

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

July 2021

The museum is now open to the public on:

Fridays 9 am-Noon
and
Wednesdays 3-6 pm.

View a short, entertaining video of new museum exhibits at the link below or on our homepage.

<https://youtu.be/mMnK9DeA4G0>

Big thank you to Gina Neist.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:

Sustaining \$25

Phil & Barb Hall

Sponsor \$50

Eagle Business Association
Dean Herriges & Reine Wells

Please check your newsletter label for the year "2021" to see whether you have renewed your membership.

If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Ledrowski at 262-594-3301 or elaine@ledrowski.com.

EHS member Sandra Shorr is researching the family history on James B. Titus and Peter Grems. Does anyone have any "passed down" or local type information on them from the 1800s? Please contact Sandra at sshorr4155@yahoo.com. Thank you.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Bernard & Deborah Gilbert
Laurie Lawlor
Tom Ledvorowski & Dale Hoyt



EHS president Jeff Nowicki proudly accepts Certificate from EHS member Bruce Laine on June 16. Award was given in recognition of proper display of the Flag of the United States of America.
(See Page 2 for close-up).

EHS Board

President

Jeff Nowicki, 2022

Vice-President

Eloise Hall, 2021

Secretary

Art Peavy, 2022

Treasurer

Pat Hawes, 2021

Financial Officer

Jim Neist

Board Members

2022

Scott Bovee
Jim Neist
Jim Fronsee
Jeff Nowicki
Art Peavy

2023

JoAnn Gilbert
Diana Hall
Eloise Hall
Gina Neist
Mike Rice

2024

Pat Hawes
Peter Jones
Richard Moeller
Carrie Peavy
Carolyn Rosprim

Curator

Elaine Ledrowski
594-3301

Newsletter Editors

Art & Carrie Peavy
594-5454

Webmaster

Mike Rice

Facebook

Elaine Ledrowski

EHS Museum

262-594-8961

OPEN HOURS:

Wednesdays: 3-6 pm
Fridays: 9 am– Noon

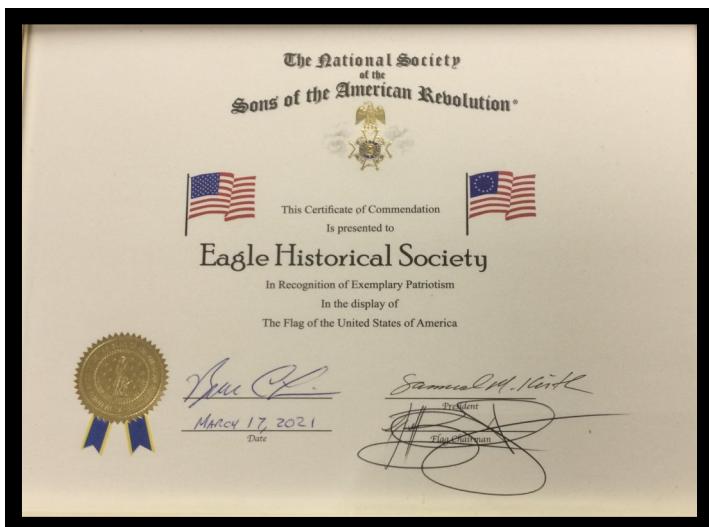
Website:

curator@eaglehistorical
society.org

Facebook: Like us at
Eagle Historical Society

EAGLE SCHOOL TOUR

Mrs. Mueller and Mrs. Taylor brought their third grade students to the museum on June 2nd. They toured the museum, experienced a one-room classroom, participated in a 1930's radio program, and played games using household items.



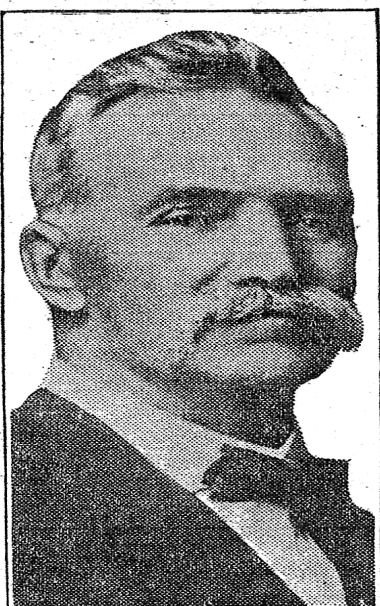
ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

This is a partial list of items donated.

