

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2003

Eagle, Wisconsin

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EHS News

Membership

EHS has already received dues for over 200 members. Special thanks to the following for joining at a higher level:

Sustaining, \$25-\$49

Richard & Annette Baker, Dave & Mary Cass, Gerald & Lori Heckel, Harold & Mary Lou Hinkley, Cliff & Janet Jensen, Donald & Elaine Ledrowski, James & Joan Pasterski, Gary & Nancy Payne, Eloise Richards, Richard & Jane Riddle, Toulia & Kim Sievers, Bill & Jean Thiele, John & Mary Vymetal Taylor

Sponsor, \$50-\$99

Theresa Denio, Paul & Sandra Fisher, Richard & Marjorie Friedman, Generac Corporation, Roy & Terry Leonhardt, Don & Dottie Murphy, Jeff & Bea Nowicki, Chet & Pat Poetsch, Kathryn Ruby, Tim & Diane Thuemling

Patron, \$100 & over

Robert & Barbara Hegwood, Ras & Donna Kalnes, Walter & Lois Zenner

Memorial Fund

A donation has been made in memory of Mary Weinkauff Smart.

Donations

Thanks to the following for their donations: Jean Bowey, Donna Fanshaw, Mabel Finney, Mary & Lee Fiegel, Ray Keller, Frank Latona, Erica Ledrowski, Flo Neary, Eloise Richards, Bernard Rieck and Pat Wilton.

EHS Receives Grant

A committee comprising Don &

Elaine Ledrowski and John & Mary Vymetal Taylor worked to prepare a grant application which was submitted to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. At its December 19 meeting the foundation's board voted to approve a grant of \$3,550.00 to the Eagle Historical Society. Per the application, "The goal of this project is to catalog the artifacts and printed materials in our collection in a form that will be useful to the society and community. We will be purchasing a computer, printer, scanner, digital camera, CD-R compact discs and a CD label maker. This computer equipment will allow us to develop and use a site-specific software program using acceptable nomenclature for museum cataloging to identify items. This system will allow us to list items by date of acquisition, accession number, item name, description, location and donor name. The digital camera will be used to photograph and store images of three-dimensional artifacts that cannot be visibly captured by a scanner. The majority of our collection falls into this category. The camera and scanner will also allow us to photograph and/or scan fragile letters and documents. The printer will allow us to create a printed catalog of the collection that can be shared with schools and other institutions." Anyone wishing to volunteer to catalog items, please contact the curator.

The information gathered from this project will strengthen links between the community and the past, assist

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teachers in finding ways to teach local history, make artifacts more readily available to local educators and facilitate sharing of collection information with other historical societies.

It is always gratifying to receive recognition for the society's efforts towards these goals, such as the note from Ras & Donna Kalnes saying, "Thank you for your many efforts in keeping Eagle history alive and well. You are appreciated!"

Helen Arndorfer Kastenholz wrote, "Just a short note to tell you how much I enjoyed your fall newsletter. I spent all eight years of grammar school at Baker school, very happy years. It was such fun to read Richard Baker's memories."

Please share your thoughts, constructive suggestions and (especially) your poems and articles—they make the newsletter unique to the Eagle area, and increase our readers' enjoyment.◇

Grandma's Typewriters

By Pam Wiedmeyer

My grandma, Anna Chapman, always wished she could type. When Grandma was offered an old, free-of-charge typewriter, she saw this as an opportunity to learn the skill. Time flew by and the typewriter went up to the attic, left unused by Grandma. However, her dream of learning to type was still there. Time passed and Grandma purchased a "more modern" typewriter from the 1920's—an offer she couldn't refuse. Knowing I have always enjoyed going to rummage sales and auctions, Grandma asked me to keep an eye out for interesting typewriters for her. Grandma and I both looked for typewriters, and a collection began!

One of the typewriters in Grandma's collection was a Densmore Co. #1. Number One was manufactured in 1891 and a rare find. It was called an upstrike typewriter because keys, arranged in a circular basket, would swing against the paper from the bottom in an upward motion. Its detractors and competitors called the machine a "blindwriter" because the typist couldn't see what he typed! It was among the first typewriters produced, and the 1891 pricetag was around \$100.00.

