
BUFFALO COUNTY LORE

Newsletter from the
Buffalo County Historical Society
Alma, Wisconsin

SUMMER 2022

IN THIS EDITION

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Cochrane Star Ball Club 1910

Standing: Ray Guettinger, Wilfred Kaufman, George Rohrer, Dewey Huber, John Lindred, Mildore Lindred, Irvin Schultz
Front Row: John Fetting (Snoozie), Robert Morning, Emil Krumholtz (Buttermaker)



ROSIE'S REPORT

Greetings from your Executive Director,
Addie Rose Elliott

Hello BCHS friends and supporters! As so often it goes, the summer is whizzing by. Everything is looking lush and beautiful in our little corner of the world with fall just around the bend. The summer bounty is certainly showing itself; aren't we fortunate to live in such a fertile and productive area?

In this issue of the Lore, we are taking the opportunity to highlight the communities of Cochrane and Buffalo City. One of our primary goals through the BCHS is to lend support in strengthening our local historical societies in any circumstance we are able. The Buffalo City/Cochrane Historical Society was regularly meeting before Covid, but as of late has not. We at the BCHS hope to help breathe new life into the Buffalo City/Cochrane Historical Society by bringing together interested people and facilitating initial meetings.

Cochrane, Buffalo City, and the surrounding areas are so rich with history and we are excited to share some of it with you during this year's Backroads Tour. The tour will take place on October 1st and will visit sites in Buffalo City and Cochrane. We will also tour through the beautiful Rose Valley and learn of its significance to our area. The tour will begin at 10:30 in Buffalo City at the Buffalo City Park. Please don't hesitate to speak with us throughout the day if you're interested in becoming a member of the Buffalo City/Cochrane Historical Society. We hope you can join us!

The BCHS wishes to thank you all for your support! We continue to receive a great number donations and new memberships, and we most heartily thank you for your consideration and generosity. We're so glad that you share in our belief that Buffalo County's rich history is worth preserving and sharing- now and far into the future. Until next time, we wish you all good health and happiness!

OUR MISSION

To serve as an easily accessible source for local historical societies, genealogists, government and others by researching and preserving Buffalo County history, past and present.

OFFICE HOURS

Our office on the third floor of the County Courthouse, 407 South Second Street in Alma, is open:

9-4 Mon, Wed, and Fri

Tuesday and Thursdays by appt.

Phone: 608-685-6290

Email: office@bchsonline.com

IN MEMORIAM:

