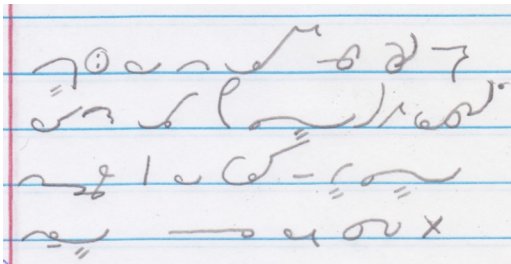


EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

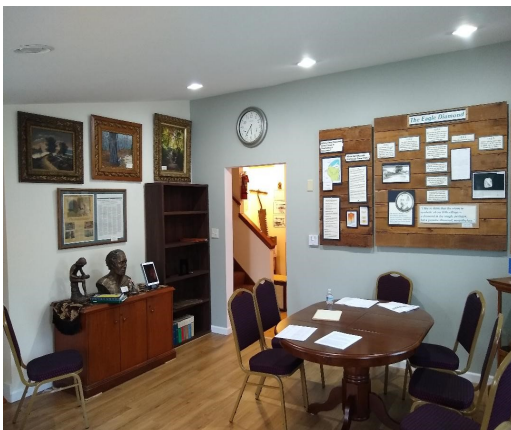
NEWSLETTER

Apr 2023

SHORTHAND TRIVIA



(See Page 7 for translation and answer.)



An inside view of the Vernetta Heare Conference Room Photo by Art Peavy

BAKE SALE

Our Spring Election Day Bake Sale was again very successful. Many thanks to our creative bakers, hungry customers, faithful bake sale committee members (Ellie & Diana Hall and Pat Hawes) and also to



Thank You

the Eagle Town and Village for the permission to use the Municipal Building to host this popular event.

Please check your address label for the year "2023" to determine your renewal status. If you have any questions, please contact Gina Neist at 262-594-8961 or curator@eaglehistoricalsociety.org. Thank you.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Belan, Nathan
N. Belan Carpentry
Jaehn, Russell
Alpha Heating
Machan, Kathleen \$10
Miller, Rick
Miller Enterprises
Pett, Wayne
Pett Construction
Villock, Luke
LV Wall & Ceiling
Watson, Pam \$8

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Single \$8.00

Adler, Pauline

Individual \$10.00

Anderson, Richard

Heidenreich, Lori

McKernan, Deb

Family \$15.00

Frisch, James & Diane

Winzenreid, Ellie

Sustaining \$25.00

Erikson, Gordon & Karen

Zell, Judi & Bill

Sponsor \$50.00

Eagle Centre House, Reine Wells
& Dean Herriges

Eagle Business Association

Kienast, Doris

Steinke, Jesse

Patron \$100.00+

*Andrus, Gary

Enright, David

Moeller, Richard & Nada

***Note** correction from January 2023.

EHS Board

President

Jeff Nowicki, 2024

Vice-President

Eloise Hall, 2023

Secretary

Art Peavy, 2025

Treasurer

Pat Hawes, 2024

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Jim Neist

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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 HOURS:

Wednesdays: 9 am-Noon

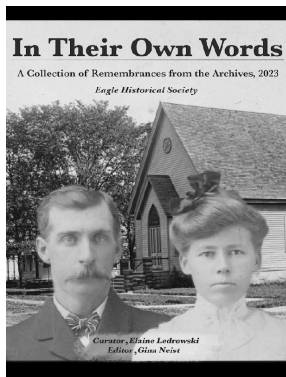
Fridays: 9 am-Noon

Saturdays: 9 am-Noon

WEBSITE:

www.eaglehistoricalsociety.org

FACEBOOK: Like us at
Eagle Historical Society



EHS researchers have been busy browsing the archives to find fascinating essays, newspaper reports, and letters from the earliest days of our village right up to the present.

The stories have been categorized as: Friends & Neighbors, Our Eagle Memories Live On, Events to Remember, and Eagle Landmarks, and an anthology has been printed.

Mark your calendar for a presentation highlighting some of the essays from the book, ***In Their Own Words***, at the Eagle Municipal Building **on Wednesday, April 26, from 6:30-7:30 pm.**

The books will be on sale that evening. Bring a friend to our first program of the year!



Do you know how important native Wisconsin plants are in providing important food sources for pollinating insects? Have you ever heard of a “pollinator hotel?”

