

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Oct. 2019



We had our annual Open House scheduled for Tue., Sept. 17. Painters have been working on the building all summer. Because of weather complications and discovering many areas where the wood needed to be replaced, the exterior painting still needs to be finished. We will let you know when the Open House has been rescheduled.

Start your Christmas shopping early. Why not honor a loved one by purchasing a memorial brick to be placed in the EHS Veterans Memorial Walkway or an EHS newsletter subscription for those hard-to-shop-for people on your list?

Contact Don Ledrowski at **262-594-3301** or **don@ledrowski.com** for more information.

Please check your newsletter label for the year “**2019**” to see whether you have renewed your membership and contact Don Ledrowski at 262-594-3301 or don@ledrowski.com with any questions. Thank you.

IN THIS ISSUE

Orin C. Benson Story	2
Sprague Family History	3-4, 8
Von Rueden, Maria—Obit	5
Isleb, Betty—Obit	5
Baker, Mary E.—Obit	5-6
Anderson, Mary—Obit	6-7
Kwiatkowski, Carol L—Obit	7

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Senior \$8.00

Donna Fanshaw

Individual \$10.00

Gary Andrus

Stephanie Stevens

Family \$15.00

Greg & Marlene Hein

Corporate

Generac Power Systems



ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

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

Jackie Adams—Booklet-1914 Baking Lessons
Roger Cole—Eagle Classroom Photos
Eagle Elementary School—Two Quilts
Diana & Ellie Hall—Iron Locomotive Engine Door Stop
Kathleen Krause—Two Bank of Eagle Checks
Bernice Sadenwasser—Photos and Purse
Carol Tritz—Eagle Promotional Items

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

Scott Bovee

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

Hear the Story of Orin C. Benson

(April 15, 1914—July 9, 2005)

Animal Trainer, Big Game Hunter, Jokester

Never Met an Animal He Couldn't Train • Loved to Train Animals and Pull Pranks

Eagle's Hollywood Connection • Friend of Animals and Celebrities

Sunday, November 17, 2019

3:00 -- 4:30 PM



Phil Hall, Keynote Speaker and Lifelong Friend

Short Film Presentation of *Orin & Kepa* by Caleb A. Peavy

Refreshments

Eagle Municipal Building

820 E. Main Street

Eagle, WI 53119

262-594-8961

Sponsored by Eagle Historical Society and Alice Baker Memorial Library

Have you ever wondered the story behind a name? Why a road or town is named what it is? Is there any historical significance to it? As a descendant of the Sprague family and spending a large proportion of my childhood on the historical farmstead I've always been interested in learning more about the farm and the road. Here is the history that I've been able to find behind the Spragues, Sprague Farm, and Sprague Road.

Prior to being Sprague Road it was County Highway NNN. It was still named this on the 1975 County Highway Map, where on the 1978 County Highway Map it was not labeled. On July 18, 1978 the Waukesha County Board of Supervisors made an extensive set of revisions to highway names; the details were not outlined, but it seems this is when it was transferred to the Town and called Sprague Road. I wasn't able to find any specific details of why Sprague was chosen other than it being the largest and oldest farm on the road. Spragues have had a long history in Eagle and the United States and here is their story.

The Sprague lineage came from 3 brothers and their father who came to America from England in 1628, and were some of the earliest settlers in the Malden/Melrose/Charlestown areas of Massachusetts, (just North of Boston). During the 1630s they grew into prominence and held many government and military positions. The father, Lieutenant Ralph Sprague (1599-1650) and son, Captain John Sprague (1624-1692) were commissioned to protect the town from the Natives. The son fought against the Indian inhabitants in King Philip's War from 1675-1678. (The Spragues of Malden Massachusetts, 1923)
A few additional interesting descendants include the following.

Captain John Sprague's niece was Martha Sprague (1676-?) who was "inflicted with the Devil" and made numerous accusations of witchcraft in Salem, Massachusetts.