JIM BREE

By Chris Kruger

TRISH MERTES

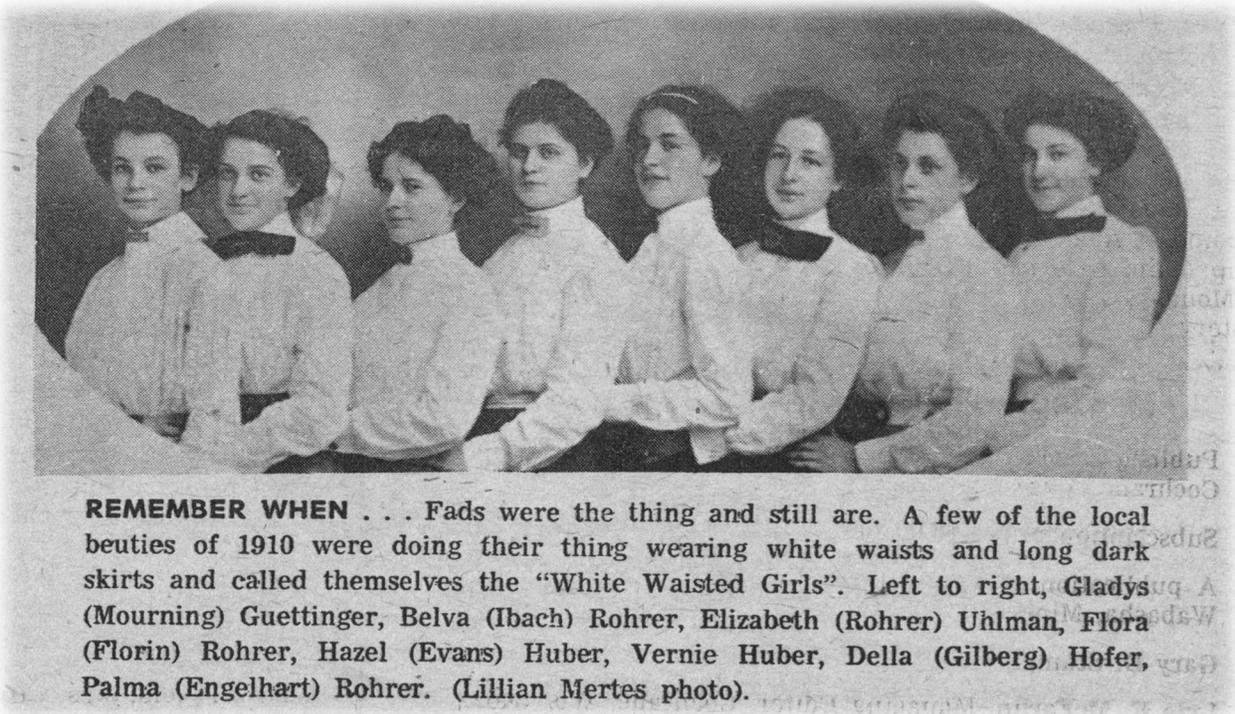
By Jeanne Hofer

IRVIN YELLE

By Kathy Kosidowski
By David and Sandra Ebert

EMMETT KELLER

By Anne Keller



REMEMBER WHEN . . . Fads were the thing and still are. A few of the local beauties of 1910 were doing their thing wearing white waists and long dark skirts and called themselves the "White Waisted Girls". Left to right, Gladys (Mourning) Guettinger, Belva (Ibach) Rohrer, Elizabeth (Rohrer) Uhlman, Flora (Florin) Rohrer, Hazel (Evans) Huber, Vernie Huber, Della (Gilberg) Hofer, Palma (Engelhart) Rohrer. (Lillian Mertes photo).

"Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both."

~ C. Wright Mills

Buffalo City, A History

It's Small, but That's Not All

By Frances Bowler Edstrom

Winona Post and Shopper, June 29, 1988

A while ago, Vic and Marge Papenfuss wrote a book about Buffalo City, Wisconsin. Buffalo City is located on the Mississippi River, between Fountain City and Alma. These days, Buffalo City is mainly a resort town, with many summer cottages along its shores in addition to the homes of its 800 or so permanent residents. Restaurants, taverns, a gas station, and a grocery store, rooms and cabins for rent round out the businesses that keep the town going.

There's no main street, no business district, and the total area of Buffalo City is two square miles. It is, as E.F. Ganz wrote in his 1935 "Story of Buffalo City", the smallest incorporated city in the United States.

The Papenfusses had moved to Buffalo City in 1970, and, as new residents, were treated to all the old rumors about the beginnings of their new home. For instance, Vic Papenfuss says in his introduction, the story goes that at one time Buffalo City had as many as 2000 residents. In researching that story, the Papenfusses found that the population of Buffalo City has never reached even 1000. But, Buffalo City, as Mr. Papenfuss discovered, does have many other distinctions.

But, it was not the intention of the men who made up the General Colonization Society of Cincinnati, Ohio, that Buffalo City would be quite so tiny, and they hardly envisioned a sleepy little resort town as the fruit of their substantial labors when they came to the area in 1858.

The Society had originally thought to settle in Kansas, but these young Germans were "liberal minded" and "abhorred Slavery." A more natural choice was, then, a northern state.

Lumbering was a big business at the time, and Buffalo city was chosen because, these men thought, of its location on the river. What they did not realize was that when they saw riverboats running past their newly chosen town site, it was high water. The boats were only able to run down the channel in the slough past Buffalo City on a temporary basis, a short cut during high water. When water levels returned to normal, the boats were back in the main channel, which is not close to Buffalo City.

But, during the first year of the Society at Buffalo City, high waters prevailed, and settlement of the location proceeded. They purchased about 1000 acres on Pomme de Terre Slough, which E.F. Ganz explains was called such because some French fur traders lost a cargo of potatoes in that slough.

The first year, the land was surveyed and about 500 acres were plotted. The settlers, members of the Society began to arrive. Among them were Charles Schaettle, Fred Laue, Adolf Baecker and Fred Pfeffer.

Mr. Schaettle built a two-story building to be used for a store, saloon, dance hall and a home for his family. He also built a brewery at Spring Lake. A saw mill was put up by Baecker and Laue, a saloon and boarding house went up and other Society members built homes.

The legislature granted them a city charter in 1859, which in turn allowed them two representatives on the county board. Mayor of the new city was Edward Gunkel and city clerk was Charles Schaettle, who knew English as well as German.

It soon became evident to the new settlers that, indeed, Buffalo City was located on a slough and one that was not navigable. The city fathers passed a resolution allowing \$500 to be paid to the captain of any riverboat who would make regular trips through the slough, but they had no takers. Another \$300 was appropriated for channel improvement, but was not effective.



