



EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

January 2009

EHS Board

President

Jeff Nowicki, 2010

Vice-President

Barbara Jatczak, 2009

Secretary

Bea Marquardt, 2011

Treasurer

Pat Wilton, 2009

Financial Officer

Donald Ledrowski,
2009

Members

Jerry Baker, 2009

Julie Dexter, 2010

Mark Dexter, 2010

Ryan Hajewski, 2010

Diana Hall, 2011

Eloise Hall, 2011

Pat Hawes, 2010

Welthy Mueller, 2009

Jane Reinke, 2011

Mike Rice, 2011

Curator

Elaine Ledrowski
594-3301

Newsletter Editor

Jean Cisler
495-4637

EHS

museum/ library
594-8961

open

Fridays and Satur-
days,

9 am to noon

Wednesdays, 5-7 pm

Website: eaglehistori-
calsociety.org

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members

Timothy & Debra Angers
Edward & Salia Bidwell
Joel & Nancy Boerger
Norman & Linda Konichek
Gerald & Carolyn Rosprim

Artifact Donations

Jean Bowey
Lucille Bowey
Virginia Dudzek
Nicholas Gaurkee
Beverly Hayton
Gerald LaVeille
David Markham
Sister Ellen Shannon, OP

Memorial Fund

Donations have
been made in memory of
Jerry Mealy. \$500.00 was
donated from the Jerry
Mealy Memorial Fund.

Museum Donation

A \$200.00 Donation was re-
ceived from the Eagle
Springs Yacht Club

**A Special thanks to all of our
friends who support the Historical
Society and enable us to further
our mission**



Our thanks to
these early birds who renewed
their membership before Decem-
ber 31st.

\$8.00 – Senior

Pat Arnold
Gerald Baker
Lavern Betts
Myrtle Bohlman
Harry Bowey
Evelyn Brenton
Elaine Cook
Robert Curran
Mae Ruth Dahms
Joan Dempsey
Virginia Dudzek
Mabel Finney

Cont. on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Membership	Page 1,2,7
Museum Happenings	Page 2
Alice Baker and the Magic Ring (cont.)	Page 3,4
House on Sprague Road	Page 5
Obituary Jerome Mealy	Page 6
Upcoming Events	Page 8

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

Election Day Bake Sale: Diana & Eloise Hall and their committee worked together to make our bake sale a huge success. Fifty-eight people donated bakery or gave a cash donation. We were sold out before three P.M. and asked the bakers to share their recipes. If we have a good response we would like to put together a 2008 Election Day cookbook. Thank you everyone for your help to make this event successful.

Pumpkin Party: A colorful clown (Rob Hawes) with a yellow umbrella invited people into the museum while a giant M & M (Jane Reinke) entertained them until it was their turn to start the tour. Barb Jatzak & Elaine Ledrowski served as tour guides and narrated the story of each exhibit. Our not too scary museum event proved to be much too scary for three tiny visitors. They were leery of the tall Native American Indian (Bea Marquardt) and one look at the green haired monster (Jeff Nowicki) sent them right back out the door. The sheet covered mannequin (Eloise Hall) that moved forced visitors to cast a suspicious eye on everything covered with a sheet. The charming witch (Jean Bowey) received sympathy from the children who vowed to help find her missing black cat while the adults understood her frustrations about receiving a ticket from the village cop for flying her broom too low over the village. Cleopatra (Lucy Breber) enchanted everyone with her beauty even though the asp near her was a little frightening. Mark Dexter, our civil war soldier challenged visitors with his sword. A scary lady (Pat Hawes) tried to lure the children to follow her. Indiana Jones (Tom Sorensen) cautioned his sidekick Marion (Terry Sorensen) to watch out for snakes causing her to scream at the sight of them. Sister Mary Jane (Bev Spurrell) questioned the children as to whether or not their assignments were finished. Our 1880 grandmother (Virginia Dudzek) came alive rocking her chair as the scary lady (Pat Hawes) appeared behind her. The final scene was a ghost puppet created by Ryan Hajewski that danced in a ghostly red light over the stairs as people exited the museum.

Museum Improvements: Work is progressing. President Jeff Nowicki has been busy putting up dry wall, plastering and sanding to prepare the walls for painting. Paint colors have been selected with help from Stephannie Kalnes. Don Ledrowski is chomping at the bit waiting to paint. Any painting volunteers available during the week would be greatly appreciated. Contact Don at 262-594-3301.