Thanks to the following donors:

Diana & Ellie Hall—Music Boxes, Salt & Pepper Shakers
 Dana Houk—American Girl Doll w/book, tin lunchbox, doll-size food, Checkerboard
 Richard Jones—Photo of Baseball Team
 Marilyn Willms' Family—Vintage Valentine's Day Cards

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1932



Oldest Resident

Francis Draper, Eagle's oldest resident, will be 90 Sunday. He was born in the town of Eagle on Feb. 7, 1842, the son of pioneer settlers. Mr. Draper is the only Civil war veteran in Eagle, having enlisted at Palmyra in 1862 and served three years with the First Wisconsin heavy artillery. He is the oldest native born former soldier in Waukesha.

Researching the Draper Family was my first genealogy project, and I was surprised to realize how much their story was intertwined with that of other Eagle residents in the middle of the 19th century.

When Francis Draper arrived in Eagle around 1838, the family consisted of: Francis 31, wife Hannah 27, and sons, John Adam age 5, and Merritt age one. The family moved to Eagle from New York, reportedly with Jonathan Betts, in an ox-drawn covered wagon. Merritt was born in Illinois in 1837 during their journey. It is not known if Eagle was their destination, but promises of cheap farm land encouraged many east coast families to make the move west. At that time, Indians still lived in the area, wolves were plentiful, and there was no "Village" or "Eagle Center" yet. The area was so remote that any supplies were obtained by traveling to Waukesha or Milwaukee which may have taken days.

Their first land purchase was for 80 acres from Eliphalet Cramer, a major land owner in Eagle, on March 1st, 1839. Their first home was a log cabin, but later they built a large cream brick home which is still standing at Betts and Draper Roads. Because Francis Draper, Jr. states he was born in the log cabin in 1842, and the current house is designated on an 1859 plat map, it's estimated the Draper home is between 162 and 179 years old.

Not much is known about the family's day-to-day life. They farmed 200 acres east and west of Betts Road. Eagle Assessment Records in the 1870s, show they had horses, cattle, sheep and lambs, swine, wagons-carriages and sleighs. They probably raised corn, oats, and/or rye; the most popular crops in Eagle at that time. The 1850 Federal census states the real estate value as \$2500. Besides farming, Francis was also a town assessor, a member of the Eagle Lodge No. 39 I.O.O.F. (Independent Order of Odd Fellows), and was a delegate along with Henry A. Hinkley to the Convention of Democratic Whigs to the Whig County Convention in Prairieville in 1841.

Try, though, to imagine the life of Hannah Draper! Only in her 20s, she began her journey from New York with a young son and gave birth to another son along the way. From 1838 to 1840, she maintained a household of the four Drapers and friend, Jonathan Betts, all in one log cabin! She cooked over a hearth and fireplace, sewed and mended clothing, obtained water from a nearby stream, assisted her husband with farm chores, and tended to the children. She is mentioned in her 1880 obituary as one of Eagle's first settlers, "...and many were the privations and hardships to be endured, but this estimable, motherly woman and devoted wife, uncomplainingly endured the privations of a pioneer life and finally had the satisfaction of seeing herself and family in possession of a comfortable property and home."

Francis and Hannah had many children, as was the custom in the 1800s! Census data showed only 9 children, but Francis, Jr.'s obituary mentioned 10. The hunt was on to find a "10th sibling". These are their stories.

(Continued on page 4)

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John Adam was born in 1833 in New York. He married Helen M. Weston from Troy, Walworth County, and had a daughter, Alma Jennie, in 1859. John entered the Civil War in August 1862, but died of dysentery in September 1863. Interestingly, instead of living with her mother, Helen, Alma Jennie then went to live with her grandparents, Francis and Hannah. Also of interest, the 1880 census lists "Jennie Draper, age 21 and her son, James B. Draper, age 2, living with her uncle Thomas Seldon Draper until she marries.

As mentioned before, second child Merritt, was born in 1837 on the journey to Eagle. He married Susan Miranda Snover, a neighbor from the area near Hwy. LO and South Street. Sadly, Merritt entered the Civil War in February of 1865 and died in August after only six months of service! In 1871, his widow, Susan, remarried to John Weston, brother of her sister-in-law, John Adam's wife Helen. (Susan's father, John, was a farmer, master carpenter, and eventually, became a Waukesha County Probate Judge!)

