

# EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July 2019



Photo above: Harmony Cornet Band



Photo below from left: Jeff, Pat, Ellie, and Robb Hawes. (See P.2 Patio Program.)



## ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

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

Diana & Ellie Hall—Mock Train Accident Photos  
Stephanie Kalnes—Print by Martin Murk, 2 boxes assorted items  
Connie Potrykus—Bugle, handwoven wool rug

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

### Individual \$10.00

Kurt Bokurn  
David Berg  
Michael Cooke  
Timothy Eaton  
Chad Frost  
John Greve  
Todd Kruse  
Daniel Plantiko  
Leonard Rausch  
Gary Roller  
Pauline Stollenwork  
Jeff Thiele  
Joe Warner

### Sustaining \$25.00

Dorothy Boxhorn  
Tim & Shelley Koehn

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

### Sustaining \$25.00

Jeff & Ellie Hawes

## EHS Board

### **President**

Jeff Nowicki, 2020

### **Vice-President**

Eloise Hall, 2021

### **Secretary**

Art Peavy, 2020

### **Treasurer**

Pat Hawes, 2021

### **Financial Officer**

Donald Ledrowski

## **Board Members**

### 2020

JoAnn Gilbert  
Diana Hall  
Eloise Hall  
Gina Neist  
Mike Rice

### 2021

Pat Hawes  
Peter Jones  
Don Ledrowski  
Richard Moeller  
Carolyn Rosprim

### 2022

Brian Breber  
Jim Fronsee  
Jeff Nowicki  
Art Peavy

### **Curator**

Elaine Ledrowski  
594-3301

### **Newsletter Editors**

Art & Carrie Peavy  
594-5454

### **Webmaster**

Mike Rice

### **Facebook**

Elaine Ledrowski

## EHS Museum

262-594-8961

## OPEN

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

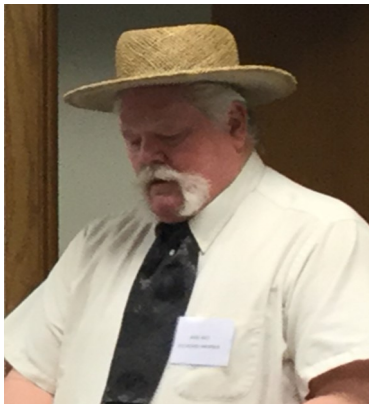
### **Website:**

curator@eaglehistorical  
society.org

Facebook: Like us at  
Eagle Historical Society

## SYDNEY P. KLINE PROGRAM

On May 1 following EHS's Annual Spring Membership meeting Mike Rice delivered a vivid and detailed portrayal of one of Eagle's own Civil War soldiers. He very successfully captured the flavor of the era through the use of modern technology by offering sound effects and war melodies of the time as well as photos of enlisted Eagle soldiers and their families. He also provided explanations of their interpersonal relationships and key battles involving Eagle soldiers. One walked away feeling the impact of the loss of lives experienced by both sides of the war. Thank you, Mike, for your excellent, deeply researched interpretation. Alice Baker Library also provided a wide variety of Civil War books/DVDs on display for this event available for checkout.