Audrey Houk
 Jim Johnson
 Bea Marquardt
 Shirley & Jon Matters
 Robert & Janet McCue
 Frank Nardine
 Gerald Neary
 William Orchard
 Florence Pape
 Marge Plainse
 Ms. Jean Richardson
 Bernice Sadenwasser
 Fred Smart
 Beverly Spurrell
 Howard & Maxine Strickler
 Tom Varrelmann
 Betty Weimer

\$10.00 – Individuals
 Yvonne Beranek
 Scott Bovee
 Jean Bowey
 Carolyn Boyden
 Mildred Breidenbach
 Kathleen Chapman
 Tim Conrad
 Rosanne Day
 Russell Ehlers
 Mark Finney
 JoAnn Gilbert
 Elaine Heilberger (Your Garden Diva)
 Martin & Ada Marie Holzman
 Ty Howard

Marie Jones
 Mark & Anne Marie Jung
 Paul Kramer
 Bernice Lueck
 Karen Matters
 Peggy Moots
 Eleanor & John Normington
 Rose Raiter
 Jane Reinke
 Theresa Reuland
 Jack & Ruth Ann Rolfe
 Sharon Royston
 Pat Schroeder
 Gay Semanko
 Ed Stephan
 Paul & Ann Trupke

Cont. on page 7

Alice Baker And the Magic Ring (continued from the fall newsletter) Eagle's Beginnings

The Parsons family played an important part in the history of Jericho. Jonathan Parson came with William Sherman in the fall of 1836. In 1837 young Jeremiah Parson came and built the hotel still in good condition on the southwest corner of Jericho. . I am sure all of us would have liked to meet a person like young Jerry. Twenty-two years of age, impetuous, a person with almost plunger tendencies, he saw ox teams plodding along with their heavy loads of lead in their journey from Mineral Point to Milwaukee. In this traffic Jerry saw a vocation, a service to these weary drivers. He would build a hotel. Unmarried, who would help him keep the hotel? His parents may have been with him some of the time, but they later went to another farm. He, therefore, had a motley crew about him which people always designated as "Jerry & Co." From this circumstance Jericho got its name, a particularly apt name in that day when the Bible was the universal source of culture. The name became more applicable when Jonathan Parsons and Alexander Winnie built stone walls around Jeremiah's south side and William Sherman's north boundary. Built in 1850 they stood for a century.

The year 1843 brought romance to Jerry in the coming of the Mathias Bovee family and their daughter Emily. Like their romance, their marriage was a short one as Emily died in July, 1845. She had given birth to one son, Hector, who died at the age of six months and to a daughter.

Fortune was not kind to this young man, not only had he lost his wife and one child, but his hotel had not paid off as he had hoped. Other men put up taverns taking his trade. Adam E. Ray put up Ray's Tavern at Ray's Corners (Little Prairie) in 1838. Severance had erected another tavern in the intersection of what is now Hwy. 67 and Hwy. NN in 1842. Howe put up still another a stone's throw east of Severance. Ray's hostel hadn't cut in so much for it was a day's travel away for a slow ox team with a heavy load; but Severance and Howe took much trade away

Lead mining at best was a spasmodic occu-

pation. The Cornish miners in southwest Wisconsin had had almost 20 years to develop the mines poorly worked by the Indians and southern whites who had come in from Tennessee and Kentucky. Then, too, routes of transportation were easily changed by 1845 and were again resuming their old routes down the Mississippi river. So when the Gold Rush came, Jerry left Wisconsin never to return.

Another son of the Parsons' family figured in the history of Jericho and Eagle. Samos was the first of the Parsons to come to Wisconsin and for a short while lived at the corner of what is now Wisconsin Avenue and Third Street in Milwaukee. The tales of William Sherman and Jonathan Parsons soon lured Samos to Jericho. Like many of the early settlers, he became a land speculator. Abstracts of title show his many purchases. His is the first name in the abstract of my home. John Tyler gave grants to Samos Parsons in the year of 1839. His name also appears in the Frank Briedenbach title. Samos transfers land to Thomas Pittman; he also purchased a one acre plot from the land his brother Jerry had purchased. But Jericho couldn't hold Samos. A fanning mill company was starting up in Whitewater by Newell and Clement Dustin and Samos became interested in this. A fanning mill was a big invention in those early days. The actual date of Samos leaving Jericho, I do not have, but the Crimean war of 1852 gave such an impetus to wheat raising that Wisconsin clearings became as profitable as California gold mines and gave a healthy profit; hence the manufacturing of fanning mills became a good business. *

Jonathan Parsons was another member of the Parsons family whose personality is worth noting. What was he like? In the first place, he was a student. When William Sherman closed in the

Continued on page 4,5

passage way between his two log cabins, he used it for the first school room and assigned Jonathan to be the teacher. Again when Sherman gave Jerry Parsons \$75.00 to build the schoolroom "on the second rise west of the creek," Jonathan was the school teacher.