The third child, Ann Eliza, was the first girl and first Draper child born in Eagle, in 1839. She married Richard Pierson (Pirson) of Eagle and moved to the Town of Lafayette to farm by 1870. Eliza Ann died in 1905.

The fourth child, Hannah A., was born in 1841. In 1860, she married William Burnap whose family lived near Shearer Road and Hwy. LO. A Civil War draft document shows William living in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1863. A Civil War pension document shows a "widow's" claim for Hannah in 1865. No children were ever listed, and no other information can be found about her.

Francis, Jr., the fifth child, is the only child who remained in Eagle and, therefore, is the most well-documented Draper. Born in 1842 in the log cabin, he lived with his parents and attended Ward School #3, (now seen on Old World Wisconsin property on Hwy. 67 and is the oldest remaining school in Waukesha County), until the fourth grade. He worked on the family farm until he entered the Civil War in 1862. Discharged in 1865, he is documented as a private, but was often referred to in later years as "Colonel Draper". He became a farmer on his family's property, and was very active in Eagle Town matters, politics-serving as a Town Chairman and Village President, and a member of military posts. Francis married Laurell DeWitt of Troy, Jefferson County, in 1879, but they divorced in 1887. Only four months later, he married Almira Salisbury (Salisbury) Medway, daughter of John Salisbury and Kesiah (Lake), both Eagle pioneers. Francis and Almira had one child, Lila. Lila became an active Eagle resident, serving as postmaster, becoming interested in politics, and cared for her father until his death.

Lila, husband Edward Burton, and Francis, Jr. lived in the Village on Jericho Street, now Main Street. Francis, Jr., a double amputee by age 86, died in July 1941 at the age of 99. He was Waukesha County's oldest Civil War veteran and one of two remaining in the county at the time.

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Napoleon Boneparte
Draper

The sixth child and fourth son was Napoleon Boneparte, born in 1844. He entered the Civil War in October 1861 and mustered out in November 1864. He married Felicia Dawson, daughter of Davis and Amelia, from Eagle. They moved to Kansas around 1873, and he died there in 1925. It was a thrill to have researched Napoleon because I was able to connect with his Great-Great Grandson, Jason Draper, in Kansas!

The seventh child and fifth son, was Thomas Seldon, born in 1845. He entered the Civil War at age 16 and mustered out in 1865. He married Susan Smith. The 1880 census mentions him as a carpenter. Thomas and Susan's family moved to Cumberland in 1885 and to the State of Washington around 1895. A 1914 pension article mentions him being granted "a pay increase to \$30.00 a month. He is blind in his right eye and partially blind in his left." He died in 1916.

The eighth child and third daughter, Almira, was born in 1847, but died in 1863 at only 16 yearsold. She is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery on Hwy. 67 with other members of the Draper family.

The ninth child and fourth daughter, Olive, was born in 1849. She married East Troy resident William Gillard in 1868. By 1870, they moved to White River, Michigan. They had five children and were farmers. Their lineage can be traced for the next four generations to family still living in Michigan.

The tenth child, Elsia May is the most mysterious! She is not listed on ANY census, so I was surprised when I read Francis, Jr.'s obituary that there were 10 Draper children! It wasn't until I had discovered names listed for the Draper family plot in Oak Grove Cemetery and other documents that I found her name! She died August 8, 1870, "2 yr. 11 days old", meaning she was born July 1868. If correct, mother Hannah was 58 years old at the time of birth. Seems improbable.....but not impossible!

There is MUCH more Draper information than listed here. A more comprehensive Draper Family history will be given to the Eagle Historical Society when completed.

STRAWBERRY PRESERVE

Take equal quantities of berries and sugar, weighing berries with hulls on. Wash and hull the berries, put the sugar over them and let stand from thirty to sixty minutes. Place on stove and let them boil hard for fifteen minutes. Turn into jars or crocks and let stand open for three or four days to absorb juice; then put away cold in jelly cups, covering with thin paper dipped in alcohol and pouring on melted paraffine to keep it air tight. When cooking do not crowd the berries too much in the kettle, and stir gently if at all.—Mrs. G. S. Marsh.



