

Shearer Meeting 3-6-26 / Status Update Summary

Attendees

- ☒ Jamie Socolick (maiden name: Saddy)
- ☒ Jacqueline Fujinaka (maiden name: Saddy)
- ☒ Randy Saddy
- ☒ Pamela Saddy
- ☒ Jeff (Eagle Historical Society)
- ☒ Art (Eagle Historical Society)
- ☒ Elaine (Eagle Historical Society)
- ☒ Mike (Eagle Historical Society}

Purpose and Context

- ☒ Sync between Shearer/Schearer descendants and the Eagle Historical Society to:
- ☒ Review and digitize family archives (photos, obituaries, wills, certificates).
- ☒ Validate local history (properties, businesses, civic roles).
- ☒ Align on gaps in the historical record and define next research steps.
- ☒ Date: Friday, March 6, 2026.

Workstream Updates

- ☒ Archives and Digitization
- ☒ Permissions and sharing:
 - ☒ Jamie has shared extensive originals and scans (photos, clippings, documents) and granted permission to post on the Eagle Historical Society website.
 - ☒ Many assets are already uploaded on Ancestry; originals include captions and provenance notes from Roberta.
- ☒ Scanning status and needs:
 - ☒ Higher-quality originals identified for several obituaries (notably Lettie Lumb and James Shearer) compared to current society copies.

☒ Society is actively scanning on-site; labeling is required to preserve identities and context.

☒ Plan to photograph and scan unique artifacts (e.g., Lettie's hand mirror; Google Lens attempted for identification).

☒ Organization and labeling:

☒ Several photos feature unknown individuals and unconfirmed locations (e.g., older/younger women with Clare and Theresa; brick-house scenes).

☒ Jamie to provide labeled digital versions; EHS to maintain cross-referenced catalog entries.

☒ Property and Places Research

☒ Shearer Farm (Shearer Drive; formerly Eagle Drive):

☒ Acreage/appraisal:

☒ Farm variously referenced as 110–120 acres; 1961 survey noted 110 acres with 85 cultivated and ~25 wooded; assessed at \$23,000 (~\$100/acre).

☒ Occupancy and transfers:

☒ Clare and Theresa lived at the farm; Waldo and Irene rented, then paid off the property over time; Roberta spent early childhood there.

☒ Artifacts and events:

☒ Ward/Wade School bell was kept at the farm for years; family recalls ringing it.

☒ Family anecdotes include Waldo's tractor accident and a lightning strike that killed cattle.

☒ Grocery Store and Post Office (Clare Shearer)

☒ Tenure and location hypothesis:

☒ Clare farmed in Eagle until 1914; served as postmaster until 1919; operated a village grocery store until 1923.

☒ Strong working theory: Clare's store/post office was in the building formerly next to today's fire station (site long served as store/post office through ~1945).

☒ Crosswaith's "drug store" site ruled out based on deed/historical chain; further verification needed.

☒ Jericho Street Houses

☒ Property references:

☒ 1917: “Postmaster Clare Shearer purchased the Knight place on Jericho Street.”

☒ 1906: “James Shearer moved from the K.A. Hall residence to the John C. Baker house on Jericho Street.”

☒ Next steps:

☒ Use Sanborn fire insurance maps and plat records to pinpoint locations and owners; correlate with photo backdrops (arched windows, porch changes).

☒ VonRueden Farm and Eagle Home Hospital

☒ Family linkage and site:

☒ VonRueden’s tied to Eagle Home Hospital/Eagle Home (hostel); land reportedly donated by Jacob VonRueden; site now under DNR oversight and still standing off Hwy 67.

☒ Research need:

☒ Confirm original donation records, usage history, and exact parcel boundaries.

☒ Wade/Ward School

☒ Education and relocation:

☒ Children attended “Wade School” (also referenced as “Ward” in some materials); building now on Old World Wisconsin grounds with a basement added.

☒ Artifacts:

☒ Bell custody history to be documented; confirm current ownership and provenance trail.

☒ Genealogy and Family Lines

☒ Core lineage (Shearer/VonRueden/Lumb/Kramer/Leibel):

☒ Clare (Clare) Shearer married Theresa VonRueden in 1905 (St. Theresa Catholic Church).

☒ Children: Waldo, Robert, Howard.

☒ Clare later worked for the Waukesha Highway Department; retired 1950; served as Eagle village clerk and one two-year term as village president (c. 1933–1939).

☒ Robert Shearer married Alice VonRueden; lived in New York for a period; Roberta Shearer was born there.

☒ Alice fell ill (family lore: tooth infection) and died when Roberta was nine months old; Roberta was brought back by train, raised by Waldo & Irene and by grandparents Clare & Theresa.

☒ James Shearer (Clare's father) married Lettie Lumb (Lumb's from Troy; Prussia origins). James's father Timothy Shearer also lived in Troy. Multiple Shearer–Lumb interconnections.

☒ Irene (née Kramer) connected to the Kramer family; Kramer–Rockteacher ties noted.

☒ Bovee linkage: John Isaac Bovee married Frances Lumb (sister of Lettie Lumb), creating additional family connections.