An oil portrait in the Methodist church in Eagle pictures Jonathan as a smart, energetic, up-to-date young man, just the gallant swain to catch the fancy of fastidious Jane Cross of South-port (now Kenosha.) Theirs was the first wedding in the Jericho settlement. Jonathan's scholarly reputation made him a candidate for the territorial Legislature in 1842. In 1859 he built the house now owned by Mr. Donald Pierson, the plan of which featured a good sized library. In later years he gave attention to the Methodist church in Eagle and contributed generously to its organization. When he died in 1876, he left a feeling of deep regret in the hearts of his many friends and neighbors.

Some seven or eight years ago, the pastor of the Eagle church, the Reverend Alvin Briggs, had a very pleasant experience in the visit of a stranger, a relative actually of Jonathan Parsons who presented him with the oil painting mentioned previously.

The 1840's saw much activity about Jericho Corners. Always in new counties, speculation is made as to the knot of houses that will become the metropolis. If one examines abstracts of titles, he will see that many people bought home sites in the hamlet.

On the northeast corner of E and 99 was one such plot. Here an eastern wholesale house had established a general store. Thanks to John Skidmore, Jr. we have an accurate account of the coming of Isaac Skidmore, grandfather of John, Jr. Isaiah Skidmore was a merchant in Staffordshire, England. He had been head of the Owenites at Spring Lake and had corresponded with them, intending to cast his lot with them when he came to Milwaukee in 1844. Journeying from that city, he began inquiring about the success of their communistic venture. The report was such that Skidmore passed them by. When he learned that the store at

Jericho was in default, he made investigation of it, the country around, and the goods left by the absconding Spooner with the result that the Eastern Wholesale Company jumped at the buyer and Skidmore jumped at the bargain. Skidmore kept the store and the post office, the only Postmaster Jericho ever had. Today, postmarks of that Jericho office would certainly be worth a King's ransom if any could be found.

The 1880 history of Waukesha County states that Jericho had two stores, one kept by Spooner and one kept by Skidmore. I think John Skidmore's account proves that there was only one.

Whether Skidmore had any information about the coming of the railroad to Eagle or any inkling of its location, in 1848 he purchased the present Henry Oetgen farm and built the house now standing there in 1850.

The coming of the railroad to Eagle put an end to any hope for larger towns at Eagleville, Palestine and Jericho. Palestine had a store, a blacksmith shop and tavern. Eagleville had a store and post office. Andrew Scholfield owned the mill at Eagleville, kept the store and was postmaster there.

The coming of the railroad to Eagle, however did not do away immediately with all industry in Jericho. William Wilton, who then was the owner of the northwest corner of Jericho, sold William Harris a plot for a blacksmith shop in 1868, and in 1878 a plot north of the Harris smithy to Daniel Griffin for a wagon shop. William Wilton also maintained a cheese factory on the site of Kenneth Mealy's house. This factory did not close down until the early years of the 1900's, probably 1914.

As I work on the subject of the history of Eagle, more and more I deplore the lack of records and the disinterest of people in the matter of keeping records. When working up the history of Ward school for the centennial in 1949, the records of the old school which preceded the 1949 building were nowhere to be found. Reference to them was made in the direction: "The minutes of the old school should be bound together and laid aside." Some one had laid them aside forever, probably in a good cook stove. Even the date of the first meeting could not be ascertained. A few days ago I wished to consult the

records of the early days of Eagle township. Only tax receipts were found; minutes of town doings did not start until 1956.

As my closing thought to you, I wish to urge you to keep records of the important things in your life. William Sherman's record of his life and that part of it in Jericho and John Skidmore's account of his grandfather's coming to Jericho are priceless, and give a picture of that former time that otherwise would have been lost. Except for romance, a good slogan for everybody is PUT IT IN INK.

* fanning mills— replaced earlier threshing machines for cleaning coarse grains of weed seeds such as creeping jenny.