The Federation Cook Book, WHITEWATER, WIS. 1917, Page 99

JAMES BABCOCK, EAGLE CONSTABLE*By Frances Frannie Hyland**My life with my Dad in Eagle...*

We moved into Eagle from the farm in 1948.

I don't remember exactly when Dad was made a constable of Eagle. I remember he got paperwork (probably from the County) of all the arrests that had been made of people that had gotten stopped for speeding, etc. As a teenager, I found this interesting.

One year (don't remember year) a group of teenage boys went out in the county and picked up some watermelons and brought them back and broke them open at the gazebo and made a mess. Dad had to find out who the boys were and made them come back and clean up the area.

Dad was always active in the community. He was a volunteer fireman and was made a member of the American Legion. He helped with the annual summer parade and activities at the park. I don't know if it was called the Kettle Moraine Days at this time.

He was coach of the baseball team. (Check with Don Enright.) He started the team. He loved to play cards. Always at Emmers or Sasso's. He loved to bowl.

He had a rare type of blood and was always donating it when needed. I remember one time when one of the Mealy family was real sick and needed blood. Dad donated his blood.

Dad worked at International Harvester and was Santa Claus every year. I was told he was Santa Claus for the Village also. He came in one of the fire trucks.

Dad had a speed denominator and a siren in the car to stop people. My brother liked to set off the siren.

My Dad also loved to fish and would bring out some of the Milwaukee Braves to go fishing. My brother Emery said he should have asked for their autographs.

My Dad only had a short time living in Eagle (1948 to 1955). We lived on several farms in the area. I remember these farms. My Dad was killed in December of 1955 on his way to work by a drunken driver.

My Dad was 43 years old when he died.



Kruse, Donald F.*April 15, 1943—June 8, 2021*

Donald F. Kruse, age 78 of Eagle, WI passed away Tue., June 8th, 2021 in the comfort of his home. Don was born April 15th, 1943 in Milwaukee, WI to Jean Box and Donald Kilbourn. He moved to Eagle, WI in 1948. He married his wife, Barbara Jean Bozych, July 15th, 1967 in Palmyra, WI.

Heaven gained the sweetest father, grandfather, great-grandfather, husband, brother and friend.

Don was a very proud United States Army Veteran. He enlisted at the age of 19. He served during the Vietnam war while being stationed in Germany between the times of 1963-1966. He was an SP4. His job was as a mechanic and driver for all types of small trucks, carriers and gas tankers. He enjoyed sightseeing throughout his time in Europe. After his time in the service he was a truck driver for 45 years until he retired.

He enjoyed traveling, preferably to warmer climates in South Padre Island, Texas, for the winter months with his wife and friends. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his sons and grandkids. He was a proud grandfather and great-grandfather. He loved nothing more than being a great-grandfather. They kept him busy. He enjoyed the simple things in life, sitting on the front porch watching the cars go by, sitting underneath the apple tree in the back yard watching the humming birds, mowing the lawn to perfection or cooking up a good steak on the grill. He was well known in his community of Eagle as a kind and easy-to-talk-to man. He was looked up to by many and will be missed so much.

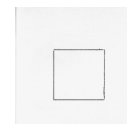
Survived by wife of 53 years, Barbara; his 3 children, David, Rachel, Todd; his 4 grandchildren, Ashley, Cody, Ian, Jacob; his 2 great-grandchildren Lillian and Josie; his 2 sisters Connie, Janet; and several nieces, nephews, other family and friends.

We love you so much dad & papa! You will always be close to our hearts.

This is a video clip from the Eagle Historical Society about the time Don spent in service: <https://youtu.be/Lw4uJosnz10>

Private services for Don were held. Memorial donations were sent to VFW veterans of foreign wars @:<https://heroes.vfw.org/page/23487/donate/1?locale=en-US>
Thelen Funeral Services of North Prairie/Genesee was honored to assist the Kruse family. 262-392-4251

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



UPCOMING EVENTS



VILLAGE PARK

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - 1:30



Eagle
Historical
Society

PALMYRA EAGLE COMMUNITY BAND

CONCERT- 2:00

Sunday, July 11



Sat., Aug. 28, 11am-2pm

Picnic with the Police in the Village Park

TBD

Open House on EHS grounds

Sat., Oct. 30, Time TBD

Pumpkin Party on EHS grounds