Captain John Sprague's son, Ensign Phineas Sprague (1665-1736) was also a soldier in King Philip's War. His son and Grandson; Phineas Jr. (1700-1775) and Sergeant Phineas Sprague, III (1725-1805) respectively, served at the Battle of Lexington. The Grandson possibly served at Bunker Hill. One book says he fought at it, another said he was stuck on the wrong side of the river due to British gun boats preventing his crossing. Junior was 75 years old when he marched against the British at Lexington. He passed away on the same day at Bunker Hill. History books state he died in Malden, across the river and 2 miles North of Bunker Hill with no evidence of him fighting at Bunker Hill. There is family lore that he was shot from across the River when he was mooning the British.

The next son was Dr. John Sprague (1754-1803), a Regiment Surgeon in the Revolution who was twice taken prisoner by the British and was the father of Dr. Frederick Augustus Sprague who moved to Eagle.

(Continued from page 3)



Fig.1 Dr. Frederick Sprague

Generation 1 Dr. Frederick Augustus Sprague (1794-1864), a descendant of the Pilgrim Mary Cushman who came over on the *Mayflower* in 1620, and wife Bridget, nee Moody, left Massachusetts in the 1820s for Richfield, Ohio. In the early 1840s his house was destroyed by fire and with lands bought at the height of the land speculation he was \$10,000 in debt. (\$290,000 in 2018) He sold everything, paid off his debts and traveled 1500 miles overland exploring and finally settled on the Eagle prairie on July 11, 1842, buying 200 acres in Section 26, at \$5 apiece from John Parsons. He built an 18' x 24' one-and-a-half story house. It was stated that this was probably the first frame house plastered inside and out within the township. His land was on the east side of Markham Road from LO to NN and included where the Post Office and the Fox Chase subdivision are today. The house mentioned is believed to be Rob Day's house.

In a letter to his brother he stated, "My farm is well watered and has about 160 acres that there is not a bush or stump nor stone on, level and smooth and every foot as rich as the richest garden in Massachusetts. The prairie on which I live is a complete flower garden every week and almost every day from the first of March to the first of October." "Our boys have killed plenty of deer, partridges, prairie hens, wild geese, wild ducks, and sand hill cranes – a kind of bird from five to six feet high and caught 12 of the largest coons I ever saw, some of them weighing about 30 pounds."

At this time he had 9 children, 7 boys and 2 girls living, while losing a boy (Isaac) and a girl in Ohio. His 9 children that made it to Eagle were Frederic Augustus II, Romeo, William Bingham, Joseph, John Q, Juliet, Peter, Hiram, Elizabeth and Susannah. Of them, all but William, Joseph and Peter stayed in Eagle.

In the 1859 Platt Map, Frederick owned 400 acres in Sections 23, 26 and 28 including 80 acres where Old World Wisconsin buildings currently are. His Son Romeo owned 160 Acres east of 67 and north of NN and helped lay out Eagle Center (Village of Eagle). His other son Joseph owned 160 acres which is still owned by their descendants off Sprague Road.

AMENDMENT TO THE WAUKESHA COUNTY JURISDICTIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM PLAN-2010. (1995, May). Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

(The Spragues of Malden Massachusetts, 1923)

COREY, D. P. (1899). *History of Malden Massachusetts 1633-1785*. Cambridge: University Press.

(1880). *The History of Waukesha County*. Chicago: Western Historical Society.

Sprague Farm Abstract of Title. (1926, May 18). Waukesha, Wisconsin: Hemlock and Hemlock.

(Continued on page 8)

Von Rueden, Marie B.

Sept. 12, 1922—Feb. 8, 2018

Obituary**MARIE B. VON RUEDEN**

Marie B. Von Rueden, 95, passed away peacefully Feb. 8, 2018, in Thousand Oaks, California, surrounded by her family.

From her birth on Sept. 12, 1922, to her death she nourished family and friends with love and faith. With her husband, Joseph H. Von Rueden, they raised their four children in both Eagle and then in Southern California.

Her living children John (Marji), Charlie (Judy) and Mari Jo are returning her to her final resting place in Eagle on July 27. Her son, Robert Von Rueden, followed her in passing on March 31.

