

# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



April 2013

### EHS Board

#### **President**

Jeff Nowicki, 2016

#### **Vice-President**

Barbara Jatczak, 2015

#### **Secretary**

Ryan Hajewski, 2016

#### **Treasurer**

Pat Hawes, 2015

#### **Financial Officer**

Donald Ledrowski,  
2015

#### **Members**

Jean Bowey, 2016

Jessie Chamberlain,  
2016

Jean Cisler, 2014

Mark Dexter, 2016

Diana Hall, 2014

Eloise Hall, 2014

Bea Marquardt, 2014

Richard Moeller, 2015

Carolyn Rosprim, 2015

Mike Rice, 2014

#### **Curator**

Elaine Ledrowski  
594-3301

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Jean Cisler  
495-4637

#### **Webmaster**

Mike Rice

### Membership Renewals

#### **Family:**

Mike & Joanne Rice

#### **Senior:**

Roy Raduechel

Phillip & Barbara Hall

Paul Kramer

Mike & Karen Kennedy

Bea Marquardt

#### **Individual:**

Rob Chapman

#### **Sustaining:**

Bill & Jackie Adams

Ann Trupke

Paul & Ann Ziegler

#### **Sponsor:**

Peter Jones

Dorothy Clark

### Special Thanks

Thanks to all who baked and purchased bakery at our Election Day Bake Sale. A special thanks to co-chairpersons Ellie and Diana Hall and Pat Hawes for making this event so successful.

### Memorial Donations

Memorials have been given in honor of **Irma Joliffe** and **Alice Raduege**. Alice's obituary will be in the next newsletter.

### Artifact Donors

**Thanks to all who have donated items for the museum.**

Bill and Ann Krestan

Joanne Ramstack

Dennis and Pat Schloerke

Judy Stocks

Lisa Stadler

Elaine Alane

Phil Zajichek

Jean Bowey

Ellen Williams

Nancy Manschot

Phil Hall

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EHS  
museum/ library  
594-8961  
open  
Fridays and Saturdays,  
9 am to noon  
Wednesdays, 3-6 pm  
Website: eaglehistori-  
calsociety.org

# Curator's Clips

Now that the weather is better remember to visit our Little Library. We are in need of children and young adult books. Just leave them in the library or in the black mailbox on the porch.

[www.geocaching.org](http://www.geocaching.org) is the key to unlocking hidden treasure in the Eagle area. Your cell phone or GPS may even lead you on a search on the museum grounds. And as long as you are in the neighborhood visit the museum to see new exhibits.

Join in the fun at our Second Annual Plant Swap to be held on Saturday, May 18 from 8:00 until noon. Bring a plant, take a plant. Volunteers are needed. Call 594-9861 if you are able to help or have any questions.



Jean at her desk

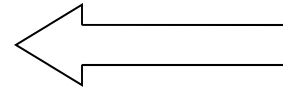
## CALLING ALL WRITERS AND WANABEES

The editor of the newsletter, Jean Cisler will be retiring at the end of this year, after eight years of volunteering in that position. The Historical Society is looking for someone to replace her. Knowledge of Publisher helpful but not necessary. Jean will help get you started. Please call Elaine at 594-3301 to apply or obtain further information.

**Respect old people: They graduated high school without Google or Wikipedia,**



## LOOKING BACK



*By Bill Grotjan*

“Well”, said the real estate man, “Here’s one that just came in this morning.” It was spring of 1958, and we were tired of life in the city. Friends had bought a farm in the Northern Kettle Moraine so we figured if they could do it as city folks, so could we. After seeing several places we had a pretty good idea of what we wanted, so off we went to look at this place near Eagle; me, Jan, 1 1/2 year old Will and 6 month old Jessica.

The owner greeted us by saying that “the house had no bathroom, no central heat , and running water only at the kitchen sink.” We loved the general layout and condition of all the out buildings, and we could do the heat and add a bathroom as time and money allowed. At that time Eagle was very different than it is today. The population sign read 300, and fields that had crops now grow houses. The village had two grocery stores, Sherman’s, where the Steinhoff law office is now and Krestan’s on the corner of Main and Grove streets, There was also Ritterbusch’s hardware and plumbing located in an original building destroyed by fire and now had Allen’s service (until they closed.) Chapman’s gas station was here, but much smaller and Randy Runquist had a gas station and auto repair shop about where the Hen House restaurant and parking lot is now. It was preceded by the Jones’ Diamond Drive-in.

Most of our neighbors were farmers. When we moved in, in August of 1957, Joe and Marie Von Rueden greeted us with an armload of sweet corn, George and Betty Kau and Alvin and Dorothy Kau were also good neighbors. We came to know Al and Helen Johnson , Helen was a wonderful gardener and a truly great cook and Al was one of those people for whom it has been said, “he would give you the shirt off his back.” Julius and Sophia Rostafske farmed where the Kettle Moraine Ranch is today. They no longer were milking but he was a great source of information about the past.