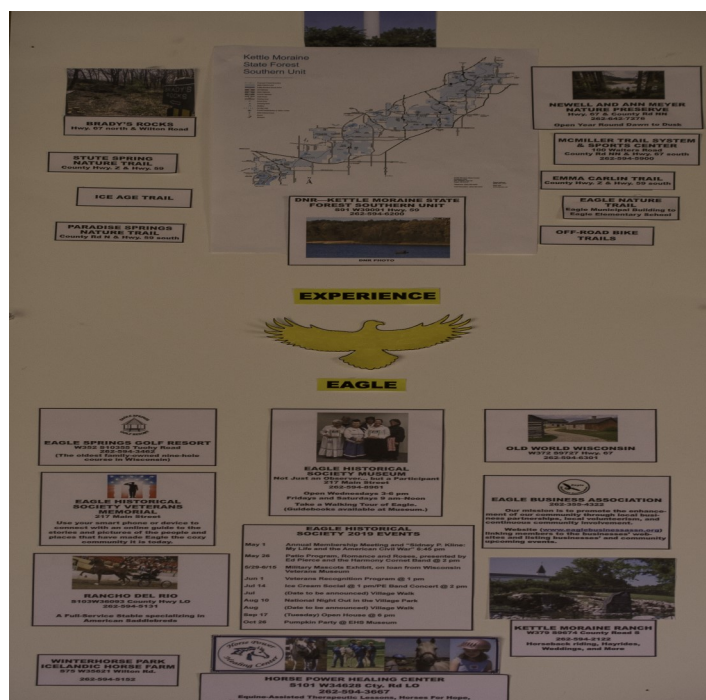
## VETERANS MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Despite threatening and cooler weather conditions, our annual program honoring veterans was held outside on the museum grounds on June 1. About 80 attended to honor veterans who served from the end of the Vietnam Conflict to present. Lt.COL (R) Scott Rutter was the guest speaker. Refreshments included: cookies, bars, fruit salad, punch and water.



## EAGLE VISITOR'S CENTER

We recently updated the EHS glass window display:



## PATIO PROGRAM

Ed Pierce and the Harmony Cornet Band gave us a taste of small-town ensembles of long ago on May 26. They began by playing Civil War music on Civil War instruments and then WWI music on period instruments while explaining the transition of the instruments over time. Jeff Hawes' maternal grandfather, Florest Reed, played in the Eagle Cornet Band. Jeff is holding is an upright piston valve Bb cornet made by Laussedat of France in the 1860s or 70s (p.1). A great crowd turned out on a picture-perfect Sunday afternoon to enjoy this wonderful lesson in history.

If you have any corrections or additions to membership, please contact Don Ledrowski at **262-594-3301** or [don@ledrowski.com](mailto:don@ledrowski.com).



Conditions in Europe influenced a surge of emigration to the "New World." The trip across the Atlantic was met with its own challenges for survival due to exploding boilers, lack or scarcity of clean water, and overcrowded ships. Beginning in the 1840s thousands of settlers came to Wisconsin each year. Emigration guides were sold in Europe offering tips on ocean travel, maps, canal routes, fares, prices of household goods and farm equipment and studied during evening voyages, evidenced by well-thumbed, worn pages. Passengers provided their own bedding such as throw-away straw beds. Space in the steerage area was least expensive and often not big enough for people to stand upright. Some people became sick and died. Vinegar sprinkled on the floor helped to freshen the air. Charcoal added to drinking water took away stale tastes. Health inspections were conducted on Ellis Island to rule out diseases or deformities. Early Eagle settlers came predominantly from Germany and England.

## **ICE CREAM SOCIAL/BAND CONCERT**

Sunday, July 14, 2019

1:00 Cake & Ice Cream Social, 2:00 Concert

Eagle Village Park

The Palmyra Eagle Community Band proudly presents new for 2019, "Salute to Lady Liberty." She is the most famous symbol of American Liberty—The Statue of Liberty. In the closing line of Emma Lazarus's famed poem, "The New Colossus", she states for all time: ".....I lift my lamp beside the Golden Door."

Standing beside her is Ellis Island. Famed inspection station between New York and New Jersey, Ellis Island was the main processing center for over 12 million immigrants to this country from 1892 to 1954. Today it is a museum dedicated to the millions who came to these shores in hopes of a better life.

Our musical salute to Lady Liberty will feature the music of James Horner, Lin Manuel Miranda and Leonard Bernstein.



Everything from bright Irish dance reels to the hip hop sounds of "Hamilton" will entertain one and all. Famed New York vocalist and our own artist in residence Kim "Kimbirdlee" Fadner will send over seven melodies soaring over the summer breeze. Jim Neist and his "Kettle Moraine Blues" will provide the exciting night life sounds of the Big Apple.