Grandma had two Underwood typewriters, a #3 and a #5. The Underwood #3, manufactured in

1909, was an unusual-looking machine. The large carriage was over two feet long—exactly 26"! In 1910 it was marketed as a Billing Typewriter. The standard size Underwood #3 weighed 30 pounds, with an original selling price around \$125.00. The legendary #5 was introduced in 1901 and had more than 30 years of production.

Underwood typewriters have historical significance because by 1920 almost every company imitated the "quintessence Underwood."

Soon it was time to leave the farm in Little Prairie and move to Eagle. My grandparents had a farm auction, and the typewriters (Woodstock, Royal, Remington, etc.) went for sale. I'm a typing teacher—I simply couldn't let them go! The typewriters went home with me.

Grandma never did learn to type, and I thought it was time to return a piece of history to the communities of Eagle and Little Prairie.

(Ed. Note: Pam Wiedmeyer donated a large collection of antique typewriters in memory of Anna Chapman, 1903-2002; Clark Chapman, 1896-2001; Don Chapman, 1931-2001, and Little Prairie and Eagle.) ◇

IN MEMORIAM

Clara Pierce

Eagle Historical Society, Inc. Year 2003 Calendar of Events

DATE	BOARD MEETING	NEWSLETTER	EVENT
January 18	11:00 a.m.		
January 31		Mail Date	
February 15	11:00 a.m. Officer/Board Member Candidate Slate Presented		
February 18			Election Day Bake Sale
March 15	11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting/Election of Officers & Board Members		
April 15	6:30 p.m.		
April 30		Mail Date	
May 9 & 10			Community Rummage Sale
May 20	6:30 p.m.		
June 17	6:30 p.m.		
June 20-22			Kettle Moraine Days
July ?			Circus Parade Train
July 15	6:30 p.m.		
July 20			Band Concert/Ice Cream Social, Village Park, 2 p.m.
July 31		Mail Date	
August 17			Wine & Cheese Reception at EHS Museum, 1-4 p.m.
August 19	6:30 p.m.		
September 16	6:30 p.m.		
October 21	6:30 p.m.		
October 31		Mail Date	
November 4			Election Day Bake Sale
November 15	11:00 a.m.		
December 6			Holiday Raffle/ Tour of Homes
December 20	11:00 a.m.		

The Shermans of Eagle

The name Sherman was associated with Eagle from the beginning. The following obituary was printed in the Lake Geneva Herald and reprinted in the Eagle Quill on April 10, 1908:

William Sherman died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. D.S. Allen, corner of Geneva and Center Streets, last Saturday evening as a result of the fall on an icy walk he sustained a few weeks ago, in which his hip was broken. Mr. Sherman was the oldest man in this section, being born April 26, 1809, in the village of Dundas, near Hamilton, Canada.

In early life Mr. Sherman learned the tanner's trade near Dansville, N.Y. Later he worked in London, Canada, where he met and married Miss Louisa Parsons on the 5th day of February, 1835.

In 1836 he decided he would be a farmer and started for the then almost unknown west. He came to Chicago and then went to Milwaukee. Turning west again he passed through the Indian villages of Waukesha and Mukwonago and located a claim of 160 acres, built a log cabin, and in the fall returned to Canada to work during the winter. In the spring of 1837 Mr. Sherman started for his western home with two yoke of oxen and two cows. It took 37 days to make the trip. Mrs. Sherman and their eldest son joined him in Chicago, and together they proceeded on their journey.

Mr. Sherman was actively engaged in farming at Mukwonago, Eagle and at Whitewater until 1876, when he bought the Clarkson farm in the town of Linn, where he lived until five years ago, when he moved to this city, which has since been his home.

Mrs. Sherman died April 2, 1900.

Mr. Sherman is survived by three sons, L.M. of Minneapolis; W.J. of Portland, Oregon; and Charles, of Port Angeles, Wash.; and two daughters, Mrs. D.S. Allen and Dr. Alice Sherman Barber of this city, besides a large number of grand children and great grand children.

Short funeral services were held at the home Tuesday evening and the burial was by the side of his beloved wife in the little cemetery at Jericho, near Eagle, in Waukesha county, last Wednesday afternoon.

William Sherman's brother Leverett also brought his wife (Sophronia) and son (Charles, born in Vermont on September 30, 1836) to Eagle in 1837. Clara Pierce wrote in Historical Gleanings From Melendy's Prairie:

"They came to Melendy's Prairie (Town of Eagle) with an ox team on October 20—where the father immediately set about building a cabin on the homestead previously located by his brother, William Sherman, in 1836. (He was the first white settler in the Town of Eagle.)