As the kids grew, they always found lots to do. Daughter Jess said she had “an endless back yard.” She would saddle her horse and be off on trails through the State Forest, which bonded the farm. All of them, now five children, enjoyed sledding and X-country skiing; time never lagged. But it wasn’t all play. There was hay to make and gardens to tend. When they wanted to swim in our pond, they first had to weed a row in the garden.

Change is inevitable in all things. Eagle today is very different from what it was fifty years ago, as then it would have been different from a hundred years ago. Some changes are good, some not so good, but learning about the past and how people lived then, gives a better perspective for us.

## Eagle Historical Society... Presents in 2013

A celebration of local authors work: in poetry, fiction, non-fiction and film arts

### New Exhibit Now Open

By Sharon Royston

**Alice Baker** *The Methodist Church Story*

Alice was a Pioneer Resident of Eagle, born in 1882. Her historical book looks at one of Eagle's original churches. The Book was written for the 1971 centennial celebration of the Eagle United Methodist Church.

**Richard West Baker** *Yesteryear in Little Prairie*

Richard was a resident of the Little Prairie area. His book is compilation of news articles, written by people living in these times, and pictures. This was written as a series of books by date range. The work was inspired by the author's Cornish name, Map Murbas Byghan, which means "Son of Little Prairie." The author holds the title of *Bard of The Cornish Gorseth*.

**Luella Bowey** *Siloam United Methodist*

Luella was a resident of Eagle, born in 1915, died in 2012.. The book is a 150 year history of the church, lovingly called "Little Church at the Crossroads" The author's goal in penning this work was to take the reader through the hills and valleys of a dedicated, strong and visionary congregation and pastors.

**Jean Cisler** *Mystery of the Missing Diamond*

Jean is a resident of Palmyra. Her book is a children's book based on the true story of a large diamond found in the Eagle area in the late 1800's. She is a prolific author of many different genres, including a biography, poetry, fiction, newsletters and is in the process of writing a second book.

**Kristine Dexheimer** *The Upside of Down*

Kris resides in Southeastern Wisconsin. Her book sheds light on a new perspective on reality, choices and the pursuit of happiness. The author is motivated to write to learn and search for answers and also to find catharsis in putting thoughts and emotions in writing.

**Kathleen Ernst** *Old World Murder, The Heirloom Murders, The Lightkeeper's Legacy*

Kathleen resides in Middleton, Wisconsin. This series of 3 books is called the Chloe Ellefson Mysteries. The first one is set in the Eagle Area and at the Historic Site, Old World Wisconsin. The author was motivated to write by the scraps of lives that survive the years through letters, diaries, artifacts, recipes, photos and even heirloom plants. Her goal is to shine a little light on ordinary people who led extraordinary lives.

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**Ira “Flare” Fredrickson** *Sea Thirst*

Flare grew up in Palmyra, currently resides in Plymouth, WI. His book is a collection of thoughts in poetry and prose of the author’s time at sea in the United States Merchant Marines in World War II. The author loved the sea and he wanted the story of the emotions and everyday feelings of being a member of the Merchant Marines to be told and not forgotten and how important this area of the service was to winning the war.

**John W. Hall** *Uncommon Defense: Indian Allies in the Black Hawk War*

John is a prior resident of Eagle, now in the Madison area. The book is a non-fiction work based on U.S. Military history. Although the author writes only non-fiction, he drew his earliest inspiration to become a writer from the works of J.R.R. Tolkien and writers David Hackett Fischer and Sir Michael Howard.

**Linda Lee** *Celebrating the Heart-land*

Linda is a resident in the town of Eagle. Her book is a collection of poetry inspired by the beauty of Wisconsin's changing seasons, the everyday miracles of life on a farm and the joy of having special friends & family. The author’s motivation as a sharing person allows her to share things that others might miss or events that should be kept in memory. She uses writing to elicit the best work from herself.

**Dale W. Mueller** *One Unforgettable Adventure*

Dale was a resident of the Eagle/Palmyra area from 1939-1998. His book is a life story of memories and adventures, stories and poems. This documentation of one’s life serves to remember, through writing, of the life one lived and how unforgettable it was.

**Ruth Ann Mueller** *Bumpy Bears Escape*

Ruth Ann is a resident of Palmyra. Her children’s story is meant to convey the message of the importance of obeying your parents as told through the story of baby bear. She is a prolific author of the history of Palmyra books, poetry and short stories. This author was motivated at an early age to enter a writing contest. It was printed in the paper and she was hooked! History preservation became one of her major goals.