On **Saturday, May 20, from 11:00 am-2:00 pm**, you are invited to learn how we are working with the Friends of the North Prairie Native Gardens to incorporate native plants into our gardens. You will be able to watch as we plant our new native flowers and grasses. Members of the North Prairie group will be on hand to answer questions and explain the benefits of a pollinator friendly ecosystem. We will demonstrate how easy it is to make your own “pollinator hotel” and have materials on hand to help get you started.



Hope to see you there!



I Am Not Invisible (IANI)



Join us on **Saturday, June 3, from 1:00-2:00 pm for A Salute to Women in the Military.** Bring a lawn chair to our beautiful Veterans Memorial and patio for an enlightening and enjoyable afternoon.

Welcome our featured guest, Alli Chase from the Alice Baker Library, hear the stories of women like Aurel Baker Pardee, a Red Cross nurse in WWI, and tap your feet to music spanning the decades from our own Kettle Moraine Blues. Our museum will be open for viewing of a traveling exhibit from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum designed to increase awareness and generate dialogue about the role of women veterans.

A special invitation is extended to all women who are currently serving or who have served in the Armed Forces.

Refreshments will be served!

From Sousa to Sing Along . . . Music for Summer Fun

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 9**, for the Annual EHS Ice Cream Social and Band Concert at the Village Park! Enjoy free cake and ice cream starting at 1:30 pm followed by the Palmyra Eagle Community Band Concert under the direction of “Mr. Ed” Pierce at 2:00 pm. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy an afternoon of complimentary treats and entertainment.



John Philip SOUSA
(1854-1932)

By Art & Carrie Peavy

In these parts, ripened muskmelons and harvested sweet corn go hand in hand with warmer weather and family gatherings, and the Loefer family has been supplying these staples for picnics for two generations. Bob Loefer graciously welcomed us into the family farmhouse to share memories of his life as a truck and dairy farmer so that we may now share his story with our readers.



Newlyweds Ernest & Hazel Loefer

Loefer Acres is located on land previously farmed by the Breidenbachs back in 1852 and then by the Rudolphs in 1921. In 1927, Bob's parents, Ernest and Hazel, purchased the 85-acre farm. That same year, the State of Wisconsin began straightening out old Hwy. 59 (Antique Road) and later purchased about three acres from them in 1982. Elmer Mason used to haul milk up old Hwy. 59 to the Pet Dairy in North Prairie and really appreciated this road improvement. Bob and his wife Carol took over in 1979 and have farmed the land with the help of their children ever since.



Ernest, Hazel & daughter Betty

Bob recalls not having electricity until 1937 or 1938. They used kerosene lanterns to do chores until then. Five tons of coal were delivered by truck and dropped down a chute into the basement to heat the house. Burning wood during the day, coal at night, and banking the ashes extended the heat into the morning hours.



Bob & sister Betty

In 1928, a tornado came across Hwy. 67, through the Grotjan Farm and Wally Ridgeman's place which moved Ernest's shed just after he had put green hay inside of it. In 2010, Bob was playing cards downtown when that tornado came through, and he decided to just stay put. In the late 1930s, the snow was so high they had to use shovels to dig a path to the barn and outbuildings to do chores because they also had dairy and beef cows, chickens and sheep until about 1995. The top of the silo is seen in the photo at left after one such snowstorm.



Bob & sister Betty

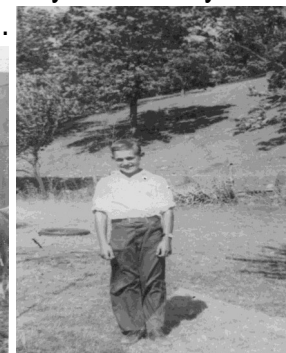
Bob was in 4-H with Art Stead and showed Holstein heifers at the Waukesha and State Fairs. Art's dad invited 4-H kids to the farm where they enjoyed home-churned ice cream scooped into the centers of muskmelons. Hazel was the 4-H leader for the girls and Eleanor Crawley for the boys. Bob was a 4-H leader for a few years and also a member of the Future Farmers of America.



Bob & Molly



May 1, 1941



Bob on 11th Birthday



Bob, Betty & lambs

In the 1930s, kids would often pilfer melons and break them on the road in Palmyra. Once, Ernest took matters into his own hands and ran kids riding in two cars off the road near the DNR station when he caught them in the act. He made them come back the next night and eat muskmelons.