Left to honor Marie and remember her love are her children, six grandchildren - Dawn (Greg) Von Rueden-Zeek, Cari Von Rueden-Sabatucci, Gary



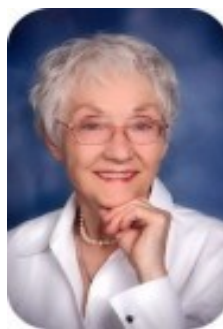
(Wendy) Von Rueden, Christopher Von Rueden, Patrick (Rosa) Von Rueden, and Victoria Sather; 10 great grand-

children-Brandon Zeek, Jason Zeek, Cole (Hope) Harding, Kevin (Kimberly) Sabatucci, James Sabatucci, Donovan Zeek, Elizabeth Zeek, Johnathon Sabatucci, Joseph Von Rueden, and Matthew Von Rueden; 4 great-great grandchildren (Kali, Rowen, Kamila and Eva); her sister-in-law Dorothy Kau, of Eagle, and her nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life Mass will be held on Saturday at St Theresa's in Eagle at 10 a.m. A reception will follow.

Isleb, Betty Jane Eleanor (nee Erdmann)

Aug. 16, 1925—July 20, 2019



Passed away Sat., Jul. 20, 2019. She was born Aug. 16, 1925 to Walter and Eleanor (Schneider) Erdmann in Milwaukee. She graduated from Washington High School in 1943. Betty worked at the Veterans Administration after high school and it was there

she met Arthur Isleb, the love of her life. They were married Mar. 8, 1947 and spent the next 62 years together. They moved to a farm in Eagle in 1959 and that is where they raised their children and spent many happy years. Always a voracious reader, Betty became instrumental in founding the first public library in Eagle. She returned to school to become a certified librarian and went on to head the Eagle Library until she was in her 70s.

Betty also had a life-long fascination with Wisconsin history. Because she lived in Eagle, home of Old World Wisconsin, she was able to parlay her interest into a fulfilling career there for many years.

She is preceded in death by her mother and father, her sister, Pat Lorbeck, her beloved husband Arthur and daughter Nancy. She is survived by her son John (Kerry) Isleb, her daughter Sally (Brian) Johnson, her granddaughters Elizabeth (Tyler) Whitten and Katie (Matthew) Vanderboom, great-grandsons Levi Vanderboom and Thomas Whitten, and many other friends and relatives.

Visitation was held on Fri., Jul. 26, 2019 from 10-11 am at CHURCH AND CHAPEL FUNERAL HOME, 380 Bluemound Road, Waukesha (Hwy JJ & J, 4 blocks South of I-94. Graveside services followed at Highland Memorial Park.

Church & Chapel Funeral Service Served the Family. Milw. 262-827-0659 Wauk. 262-549-0659
Online Obit, Condolences, Directions
www.churchandchapel.com

Baker, Mary E. "Betty"

Oct. 2, 1915—Aug. 11, 2019



Mary E. "Betty" Baker, 103, of Brodhead, WI passed away peacefully on Sun., Aug. 11, 2019 at the Wood's Crossing at Wood's Point Nursing Home in Brodhead.

Betty was born on Oct. 2, 1915 in Troy Center, WI, the daughter

of William and Agnes (Dow) Baker. She grew up on the family farm near Eagle, WI and graduated from Whitewater High School. She would go on to earn her teaching certificate from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater. Betty worked as an elementary teacher for the next several years in the

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Whitewater area before she became a secretary for the United States Navy at Great Lakes. She went on to have a 20-year career with the Navy as a department administrator, retiring in 1960. After Betty retired, she enjoyed traveling all over the United States. She took quite a few trips with her friends and made some wonderful memories during her travels. The most important thing in Betty's life was her family. She loved her many nieces and nephews dearly and was very involved in family activities. She was a fixture at Thanksgiving, Christmas and the Baker Family Summer Picnics. Betty always

made sure to have presents for her nieces' and nephews' birthdays as well. She was a loving daughter, sister, aunt, and friend and she will be dearly missed by her family. Betty is survived by her brother, Edward Baker, of Cross Plains, WI. She is also survived by a large number of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, 1 brother, and 3 sisters.

A Graveside Service was held at 10 am on Thur., Aug. 15, 2019 at the Little Prairie Cemetery in Little Prairie, WI.

Gibson Family Funeral Homes of Eagle & Palmyra, WI, served the family. To place an online condolence please visit gibsonfuneral.com

Anderson, Mary J.