This was the first farm east of the County Line Road on Hy. N (almost across from the Stone School). The property originally extended beyond the lake known as 'Beaver Dam Lake.' The school children from the Stone School used to skate from one end of the lake to the other. The well on the Sherman farm used an "old oaken bucket" for many years. Shermans also had a treadmill and used a billy-goat to run it.

Emogene was born April 12, 1841 four miles north of Melendy's Prairie in the Town of Sullivan, at the home of a mid-wife—Mrs. John Burnham. She was said to be the first white child born in the Town of Sullivan. Three weeks later, on a sleigh drawn by oxen, Emogene came to the new house on the farm (which had just been completed) in which she was to live for the next 80 years. It was the finest house around at the time.

Some years later Charlie bought the first grain binder anywhere around and did custom work with his binder and a team of horses at harvest time. He received \$2 a day.

On this homestead Charlie Sherman passed his whole life. His death occurred April 10, 1906. His obituary states: "He was one of the very first settlers in this locality and his endurance of the hardships of a new country developed a strong character for him. Since the death of his parents, he and his only sister, Emogene, have lived on the homestead—where she now remains in part of the house, the other part being occupied by tenants as it has been for the past few years."

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Another early settler was Enoch Sherman. The following obituary appeared in the Eagle Quill on March 30, 1900:

On Friday morning, March 23, after a long illness, occurred the death of Enoch Sherman at his home near the village of Eagle. Funeral services were held at the residence on Monday afternoon, Rev. W.A. McKillop of the Baptist church of Waukesha delivering the funeral address. Many friends and neighbors gathered to pay their last respects to one who has always stood high in the esteem of the community.

Mr. Sherman was born February 24, 1826, at Rutland, Vt. He came to Wisconsin in 1845 and was married to Miss Lurella Walton of Waukesha December 12, 1849. They moved to Eagle in 1856 and purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres which he improved and made to be one of the

finest country homes in this town. In the early life of this town he was a potent factor in all public affairs and was repeatedly chosen to school office in his district. In politics he was a Republican but never sought election to office. In religion the family always belonged to the Baptist church. He was a member of the Masonic fraternity.

His remains were laid away to rest in a vault in the family lot in Oak Ridge cemetery, where lies buried his youngest son, James A., who died October 14, 1896. He leaves surviving him a widow and two sons, Walton S., a retired merchant at Waukesha, and William H. of Waukesha, state agent for the Boardman & Gray Piano company of Albany, N.Y. Also one daughter-in-law and three brothers, Prof. S.S. Sherman, Osborne Sherman of Chicago and Jesse Sherman of Vermont; and two sisters, Miss Mary Sherman and Mrs. Maria McNitt of Milwaukee, besides many grand-children. ♦



Main Street—Eagle as you looked east, photo circa 1908. See Sprague's Grocery, Lorge Drugs, Grose Grocery, B.J. Sherman General Merchandise and Stead Restaurant.

Photo courtesy of Pat Wilton



Vinton J. Sherman in front of the store. Note ice cream parlor section on left.

Photo courtesy of Pat Wilton

Vinton's father, James Sherman, died suddenly of pneumonia in 1896, when Vinton was only five and living in the home in which he had been born at the intersection of what is now 67 and LO. He and his mother, Sylvia Stead Sherman, went to live with her family. Located on the main street in the Village of Eagle, Sherman's Eagle Confectionary Store was owned and operated by Vinton's grandmother early in the century. When his grandmother Sherman's health declined, his mother took over the confectionary. As time passed, other items were added to the stock and Vinton helped more and more in the store. In 1905 the confectionary was demolished and replaced by a well-stocked store. Vinton married Eulalia Clohisy in 1921, and they ran the store until it closed in 1967. Today 117 E. Main Street houses the offices of Steven Steinhoff and American Express Financial Services. The office of Cahners Industrial Maintenance is located at 115.