Bob went to school in Eagle for nine years until 1948 and then finished high school in Palmyra. He chuckles remembering riding the school bus in 1949, the year that *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was released, and Pat Reed (a freshman) sang that song continuously. He lost two heifers that year when the railroad came

through with fencing that they crossed over and were then hit by a steam engine. There was a steep incline between Palmyra and Eagle, and a train had to split 100 cars in order to make it work. Bob recalls riding on one steam engine, the Galloping Goose, which went to Waukesha and Madison.

In 1959, Bob went out West for 19 days. Bill Murn needed a partner to take turns driving a 1955 Ford to TX, CA, AZ, NM and across the border into Mexico. Most of the trip was on Route 66, which was paved, but a lot of their travel in New Mexico found them on dirt roads where cattle ran loose.

Once the frost is gone, Bob starts breaking up ground with intentions to plant by the first of May allowing time for a second crop. In years past, he planted one-two acres of melons as well as squash, peppers, zucchini, strawberries, tomatoes and 1/4 acre of cucumbers, which they took up to the Eagle Pickle factory. He is always careful not to plant certain plants alongside of one another. Deer like to eat a lot of his corn and also get into his zucchini on occasion. Bob knows they are in his fields when he sees zucchinis being tossed up into the air. He tests new seeds each year to determine if they would be good to plant in large quantities the following year and is always open to new varieties of seeds and crops. He even tried growing basil last year.



May, 1969 Planting Season

Ernest sold produce at the West Allis Farmers Market from 1934 until 1982. Labor Day weekend was his biggest sale ever—40 bushels of muskmelon in one day. Back then, Bob planted white and yellow corn by hand and made a mistake once by combining the seeds. When he took the corn to West Allis, they didn't buy it. Now, 90% of what he plants is bicolor. Carol started selling in Palmyra in 1982. They sold 800 bushels of muskmelons over one season and 2000 ears of sweet corn in one day.



In the late 1950s, Bob taught music to 10-to 12-year-olds; he played piano, organ, and accordion and provided musical entertainment at local establishments and for special occasions such as New Year's Eve and weddings.



Bob & Ernest in June 1965 during strawberry season



Corn planter collection

The farm work was demanding, but the Loeffers did find some time for recreation. They played cards with three other couples, ice fished in Palmyra, went to Wednesday night movies in the summertime and saw the Ratner Players at the Masonic Hall with live actors. Bob and Carol bowled weekly at Myra Lanes, and some of their teammates included Jack Crawley, Darrell Chapman, and Rich Armstrong. While Bob fell nine pins short of qualifying for the Senior Nationals, Carol went on to the Finals. Bob was the secretary of the league for 25 years, but Carol did all of the work. Carol has been his partner throughout the whole farming process and during all kinds of weather, although she modestly describes herself as a "relative newcomer since she's only been doing this for 40 years and wasn't originally from Eagle."

Bob and Carol have built up quite a following, and repeat customers who make it a point to incorporate their sweet corn stand into their annual travel plans include: teachers from TX and AK; hunters bound for WY; fishermen headed to Canada; a truck farmer in NY; and a mom who meets her son from FL in KY.

For 40 years, loyal customers have been stopping for produce grown on Loefer Acres. Their daughter, Michelle, has been instrumental in continuing this tradition. From mid summer through late fall customers can either shop at a stand set up in their driveway about two miles west of downtown Eagle on Hwy. 59 or from the blue Chevy truck with the large umbrella on top parked near Hwy. H going out of town in Palmyra.

Photos provided by Bob & Carol Loefer.

by Dana Houk*Photo by author*

*A unique history of this former farmhand buried in Eagle's Oak Ridge Cemetery was recently discovered, quite unintentionally, when my husband, Roger, read **The Freeman** newspaper column On This Day in Waukesha County, 95 years ago, on August, 4, 2022.*

Nelson L. Mackold passed away on August 4, 1927 at his home in Bird City, KS. As unremarkable as that news might be, what followed in the description of his life was surprising. Nelson had lived for 30 years with two bullets lodged in his head; one above his right eye and the other at the base of his skull!

How and why was he shot? The appalling answers are found in a series of historical newspaper articles chronicling a heinous crime which shocked Waukesha County residents at the time.