☒ Leibel branch associated with Theresa's maternal line.

☒ Name spellings and consistency:

☒ “Shearer,” “Schearer,” and “Scheer” appear in records variably; obituaries and clippings show mixed usage; standardization pending.

☒ Timelines and schooling:

☒ Waldo left school after 8th grade to support Robert's education at Marquette University.

☒ Roberta attended Mukwonago High School in a former house-like building downtown.

☒ Community Roles and Recognition

☒ Waldo Shearer:

☒ Volunteer firefighter for 44 years; treasurer of the fire district for 38 years; town of Eagle board member for ~20 years; chairman at the time of his death; clerk of the Ward/Wade School Board; served on Eagle School Board until 1971.

☒ Fire department photos dated 1939; group photos at Palestine School (Hwy 59).

☒ “Waldo Shearer Day” covered by local press; a plaque was reportedly installed, current location unknown.

☒ Irene:

☒ Telephone operator (Northwest Telephone) for 17 years; stayed overnight at the switchboard building during shifts.

☒ Estate (1979) valued at ~\$182,000 (land contract ~\$11,000; bank ~\$12,000; remainder land/stock/bonds); bequests included \$250 to St. Theresa's and \$1,000 to Melvin Rockteacher (family/godson connection).

☒ Legal statements documented Roberta's residency periods for inheritance tax purposes.

☒ Artifacts Reviewed On-Site

☒ Photographs: Clare & Theresa with sons; Waldo and Robert; Howard; Roberta childhood and high school; Eagle Springs Lake canoe-fight images; wedding and first communion images; Wade/Ward School and brick-house backdrops; 1939 fire department; Palestine School photos.

☒ Documents: Obituaries (Lettie Lumb, James Shearer, others); prayer cards; wills (Irene, Clare); Irene's baptismal certificate (St. Theresa's); farm appraisal/survey (1961).

☒ Memorabilia: Lettie Lumb's autograph book; Lettie's hand mirror ("Gibson mirror" candidate; Google Lens tests suggest "Marie Antoinette" style but inconclusive); telephone switchboard furniture (restored from a vanity conversion).

☒ Family notebooks: Roberta's curated notes on family events, roles, and property movements, including wedding details and community service summaries.

Decisions

☒ Proceed with digitizing Jamie's higher-quality originals; society to scan and catalog with attribution.

☒ Society to post selected materials to the website, crediting the Shearer/VonRueden family and noting variable "Shearer/Schearer" spellings.

☒ Use Sanborn fire maps and plat records to clarify Jericho Street properties and the store/post office location; society to distribute digital copies to Jamie.

☒ Add a Shearer Farm entry to the EHS Farm Project using Jamie's forthcoming written history and selected images.

☒ Continue using image-recognition tools (e.g., Google Lens) to identify specific artifacts (e.g., hand mirror) and architectural backdrops.

Open Questions and Risks

☒ Exact location and chain of ownership for Clare's grocery store/post office remain unconfirmed; requires deeper deed and postmaster records research.

☒ Identity of older/younger women in early 1900s photos with Clare and Theresa is unknown; could be Lettie Lumb or Theresa's relatives.

☒ Which brick house appears in multiple family photos (is it next door on Jericho)? Need to match architectural features.

- ❑ Location/status of the “Waldo Shearer Day” plaque is unknown.
- ❑ Wade vs. Ward school naming inconsistency across documents needs standardization.
- ❑ Discrepancy in farm acreage (110 vs. 116 vs. 120 acres) across sources; should be reconciled in official records and captions.
- ❑ Wedding location notes:
 - ❑ Clare & Theresa: St. Theresa (1905).
 - ❑ Mike & Roberta: St. Theresa (1954), with mention of Genesee Depot reception/parade; confirm narrative details in captions.

Action Items

@Jamie: Send a concise written history of the Shearer Farm (timeline, acreage, occupants, notable events) for inclusion in the EHS Farm Project.

@EHS (Jeff/Elaine): Scan Jamie’s higher-quality originals (Lettie Lumb and James Shearer obituaries, photos) and replace lower-quality website copies.

@EHS (Web/Archives): Post selected digitized materials to the EHS website with proper credits and notes on variant “Shearer/Schearer” spellings.

@EHS (Records): Email Jamie the Sanborn fire insurance maps and relevant plat records covering Jericho Street and the village center.

@EHS (Research): Verify Clare’s store/post office location via deed chains, postmaster appointment records, and business directories; document findings.

@Jamie: Provide labeled digital versions of photos (names, dates, locations), especially those with unidentified individuals and brick-house backdrops.

@EHS (Collections): Catalog and write provenance notes for the Wade/Ward School bell history and its connection to the Shearer farm.

@EHS (Facilities/Research): Locate the “Waldo Shearer Day” plaque or confirm its disposition; update the public record accordingly.

@Jeff: Re-run image recognition on Lettie’s hand mirror and document likely maker/style/date; add notes to the artifact record.

@EHS (Research): Reconcile the farm acreage discrepancies (110/116/120 acres) using surveys, tax rolls, and appraisals; standardize in captions.