Bandmaster Ed Pierce promises a summer garden variety of sounds as The Palmyra Eagle Community Band salutes our nation's greatest symbol of freedom: The Statue of Liberty! A surprise treat will be the Midwest premier of an original work by Jonathan Fadner from their New York Children's Theater production of "The Monkey King". *By Ed Pierce*

Naturally gifted trainer of all kinds of animals (bears, skunks, raccoons). International traveler. Hunter. Notorious prankster. Operator of Benson's Dog Kennels. Orin Benson—a man who truly wore many hats over his 91-year lifespan.

Clark Gable, Roy Rogers, Joan Crawford, and Prince Phillip were among his thousands of friends and clients. Orin made many wildlife segments for Walt Disney

and was broadcast on TV and radio. His contributions to the Milwaukee Sports Show earned him a place in its Hall of Fame. Orin spent about 70 years training dogs in the Eagle area, but was also well known for raising his pet wolf, Kepa, from a pup. Learn more about this rare, amazing man by viewing the short film found on the EHS website under "Videos" created by Caleb Peavy, a recent UW-MKE BFA Film grad.

## **CALEB A. PEAVY, FILMMAKER**

*By Carrie Peavy*

The timing was perfect for selecting a subject for Caleb Peavy's senior film project since EHS had recently acquired many artifacts from Orin's estate. The opportunity to view 16mm film that had not really been looked at in decades was



exciting to him and is what initially drew him to the subject before he learned about Orin himself. He is personally interested in documentary work and sharing stories in general. When an initial Google search did not produce much information on Orin, Caleb saw this as a great opportunity to share the story of a fascinating man, someone he perceived as a classic American outdoorsman. He was also excited about sharing something about his hometown.

There are certain stories he heard from Orin's friends, Jim and Cathy Piala, that gave him great insight as to who Orin was, what he was like as a person. Plenty of these stories were cut from the film because of time. His sense of humor was brought up the most. One of Caleb's favorites was how he used a recording of a wolf howl to scare a group of troublemakers away from

a local campground. Caleb commented that there are so many interesting facts that he felt he could probably make a whole feature film about Orin.

While Caleb didn't log his hours, he can honestly say he spent dozens of hours on research to decide what he should share in a 12-minute video, dozens of hours scanning photos, listening to audio recordings and viewing old film reels. Many hours were spent coordinating multiple interview shoots. After assembling all of these assets the most time-consuming task was to edit everything into a cohesive story.

The interviews with the Pialas were the biggest help in learning about Orin. They knew him personally, and Caleb could tell by the way they spoke about him that he really was a great man. All of the resources they donated to EHS were essential in building the film.

Only a small portion of the film in the EHS collection is related to Orin; however, there is still so much beautiful footage. 16mm film produces a beautiful, unique image that modern digital cameras can't replicate. There is a great deal of footage dealing with fishing, snowmobiling and other outdoor pursuits. He would love to spend time viewing more!

Caleb received great feedback about the film. Many professors said they loved it and that it was beautiful and effective at sharing Orin's story. We think so too! (The film may be shown at a future film festival.)



Have you ever been interested in knowing more about the history of your family in the Eagle Area? Any interest in your relationship to other people in the town? You just have a general interest of the history of the families of Eagle? You remember your grandparents stating so and so married so and so, so in some weird, indirect path you're related to someone else? Being a descendant of the Spragues who settled in Eagle in 1843, I've always had a great interest in these items. Well, there are resources out there for you.

1) There is a Facebook group, "Descendants of the Pioneers of Eagle WI" where I've been posting old pictures from Sidney Sprague (1890-1957) and tidbits I find of the pioneers.