Information from a Freeman article by Alice Baker and a Mukwonago Chief article by Diana Heagle

O. P. A. Form No. R-306		UNITED STATES OF AMERICA		Not Valid	
Serial No. C 29400		OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION		Date	
SUGAR PURCHASE CERTIFICATE					
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:					
Name: Vinton James Sherman		Address:			
City: Eagle		County: Waukesha		State: Wis.	
is authorized to accept delivery of					
one hundred eighty-one		(181) pounds of sugar			
pursuant to Rationing Order No. 3 (Sugar Rationing Regulations) of, and at a price not to exceed the maximum price established by, the Office of Price Administration.					
Local Rationing Board No. 67-1		Date April 28, 1942			
County: Waukesha		By: Shirley Buzzard			
State: Wis.		Signature of issuing officer			
County: Waukesha		Title: Registrar			
To be retained by Local Rationing Board.					

Certificate courtesy of Pat Wilton

The Story of Standard Time

By the Association of American Railroads RailFan Club

Today when it is 9:00 in Washington, D.C.: what time is it in Virginia? Philadelphia? It's the same all over the east coast, right?

It didn't used to be that way. Back in the early 1800's, every city and town across America had its own time determined by the sun! For example, when it was noon in Washington D.C., it was 12:08 in Philadelphia, 12:12 in New York and 11:51 in Lynchburg VA. When it was noon in Chicago, it was 12:31 in Pittsburgh; 12:24 in Cleveland; 12:09 in Louisville; 11:50 in St. Louis and 11:27 in Omaha. This made it very confusing for the railroads and for people who used the railroads to coordinate with one another.

In Kansas City, there was so much confusion over all the different versions of local time, a Professor H.S. Pritchett, an astronomer, devised a time ball system. These time balls came to be great institutions in their day. Each day at official noon at a particular elevated location, usually atop the city hall, a large ball, 3 or 4 feet in diameter would be dropped from a mast. As the ball dropped, people from different vantage points in the city could view the dropping and set their watches to noon. In larger cities, thousands of people watched the time balls daily. From this tradition sprang the famous New Year's Eve "Ball Drop" in New York City!

This was especially confusing for travelers. Between Maine and California, a traveler would have to change his watch 20 times. In the railroad stations there had to be different clocks for each railroad. In Buffalo, there was one clock for New York Central, one for the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern and one showing local Buffalo time.

At the General Time Convention of October 11, 1883, Standard Time was adopted by the American Railway Association. The plan was for five time zones, four in the United States and one in the eastern provinces of Canada based on mean sun-times on the 60th, 75th, 90th, 105th and 120th meridians west of Greenwich. The directive was sent out to change all railway clocks to the new standard on Sunday, November 18th, 1883.

The American people soon accepted Standard Time. The standardization movement gradually spread to other lands until today it is in almost universal use. ♦

Do You Remember?

1. Where headlight dimmer switches used to be located
2. What a bottle top with holes in it was used for
3. What happened to milk delivered in winter in northern states
4. What popular chewing gum was named for a game of chance
5. What women did to look as if they were wearing stockings during WWII rationing
6. How roller skates were attached to shoes
7. Praise the Lord and pass the _____
8. I'll be down to get you in a _____, honey
9. How butch wax was used
10. The name of the group who made the song "Cabdriver" a hit
11. Who left his heart in San Francisco

ANSWERS

1. On the floor, left of the clutch. Hand controls, popular in Europe, didn't catch on in the USA until the '60s.
2. To sprinkle clothes before ironing. Who had a steam iron?
3. Cold weather caused the milk to freeze and expand, popping the bottle cap.
4. Blackjack.
5. Special makeup was applied, followed by drawing a "seam" down the back of the leg with eyebrow pencil.
6. With clamps, tightened by a skate key, worn on a shoestring around the neck
7. Ammunition
8. Taxi
9. To stiffen hair cut into a flatop, so it stood up
10. The Mills Brothers
11. Tony Bennett, and he sounds just as good today!♦

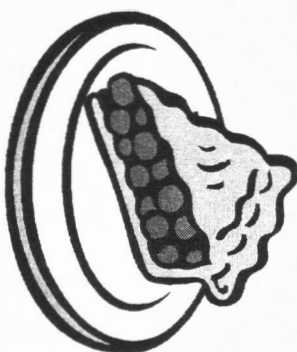
Eagle Historical Society, Inc.
217 W. Main Street
P.O. Box 454
Eagle, WI 53119

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Election Bake Sale

February 18, 2003

7:00am. until the food is gone



This is a fund-raiser for the Eagle Historical Society.
If you can, please support the sale by contributing
something homemade.
Or when you go to vote, please select something from
among the home-baked items before you leave.

Contact person: Welthy Mueller,
707-222-2222