

This Article was given to SUE Wambold by the Late John Day - Author unknown

## Eagleville History

In the autumn of 1830 a man by the name of Daniel Bigelow came into the wilderness that is now known as Eagleville. He found there a forested area and a marshland. In the forest there were Indians and wild animals. With his own hands and very few tools he built a little saw mill. The next year he built a grist mill. He could not secure buhrs for his mill so he hunted around until he found two granite stones. These he fitted and dressed and for years they were the only stones used in the mill to grind the grain.

The stones were hardly as large as the bottom of a water pail and they could not turn out a grist much faster than a coffee mill. When a pioneer came to the mill to have his grist ground he often received the shocking news that his turn would not come for two or three days and it also happened that he would have to wait a week before his turn came.

Daniel Bigelow ran the mill all day and his son ran it all night but still the pioneers had to wait days for their turns. They could not stay at the mill so they had to turn around and drive back home. In those days there were no roads nor bridges and when winter was breaking up it was dangerous to try to cross swollen streams with a wagon load of grain. So going to the mill was one of the great trials of the pioneer.

Andrew Scholfield bought the mill in 1842 and two years later he built a new mill and installed fine machinery. Harvey Wambold purchased the mill in 1875 and operated it for twenty four years. In 1899 he sold it to his son, Leander, and he ran the mill for twenty years. So for almost half a century the Wambold family operated the Eagleville Mill.

The Wambold family converted the marshland of Eagleville into a beautiful lake that is known today as Eagle Lake. Many people from Chicago, Milwaukee and other places have built homes around this lake and many of these residents remain in Eagleville all year round.

Years ago the children who went to Eagleville School were the children of the farmers of the district. Today the situation has changed for the largest per cent of children attending the school are children of the lake residents.

The mill brought many pioneers to Eagleville and soon stores, shops and taverns were started. A post-office was opened about 1844 and Andrew Scholfield was the first postmaster. Previous to that time the people of Eagleville were

Bee trees were numerous in the early days and the early settlers of Waukesha County were interested in the number of Indian ladders found everywhere. These were made of long saplings, the limbs being cut off eight or ten inches from the trunk to answer for rungs on which to climb. These ladders were used by the Indians for climbing bee trees. They mixed the wild honey with their wild rice and corn. The whites also used wild honey which was not only plentiful but delicious.

During the winter when wolves were hungry they came close to dwellings and often attacked the settlers. Isaac Judson, while on his way from Milwaukee to Prairieville (Waukesha) in 1830 was set upon by a pack of wolves. He had a large cloak that he would, ~~shave off them~~ and this ~~would~~ confuse them for a moment. Then he would run for his life. He kept this up until he reached home where he collapsed.

As late as 1841 a family in Pewaukee left the log house alone for two days while they went on a visit. On returning after dark they found an old wolf and her whelps in possession. She had eaten quantities of food and torn several articles of clothing into shreds to make a nest. While these stories of wolves were not of Eagleville it is very likely that the wolves in Eagleville were equally as troublesome.

The government bought the land from the Indians and moved them westward in 1837 but they used to return at certain seasons to hunt. They would come back in bands of about 100 and sometimes remain in the woods all winter.

The town received its name in a singular manner. In the year 1836, while Thomas Sugden, John Coats and Mr. Garton were prospecting they came to a beautiful prairie about 1/2 times 2 1/2 miles in area. Here, hovering and curving over a large mound was a monster bald eagle. From that time the prairie

and town were called "Eagle." Ville means village and since Eagleville was the metropolis of the township it was called "Eagle Village" or Eagleville.

In September 1849 a school meeting was held and it was voted to raise \$300 to be used for building a school. The next month another meeting was held for the purpose of determining where the school would be located. At that meeting Mr. Benedict A. Bovee offered to give a Deed in Trust for one half acre of land on the east line of his farm. Mr. Bovee's offer was accepted and it was agreed that the school be completed in seven months.

But that school was not built.

The school was torn down in 1930 and a new school was built. The old school was seventy-one years old when it was torn down.

At first the teachers were elected by the term. During the first twenty years there were thirty-three teachers elected. The first teacher who taught in Eagleville was Lucy Vedder. She taught the winter term of 1849-50 and she received \$12 per month.

The Dovee family served on the school board for forty-five years, the Sprague family for thirty-five years, Leander Wambold for thirty-three years, John Partridge for fifteen years, Charles Green for eighteen years and Charles Cruver for fifteen years.

For the first sixty years the school was heated by wood. The average amount of wood used during a year was four cords and the average price paid was \$4 a cord. So for sixty years the school was heated at an average cost of \$18 a year. The boys who lived near the school tended the fires and they were paid five cents a day.

The total cost of running the school the first year, 1849-50, was \$57.78. That included teacher's wages, heating and supplies.

The large boys helped with the farm work in summer but when winter came they went to school. The records show that in the year of 1865-66, thirty-five pupils attended school during the winter term but only seventeen attended during the spring term. The two largest families of the district were the Henry Thomas family which consisted of twelve children, and the August Hoffman family which consisted of eleven children.

A distinguished early settler was Matthias J. Bovee, the grandfather of James Bovee. Matthias J. Bovee was born in Amsterdam, N. Y. in 1793. While he was still in his teens he taught school in winter and worked on a farm in summer. He represented his town for a number of times on the county board and was several times chairman of the board. In 1834 he was elected to Congress and represented his district two years in Congress. In 1843 he and his family, consisting of his wife, nine children and other relatives, moved to Wisconsin and settled in Eagle township. One of his sons, Marvin H. Bovee worked in four different territories in an effort to have capitol punishment abolished. He succeeded in one territory - Wisconsin.

Joseph Boland has the honor of being the oldest resident of the district. He is not only the oldest resident of the district, he is also the only one of the early settlers