According to the **Waukesha Daily Freeman** obituary, Nelson was one of four victims of an unprovoked shooting at the prosperous farmstead on Guthrie Rd. in the Town of Waukesha owned by Alexander Harris, age 41. On May 7, 1897, former hired man, William Pautz (aka Pouch) from Manitowoc, murdered Alexander and severely wounded his wife, Emma, age 44, after enjoying their overnight hospitality and accommodations. Also permanently disfigured by several bullet wounds was 24-year-old Helen Vesbach, a hired helper who married Alexander's younger brother, Charles Harris, in 1899. Employee, Nelson Mackold, age 28, was shot while assisting his boss, Alexander, in the barn with milking chores. Afterwards, William rode away from the gruesome scene on his bicycle to nearby Hales Mill Pond (renamed Linnie Lac) where he committed suicide by gunshot. His body was recovered from the lake ten days later and positively identified by his brother, Edward.

Authorities speculated on several motives for William who had no prior criminal record. It appeared that he ransacked the home and stole an undisclosed amount of cash and jewelry. He may also have been enthralled with Helen and enraged by her rejection. Another plausible explanation was his questionable sanity.

Respected by his neighbors and community, Alexander Harris is buried next to his wife, Emma, who lived until 1908, in the New Berlin Center Cemetery located at the intersection of Hwys. ES and I. Helen, who lived to be 74 years of age, and Charles are laid to rest in the Sunnyside Cemetery in New Berlin.

William Pautz is interred at the Prairie Home Cemetery in Waukesha.

Nelson Mackold's grave is next to the headstone of Edward L. Mackold, presumably his brother, in the Oak Ridge Cemetery on Hwy. 67 south of the Village of Eagle.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

*Photo by author*

What a tragic memory that painful day in May must have been for victims Nelson Mackold and the Harris family.

An interesting coincidence is that Nelson Mackold resided in Bird City, KS, while “Lucky Lindy”, flying stuntman and pilot, Charles Lindbergh, performed there in aerial exhibitions and earned the title, “The Daredevil”. He flew non-stop for 33.5 hours on May 20-21, 1927; accomplishing the first solo flight from New York to Paris.

Sources:

The Freeman, Community/On This Day in Waukesha County, 95 years ago Aug. 4, 1927

www.linkstothepast.com/waukesha/obitsM.php, Nelson L. Mackold

www.ancestry.com/search/?name=Helen+B+Vesbach+Harris

www.ancestry.com/search/?name=Charles+Harris

www.newberlin.org, Berlin Center Cemetery Tour pamphlet

www.newspapers.com/clip/2929255/William-pautz-murder-1897, Find Pouch’s Body

www.findagrave.com/memorial/84492555/william-pantz

www.findagrave.com/memorial/45696301/helen-b-harris

<https://kansaspublradio.org/blog/kpr-staff/fortune-and-fame-february-8-2019>

Nelson Mackold

(supplemental information compiled by Mike Rice)

The Macholdt family arrived in New York from Saxony, Germany in 1854. John Christian Macholdt was a cooper, one who makes wooden barrels and buckets. He became naturalized, and he and his family moved to Waukesha about 1860.

The 1870 Census shows his son, Frederick Mackold, and family living in Waukesha. He is listed as a farm laborer, and soon after they moved to Eagle, WI.

In 1880, his immediate neighbors were the John Scheideler and Fred Gosa families who lived west of the current Village of Eagle.

Nelson was one of five children born to Frederick and Sarah (Wright) Mackold. He was attending school in Eagle as a 10 year old while his 15-year-old brother Edward was doing odd farm jobs. Edward and sister, Louisa, contracted diphtheria and survived, but their mother Sarah and newborn brother, John, both died of it shortly afterwards in 1882.

Edward and Nelson were helping their father run the farm when the shooting incident detailed in the previous article occurred in May of 1897. Frederick died in 1913, and Nelson moved to Kansas where he homesteaded 160 acres of land.

Nelson never married.

The Machold name is also found spelled “Machold” or “Macholdt”.

Day, Rosanne M.*Mar. 31, 1939-Jan. 11, 2023*

Rosanne M. Day (nee Krebsbach) found peace on Wed., Jan. 11, 2023, at the age of 83.

She is survived by her children Thomas "Tod" Day (Andrea Houseman) and Dianne Day (Doug Epker); her grandchildren Nathan, Leah, and Hannah Lueck; her great-grandchild Gunner; and her siblings Janet Loffredo, Michael Krebsbach and Lesley Gramling. Further survived by other relatives and friends.