From the writings of Alice Baker, adapted by Jean Cisler

The House on Sprague Road



Someone asked about the occupants of the Walker house after Isaac Walker returned to Milwaukee to practice law. Always eager to bring as much information as possible to our members we offer the following :

We have no record of who lived in the house when Senator Walker left to return to his law practice in Milwaukee in 1864, until the time it was occupied by Charles Cruver and his wife, Carrie in the early 1900's. And occupy it he did, for more than half a century. He and his wife raised eight children in the house.

Charley was the Eagle town clerk for over 40

years. He was first elected in 1912 and kept the position until he was 82 years old.

Charley came to the Eagle area when he was 15 years old to live with his grandfather, John Kilts. He attended school in Elkhorn, Whitewater and Merton.

He lived in Milwaukee for a brief while, but most of his time was spent in the Eagle area where he operated local creameries. He was secretary for the Jericho creamery for several years.

Never one to sit around and do nothing, Charley had a very active life well into his senior years. He was a dairy farmer and raised Guernseys for about 20 years. He also had 400 chickens at that time. He kept the town records during this period. He joined the Eagle Masonic Lodge in 1898 and was a member throughout his life.

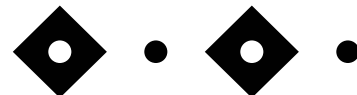
Charley recalled how the simple tax records had changed through the years. "We carried on our own politics, discussing candidates when the board got together.

He said it would take a week or two to make out "road warrants" and tell property owners how much they could spend on particular road improvements.

Now we have special assessments to take care of constantly." But I like keeping the records," said Charley. "Life would be monotonous without having something to do. It keeps my mind active."

His active mind recalls when L.E. Hall was town chairman, when Frank Faestel was town clerk and Henry Loibl was deputy clerk. Loibl, who later became a banker in Eagle started Charley out in town government, a fortunate happenstance indeed.

Taken from a 1956 interview with Charles Cruver.



Jerome J. Mealy

March 28, 1954 - Dec. 7, 2008

Jerome J. Mealy, 54, of Eagle, passed away Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008, from complications following a heart attack in Honolulu, Hawaii, while vacationing with his wife, Karen.

Jerry was born on March 28, 1954, in Waukesha, the son of the late Kenneth and Helen (nee Bremser) Mealy. He graduated from Mukwonago High School in 1972 and attended Milwaukee Area Technical College, where he obtained his degree in funeral service. Jerry started his career in funeral service working for Brett Funeral Home in Milwaukee and then for Randle-Dable Funeral Home in Waukesha prior to becoming the owner/operator of his family's funeral home in Eagle in 1982.

Jerry was a volunteer firefighter and former emergency medical technician for 37 years for the Eagle Fire Department, where he held positions of interim chief and assistant chief. He was a member of the Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association in both the South Central and Waukesha/Milwaukee districts. He served on the state board of representatives for the WFDA from 1998 to 2000, where he was instrumental in the establishment of the Waukesha/Milwaukee funeral directors association. Jerry was a board member for the South Central District from 1995 to 2000 and currently a board member of the Waukesha/Milwaukee District. He was a member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Eagle and was currently serving on the board of directors for Palmyra State Bank.

He greatly enjoyed spending time with his granddaughters. He enjoyed bowling in the Thursday night men's league at Jay's Lanes in Mukwonago, deer hunting with his son and friends, spending weekends on his pontoon boat on Eagle Springs Lake, golfing and, most recently, taking his wife out for rides on his Harley-Davidson. He enjoyed collecting World War II memorabilia and had been looking forward to seeing Pearl Harbor while on vacation.

Jerry will be sadly missed by his loving wife, Karen (nee Ahl) of Eagle; children, Renee Mealy Johnson of Muskego and Curt (Stephanie) Mealy of Pewaukee; stepchildren, Kristy Moeller of Madison and Steven Moeller of Eagle; granddaughters, Haley and Ashley Johnson of Muskego; sister, Karen Matters of Eagle; father and mother-in-



law, Howard and Ann Ahl of New Berlin; sister-in-law, Debby (Mike) Geboy of Mukwonago; and his cousin, Charlotte Kuhl of Mukwonago. Jerry is further survived by nieces, nephews and his many friends.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and his brother-in-law, Thomas Matters.

Visitation was held from 2 p.m. until 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Mealy's Funeral Home, 103 Eagle St., Eagle. A Mass of Christian burial was held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, 135 Waukesha Road, Eagle, with the Rev. Dennis Ackeret officiating. Burial followed at St. Theresa's Catholic Cemetery in Eagle.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to St. Theresa's Catholic Church or the Eagle Volunteer Fire Department.

Mealy's Funeral Home assisted the family.