Mar. 16, 1947—Aug. 29, 2019



Mary J. Anderson, 72, of Eagle, WI passed away on Thur., Aug. 29, 2019 at AngelsGrace Hospice Center in Oconomowoc.

Mary was born on March 16, 1947 in Aurora, IL the daughter of N. Wayne and Lucille (Armbrust) Casey. Mary and her family moved to Eagle,

WI at a very young age and she grew up in Eagle and graduated from Mukwonago High School. Mary went on to earn her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. On August 24, 1968 Mary was united in marriage to Robert "Bob" Anderson at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle. God blessed their union with two children, Rich and Christine. Mary worked as a waitress at Sasso's in Eagle for over 25 years, she also waitressed at the Fork in The Road Restaurant in Mukwonago and The Hen House Restaurant in Eagle. Mary enjoyed waitressing. She appreciated the interaction with people and was very good

at it. She had fond memories of her working career. Mary had many interests in her life. She was an avid Wisconsin sports fan and enjoyed watching and rooting for the Packers and Brewers. She loved to work in her garden and grew both flowers and vegetables. She also loved to take trips up to Door County, WI with her husband. Her loving family says she had a special love for that area. Decorating was also a passion of Mary's. She always had a theme in her home for holidays. She particularly loved Christmas and had a vast collection of Santa Clause figures. The two most important things in Mary's life were faith and family. She was an active and very involved parishioner at St. Theresa's for her entire life. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother and was happiest when surrounded by those she loved. She shared a special bond with her grandchildren and loved them deeply. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by: her loving husband of 51 years, Bob Anderson; her loving mother, Lucille Casey; her two children, Richard Anderson and Christine (Stefan) Vater; four grandchildren, Lukas, Thomas, Stefan, and Lucy; and three brothers, Donnie Casey, Jim (Kathy) Casey, and Ken (Linda) Casey.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Mary is also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her father, and a brother, Richard Casey.

Mary's family would like to extend a special and heartfelt thanks to the staff of Greenwald Cancer Center in Mukwonago, especially Dr. Raza.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Mary's honor were made to The American Cancer Society

Kwiatkowski, Carol L.

Sept. 16, 1942—Sept. 20, 2019



Carol Lynn Kwiatkowski, 77, of Eagle, WI passed away unexpectedly while on vacation with her husband on Fri., Sept. 20, 2019 in Georgetown, KY.

Carol was born on Sept. 16, 1942 in South Milwaukee. She grew up in the South Milwaukee area and on

Oct. 16, 1965 married the love of her life, Robert "Bob" Kwiatkowski. God blessed Bob and Carol's union with two loving sons, Kurt and Kevan. A few years after Bob and Carol were married, they moved out of Milwaukee and into the Eagle area. The two would raise their family, and live in the Eagle area for the remainder of their life together. First and foremost in Carol's life was her family. She devoted herself to being a loving wife, mother and grandmother. Her children and grandchildren were the apple of her eye and she loved them dearly. It was easy for her to spoil her beloved grandchildren. She was very proud of them. Faith was also important to Carol and she was a long-time member of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle. Carol had a bubbly and fun personality. She enjoyed being active and doing things. Her interests included: traveling with her husband and family, eating out and enjoying the outdoors.

or St. Theresa Catholic Church.

A Memorial Mass was held at 11 am on Sat., Sept. 14, 2019 at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle, WI. Fr. Loyola Almalraj officiated the mass. Fr. Dennis R. Ackeret co-celebrated the mass. Visitation was held on Sat. from 9 am until the time of mass at the church. Burial took place in St. Theresa Catholic Cemetery following the mass.

Gibson Family Funeral Homes of Eagle & Palmyra, WI served the family. To place an online condolence, please visit gibsonfuneral.com

She also had a soft spot for dogs and horses. Carol was a breast cancer survivor as well as a stroke survivor for more than 8 years. Her loving family says that she did not let that slow her down. She continued to travel and live her life to the fullest after she endured her stroke. She was a kind, strong and caring woman and will be dearly missed by those who knew her.