Preceded in death by her sister Judy Zieher.

Visitation was held from 10 a.m. until the time of the memorial service at 12 noon on Sat., Jan. 21, at the Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral Home, 930 Main St. (Hwy. ES), Mukwonago.

In lieu of flowers, memorials to donor's choice were appreciated.

Schmidt & Bartelt Funeral and Cremation Services in Mukwonago served the family. For more information, call 262-363-7126 or visit online at www.schmidtandbartelt.com.

THE EAGLE QUILL

The Eagle Quill was a weekly newspaper from Eagle, WI, founded in 1880 and was in business from 1880-1959. William E. Hennessy was editor from 1880-1894 followed by Grant H. Lawton from 1894-1898. Henry M. Loibl was a long-time publisher and proprietor of the newspaper from 1898 until his death in 1943, though he was still listed as proprietor until 1947. Isabelle (Lins) Engebretsen was editor during that time along with her sister, Louise H. Lins, as assistant editor. Isabelle then ran the newspaper from 1947-1952 when it merged with the *Palmyra Enterprise* newspaper from Palmyra, WI.

The four-page newspaper was published every Friday with news about Eagle and the surrounding communities. It sold for \$1.00 per year in 1900 up through the 1920s when the price went up to \$1.25 per year. By 1950, the price had increased to \$2.00 per year and when it merged with the *Palmyra Enterprise*, it became an eight-page newspaper with four pages dedicated to the Palmyra area and four pages dedicated to the Eagle area. It sold for \$2.50 per year.

The Eagle Historical Society has over 1,000 *Eagle Quill* editions in our archives. We are in the process of scanning and making the weekly *Eagle Quill* available for viewing online at our website.

Read the news that rural America read during the first half of the 20th century, including the War years of WW1 and WW2, and the Great Depression of the 1930s. See the advertisements of Eagle area businesses at that time and feel the passion of the period. (See two excerpts reprinted below on left.) *By Mike Rice*

IN AND ABOUT TOWN

The cold weather continues, although the snow has melted away. Wednesday morning it was quite cold, and as a consequence farm work is retarded.

EAGLE OPERA HOUSE

Fred Thompson and his horse Silver King in "All Around the Frying Pan," April 18th. 10 and 25 cents. *The Eagle Quill*, April 16, 1926, p. 1

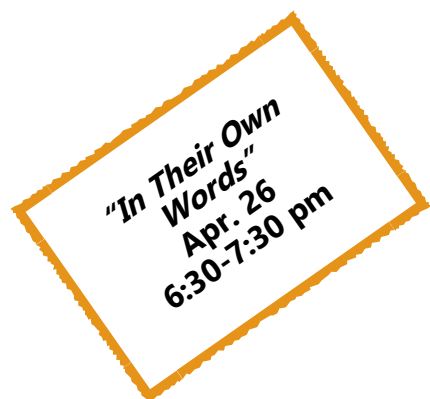
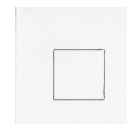
SHORTHAND TRIVIA

(continued from Page 1)

Question: Where can readers now find newspaper articles written about Eagle and its surrounding communities which were printed in *The Eagle Quill* many years ago?

Answer: Go to eaglehistoricalsociety.org and click our [EAGLE QUILL NEWSPAPER](http://www.eaglequillnewspaper.com) link. We are just beginning this ambitious project, so please keep checking our web-site for updates as time allows you to do so and enjoy!

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



Mailing Label

TENTATIVE 2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Apr 26 *In Their Own Words* Presentation 6:30-7:30 pm at Eagle Municipal Building
- May 20 Pollinator Garden Event 11:00 am-2:00 pm on the Museum Patio
- Jun 3 Program: [A Salute to Women in the Military](#) featuring Allie Chase, Phil Hall, and The Kettle Moraine Blues 1:00 pm on the Museum Patio
- Jul 9 Ice Cream Social-1:30 pm, Palmyra Eagle Community Band Concert-2 pm in the Village Park, [From Sousa to Sing Along . . . Music for Summer Fun](#)
- Aug TBA Picnic with the Police in the Village Park
- Sep TBA Open House on the Museum Patio
- Oct 28 Pumpkin Party at the Museum
- Nov 7 Election Day Bake Sale and Community Outreach