\$15.00 – Family

Timothy & Debra Angers
 Edward Baker & Family
 Richard & Annette Baker
 Salia & Edward Bidwill
 Joel & Nancy Boerger
 Brian & Lucy Breber
 Stewart & Carol Calkins
 Darol & Roseanne Carter
 Arn & Jessica Chamberlain
 Roger & Valerie Cole
 Terry & Hazel Connors
 John (Doc) & Olive Crawley
 Mark & Julie Dexter
 Gordon & Karen Erickson
 Lee & Lynn Greenberg
 Eloise & Diana Hall
 Richard & Sally Harthun
 Rob & Pat Hawes
 Barbara & Scott Jamieson
 Michael & Karen Kennedy
 Norman & Linda Konichek
 Bill & Claudette Krestan
 Ed & Suzanne Mack
 Bill & Lee Ann Madsen
 Jerry & Karen Mealy
 Eleanor Martens Family
 Martin & Vera Murk
 Ken & Mal Olson
 Art & Carrie Peavey
 Carl & Wilma Pettis
 Gregg & Jackie Priatko
 Alice & Warren Raduege
 John & Kay Reilly
 Ellie & Bob Rewald
 Marshall & Patty Riley
 Gerald & Carolyn Rosprim
 Mike & Ann Sadler, Sadler Plumbing
 Shari Sasso
 Arlene Schmielau
 Robert Schroeder
 Tom & Terri Sorensen
 Steve & Linda Steinhoff (Steinhoff Law)
 Jim & Phyllis Steinke
 Tim & Diane Tate
 Don & Pat Wilton
 Richard & Carol Wilton
 Steve & Wanda Wilton

\$25.00 – Sustaining

Dick Adduci & Jackie Lewis
 Chase Bank
 George & Arlene Baumhardt
 Harry & Jean Cisler
 Eagle Business Association
 Sandy Hanson
 Harold & Mary Lou Hinkley
 Ras Kalnes
 Stephanie Kalnes
 Bill & Ann Krestan
 David & Beth Kruse
 Robert & Carol Kwiatowski
 Don & Elaine Ledrowski
 John & Julie Mann
 Mark & Wendy Marzion (Marzion Homes)
 Richard & Nada Moeller
 Violet Orchard
 Gary & Nancy Payne
 Jerry & Kay Perkins
 Conrad Potrykus
 Mike & JoAnn Rice
 Dick & Jane Riddle
 Brian & Elaine Rudy
 Rosann Sasso
 Toulia & Kim Sievers
 Dick & Kathy Thayer
 Bill & Jean Thiele
 Eris Thurston
 Larry & Diane Wilkinson

\$50.00 – Sponsor

Sue Baumann
 Russ & Pat Chapman
 Citizens Bank of Mukwonago (Eagle Branch)
 Mary (Polly) Cramer
 Jerry & Lori Heckel (Heckel Tool & Mfg. Corp)
 Barbara Jatzczak
 Peter Jones
 Jeff & Bernice Nowicki
 James Pasterski
 Patricia & Chet Poetsch
 Sarah Rosenkranz
 Ken & Ann Skidmore
 Bill & Judi Zell

Lois Zenner

\$100.00 – Patron

Dorothy Clark
 Thomas A. Day
 Paul & Sandra Fisher
 Richard & Marjorie Friedman
 Bob & Barb Hegwood
 Arthur & Betty Isleb
 Jill & Russ Steinhart (Eagle Headquarters)
 Tim & Diane Thuemling

\$200.00

Don & Dottie Murphy (Murphy Septic)

Honorary Members

Luella Bowey
 Guenther & Lisa Busche
 Bea Delaney
 Betty Enright
 Stuart Fredenberg
 Maureen Hisey
 Irma Jolliffe
 Jerome & Eileen Juedes
 Meryl Kelsey
 Dorothy Kramer
 Welthy Mueller
 Esther Stead

Winners of the January drawing are :

Russell Ehlers
 Bernice Lueck
 Bill Orchard

If your name was inadvertently omitted from the membership list, please notify Don Ledrowski at 594-3301



Eagle Historical Society, Inc.
217 Main Street
P.O. Box 454
Eagle, WI 53119-0454



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Village Rummage Sale
Coming in May*

UPCOMING EVENTS

GOLF OUTING



If you're tired of the cold, cold winters we've been having, think warm, think sunny, think of those lazy, hazy days of summer and mark your calendar now for the annual golf outing to be held on the first Saturday of June. It will be here before you know it. And you don't want to miss it. Watch the next newsletter for details.