2) Familysearch.org is a free genealogy database where from various historical records I've identified 105 families that settled in Eagle before 1850. Of that I've been able to connect 56 of them into the tree. This becomes very convoluted with people moving in and out of Eagle, so I've been working on an Eagle specific diagram of how all the families are connected and expect to upload to Facebook in the near future. Some of the historical family names are Betts, Bovee, Brady, Chapman, Ewers, Hinkley, Kramer, Parsons, Perkins, Piper, Pitman, Sherman, Snover, Sprague, Thomas, Trow, Wilton, Von Rueden. You can search for them and connect yourself to them.

Census records newer than 1940 are not public, so I struggle connecting people with their ancestors especially if the family names change.

If you have questions or would like more information, please reach out:

[jessesteinke@gmail.com](mailto:jessesteinke@gmail.com)



Photo above: Frederick August Sprague (1794-1864) Settled in Eagle in 1843 with family.



Photo left: 2019 Presentation of Quilts of Honor to Veterans on June 1.



This interesting letter was found in our EHS archives. We thought you may be interested in seeing how active the Ward 4H was. Enjoy!

R. K. 2, Box 13  
Eagle, Wisconsin  
November 23, 1958

Dear Miss Lind,

Would you please have Mr. Cole put this in this coming Fridays' Eagle Bull? Thank-you very much. ✓

### Ward 4-H News

The Ward 4-H Club was called to order by our president, Ronnie Jolliffe, on November 19, 1958, at the home of Mary Jean Casely. This meeting was the annual achievement night and the parents of the members were invited to come. On November 8<sup>th</sup> we had our card party. We made a total of \$33.33, after expenses had been paid. We would like to thank anyone who bought tickets, or in any way <sup>help</sup> make it a success.

Mrs. Emory Smale handed out our <sup>and check</sup> old record books from last year. Nearly all of the record books <sup>were</sup> ~~were~~ given red and blue awards.

Our club has <sup>3 had</sup> completed the four phases of activities during the past year, required of a 4-H club, and as a result has won the four gold seal certificate. We have won this award for 24 consecutive years.

Jerome Johnson gave a summary of the past year. Last year was filled with events as our years usually ~~are~~ been in the past.

Our December meeting will be held at the home

(continued from page 6)

of the Leonard Johnsons. A Christmas party is also being planned for, which will be <sup>held</sup> on the same night. The date has not been set. Each member and leader remember to bring a fifty cent gift. Girls bring gifts for girls, and boys bring gifts for boys.

This year we have ~~that~~ <sup>five</sup> new members. They are: Melody Johnson, Alvin Johnson, Jimmy Von Kueden, and Terry Sitzgaff, Malinda Jensen, and Richard <sup>Casey</sup> Bobbie Stanish made a motion that the meeting be adjourned, and Donnie Von Kueden seconded it.

We have a new treasurer, Bob Betts. Our former treasurer, Patsy (nee) Jolliffe, has moved, and was forced to quit our club.

## HYMNS AND HAWS

Dentist's hymn: "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Contractor's hymn: "The Church's One Foundation"

Baker's hymn: "I Need Thee Every Hour"

Weather Forecaster's hymn: "There Shall Be Showers of Blessings"

Optometrist's hymn: "Open My Eyes That I Might See"

Tailor's hymn: "Holy! Holy! Holy!"

IRS's hymn: "All to Thee"

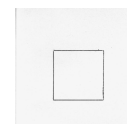
Shopper's hymn: "By and By"

Farmer's hymn: "Bringing in the Sheaves"

## CLASSIFIED AD

Wanted—Man to work on nuclear fissionable isotope molecular reactive counters and three phase cyclatronic uranium photosynthesizers.  
No experience necessary!

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



## UPCOMING EHS EVENTS



**July 14**

**Ice Cream Social @ 1 pm**  
**PE Band Concert @ 2 pm**

**July TBA** Village Walk

**Aug. 10** National Night Out in the Village Park

**Aug. TBA** Village Walk

**Sept. 17** (Tuesday) Open House @ 6 pm

**Oct .26** Pumpkin Party @ EHS Museum