Carol is survived by: her loving husband of 55 years, Robert Kwiatkowski of Eagle; her two sons, Dr. Kurt (Laura) Kwiatkowski of Cedarburg, and Kevan (Marta) Kwiatkowski of Mequon; her 5 grandchildren, Christian, Madison, Camryn, Connor, and Emily Kwiatkowski; 3 siblings, Michael (Renee) Heinrich, Sharon (John) Croft, and Steve (Renee) Heinrich. She is also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

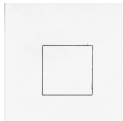
She is preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Elizabeth (Gilane) Heinrich.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Carol's honor were made to the American Stroke Assoc. or the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fdn.

A Memorial Mass was held at 11 am on Sat., Oct. 12, 2019 at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle, WI. Fr. Dennis Ackeret officiated the mass. Visitation was held from 9 am until the time of mass at the church. Carol was laid to rest in St. Adelbert's Catholic Cemetery during a private family service at a later date.

Gibson Family Funeral Homes of Eagle & Palmyra, WI is serving the family. To place an online condolence please visit gibsonfuneral.com

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



(Continued from page 4)

This story will be continued in a future edition.

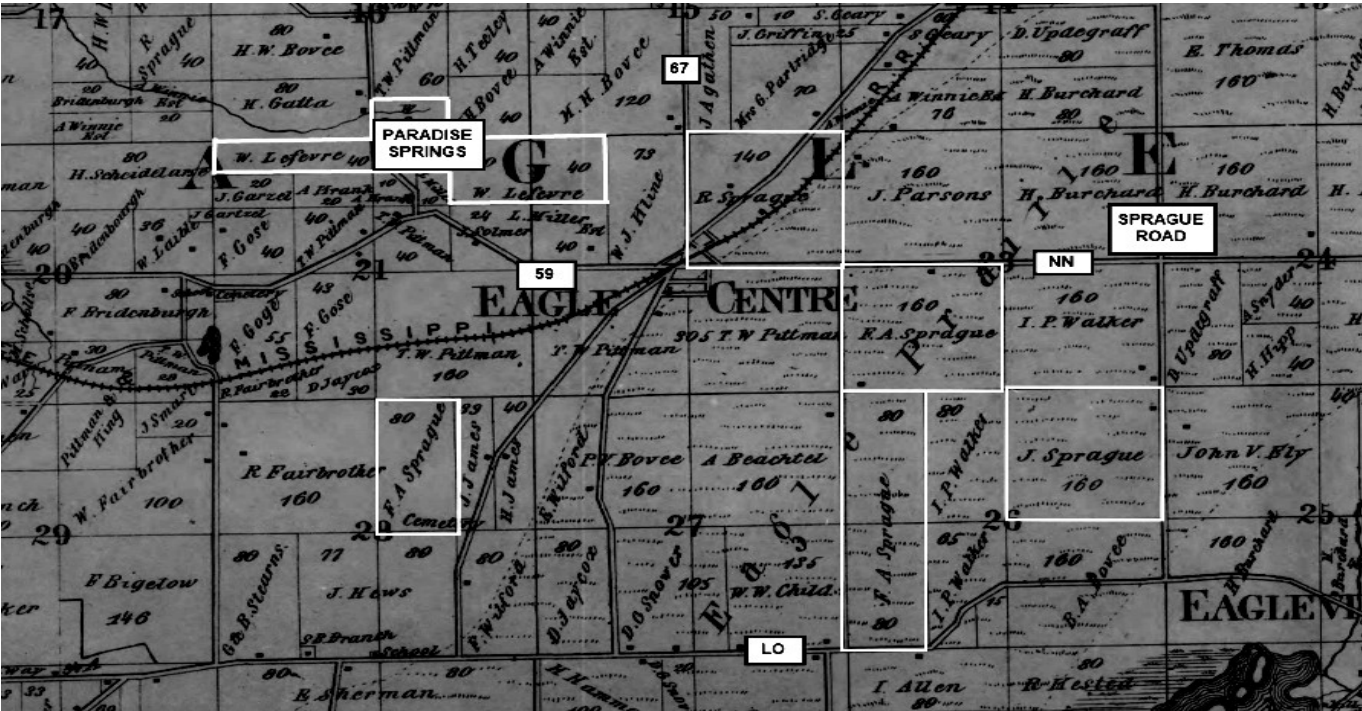


Figure 2 1859 Eagle Platt Map, Sprague lands boxed.