**Mal Olson** *Shadow of Deceit*

Mal’s books have been described as “adrenaline-kicked romantic suspense.” When her consuming passion for writing allows time, she enjoys reading, flower gardening, jamming with friends on the mountain dulcimer, and hiking in a nearby state forest. “As a child I read, but I didn't start reading books by the carload until I was a young adult,” she says. “I savor them by the half-carload and enjoy every morsel while analyzing the magic the author has produced to keep me turning pages”

(continued on page 6)

Authors (continued from page 5)

**Michael L. Rice, Jr.** *Letters Home Co. A 24th Wisconsin infantry*

Mike is a resident of the Village of Eagle. His book is based on 14 letters sent home from 2 Eagle soldiers during the Civil War. The book speaks to man's desire for freedom, liberty and independence. The author's motivation to write this book came from a desire to leave something lasting, with a positive message for people to discover. He feels that books and writings are timeless and speak across the ages.

**Sharon Royston** *As I shall Be Someday*

Sharon is a resident of the Village of Eagle. Her book of poetry and prose, much of which was written in the 60's and 70's, depicts the lives, peace and protest of that generation. This look at a generation, through the authors own personal experiences, was the motivation to write this. In her words, "It needed to be written."

**Eric Simonson** *Lombardi*

Current resident of Los Angeles, grew up on a farm in Eagle. Eric is the producer of many plays and documentaries, one of which is the play "Lombardi." A career in arts was pursued by this author involving him in theatre, film and opera as a writer and director. He was recently nominated for an Oscar.

**Shane Stadler** *Exoskeleton*

Shane grew up in Eagle. His book is a fictional story written by an author who is a physicist. This author feels that writing fiction is therapeutic and provides him with the means to relax and ignore the constraints of science and escape reality.

**Terry Tutton** *Muck Farming in the Palmyra Area*

Terry is a long time Palmyra Historical Society Contributor. His book is a story of farming drained swamp and marshland in the Palmyra area. Palmyra grew into one of the leading Muck Farming regions in the USA. These are stories of the families that farmed them and the economic/social impacts.

**Palmyra Historical Society** *Various*

PHS was organized in 1976 . Their Mission: to collect, preserve and educate the public about local history. Authors that helped contribute: Russell Jones, Ruth Ann Mueller, Mary Tutton, Waring Hill 111, Clara Howell Pierce, Olive Clarissa Lean, Lawrence Thayer, George Lehner, Nancy Von Rohr, Eda Roou, Stewart E. Calkins.

EAGLE

**Irma Anne Jolliffe**

*Oct. 27, 1915 – March 15, 2013*



Irma Anne Jolliffe, 97, of Eagle, passed away Friday, March 15, 2013, at East Troy Manor. She was born Oct. 27, 1915, the daughter of the late Herman and Augusta Vollmer.

Irma married Robert Jolliffe on Dec. 28, 1935, and they resided in the Eagle area where they had a dairy farm for many years. Irma was a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mukwonago and the Eagle Historical Society. She also volunteered at Old World Wisconsin and Eagle Elementary School.

Irma is the cherished mother of Ronald (Jean) Jolliffe of Brookfield and Patricia Arnold of Eagle; dear grandmother of Donna (Dennis Sedlak) Arnold, Stephen (Brenda) Arnold and Jennifer (Mark) McDaniel; great-grandmother of Spencer and Sydney Arnold; and sister-in-law of Lila Vollmer and Barbara Vollmer. Irma is further survived by other relatives and friends.

Irma was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, and nine siblings.

A private funeral service for Irma will be held at Haase Lockwood & Associates Funeral Home (Mealy's Chapel), 103 W. Eagle St., Eagle, with the Rev. Keith Kuschel officiating. Burial will follow at Little Prairie Cemetery.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 410 Highway NN, Mukwonago, WI 53149; or The Eagle Historical Society, 217 W. Main St., Eagle, WI 53119.



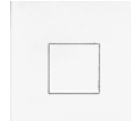


Eagle Historical Society, Inc.

217 Main Street

P.O. Box 454

Eagle, WI 53119-0454



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Plant Swap Coming, Saturday, May  
18th 8a.m. till noon

## Quilting Visitors



Area quilters (clockwise from top left) Linda Anderson, Eagle; Olive Crawley, White-water; Jean Cisler, Palmyra and Jackie Roland, Palmyra recently visited the EHS Museum to view the antique quilts on display. Many quilts dated to the late 1800's. A log cabin design, circa 1880 was given on loan to Linda and Jean who prepared a quilt show at KMCC. The antique log cabin quilt garnered much interest. Thank you, Eagle Historical Society.