sherman's Store
- ♦ Barber Shop and the old Post Office
- ♦ The old Meat Market
- ♦ Mealy's Buildings
- ♦ Walter Pett
- ♦ Drug Store and the people who ran it
- ♦ The old Doctor's Offices
- ♦ Gales Garage
- ♦ Sassos, Mike, Mary
- ♦ The old Feed Mill

I remember some of the nicknames. I grew up with a lot of them. They were all great people.

And you have great people working for you. Jean Bowey, Barbara Jatczak, Pat Hawes, Diana and Eloise, Bea Marquardt, Richard M., Elaine and Don. These are great people and friends.

Thank you all. Keep up the great job.

I also have a picture of the old train depot. When I come down, I will give the picture to you.

Thank you again,

Shirley Edmonds Matters

Oct. 27, 2015

Dear Elaine (and Jean, too),

I always enjoy getting your newspaper, but this was extra fun. There are a lot of nicknames, but how did you miss RED? It was given to me in about 2nd or 3rd grade at Palestine School, and I still have it to this day. I used Harold when I started to Waukesha High School but never like it (Sorry, Bea) so I tried Lloyd, but that never worked.

I met MaryLou when she transferred to Waukesha as a junior, and she knew about Red. It started all over again and never changed. I was Red at Continental Can in Chicago, for 9 years in sales with Foxboro (customers didn't know my first name), 28 years at Miller Brewing, and now on my Presbyterian Church nametag.

There are two exceptions—when my grandson, Alex (for Alexander), was in 2nd grade we met him for lunch. He brought a friend to the table to eat, and his mother told him to introduce his grandfather. Alex said "This is my grandfather. His name is Red, but I call him Gray."

The other exception is when I was about 3-5 years old. We had a hired man who lived with us. He named me "Bub." Bub lasted at home until I was about 10. I don't remember his name, but my mother really told him off when she learned that he tucked me in and carried me up and down the ladder to play in the hay mow.

There were two other Bubs. Bub Hoght lived on NNN (Sprague Road) south of Thomases, and one on the road north of our farm going to 67.

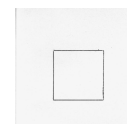
We also have Suzie for Mark's wife, Susan, and Meg for Paul's wife, Margaret. My dad was "Orie" for Oramel, but just in the small family.

This should start a new column.

Best wishes,

Red Hinkley

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Eagle, WI 53119-0454



Can anyone provide any information about the recently donated postcard below such as the location of the silo? If so, please call us at 262-594-8961 or email at [elaineledrowski.com](mailto:elaineledrowski.com). We would really appreciate your help. Thanks.