BASEBALL IN 1915 . . . Was played by this team from Buffalo City, left to right, standing, "Cyclone" Bollinger, John Lindrud, Dewey Huber, Walter Huebsch, Knute Lindrud and Alfred Paul; kneeling, Harry Walter, Eugene Paul, Manager Ray Zirzow and Walter Schultz. (Harry Walter photo).

E.F.Ganz even tells a story that "a plot was hatched between the promoters and some farmer friends (for those pioneer business men knew that it was well to be the farmer's friend) to build a dam across the main channel and thus force the water and incidentally the boats to go past Buffalo City. Uncle Sam had, at that time, not yet begun to "monkey" with the course of the Father of Waters at least not in this neck of the woods and "dam builders" had no pattern to go by but they did. Rocks and brush were thrown into the river, although perhaps not in a very systematic manner and sacks were filled with sand and piled up, farmers doing the hauling and others the cutting of brush and piling of the necessary material. According to further details given, the activities were short lived, for rivals along the river, especially those at Minnieska, just

across the river, are said to have "squealed" and the long arm of the law arrested these activities, so enthusiastically begun and so disastrously ended.

The failure of the channel diversion plan was a blow to the community, as their plans to plug into the lucrative lumber business seemed doomed. Next the Buffalo Citizens decided to try to trade in the wheat being grown nearby. Their plan was to transport the wheat to town over a road which cost them \$1500 to build. Once the wheat got to Buffalo City, it was transported by shallow water barges to a landing at Mt. Vernon, from there to regular barges. But this system did not prove to be economically feasible.

Another project was the establishment of a newspaper the Buffalo County Republikaner, a German language paper which subsequently moved to Fountain City and then later became an English-language paper.

The next affront to the fledgling community was the removal of one of their county representatives, and the loss of a bid to be the Buffalo County seat, despite having built a jail. Alma became the county seat by popular vote, despite a valiant fight. Soon afterwards, Charles Schaettle moved to Alma, finally having run out of ideas to promote Buffalo City.

The originally platted streets and blocks of Buffa-



IT WAS LIKE THIS . . . When the fellows gathered at the Frank Kerkering Saloon on a Sunday afternoon in 1911 for a time of "Prosit", good friendship and the spinning of tall tales. The Kerkering Saloon is now the Mississippian. Left to right, back row, John Ganschow, Frank Kerkering, Fred Paul, Percy Paul, Jake Wejnandy, Lutzie Lietha, Jake Fetting, Ewald Schultz, William Krause, Warren Dennisoff, Christ Lieth; center row, Bill Robinson, Romeo Probst, Eugene Paul, Eddie Knospe, Frank Heitman, Emil Stuber, Orion Becker, Alfred Paul, Irvin Probst, Ottmar Probst, Ed Probst, Carl Ganschow; front row, William Reglin, Charles Appel, Paul Fugina, Justin Landwehr, Emil Martin, Jim Duncan, Arthur Suhr, Eddie Helm, Ed Miller, Charles Buchmiller. (Lydia Suhr and Albert Fetting photo).

lo City, many lots held by absentee landlords, never became reality. Townspeople added to their lots by bidding for adjoining properties in the annual tax sale. Truck farms and dairy farms began to spring up. A large island, located between the channel and Buffalo City, was used by townspeople to graze cattle and grow hay. Gradually, Buffalo City settled in a bucolic, and less prosperous place than its founders had intended.

One last attempt was made to institute a business in the form of molasses plant. The defunct saw mill was outfitted for the project, but the crop failed due to an early frost.

Adversity continued to stalk the community when some German immigrants brought an epidemic of smallpox in 1873. A young Swiss doctor, Dr. Seiler, was eventually able to subdue the epidemic by vaccinating the area people, against much opposition.

One last development, which some thought could have brought businesses and prosperity to Buffalo City, was the building of the Burlington tracks along the east bank of the Mississippi. There was some opposition to the railroad, since it cut through prime cattle grazing land. But most folks think that the Burlington never had any intention of detouring through Buffalo City, anyway.

Buffalo City may not have grown and developed as was planned, but most people wouldn't trade what Buffalo City has now – the peace, beauty and recreational opportunities, for anything else.



THE BCHS is SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

We need help in the following areas:

- Website development
- Cemetery/grave recorders
- Collections and displays
- Planning for programming/events
- Organizing obituary collection



THANK YOU
to those who have
generously donated to the
BCHS!

The Castlerock Foundation
Gary and Shelby Schlosstein
Jeanne Hofer
Roger Sessions
Jan and Sharon Gunderson
Ruthmary and Allen Farner
Curt Peterson
Sandra Ebert
Ione Timm
Lee and Janice Gehrke
Tom Elliott
John Elliott
Diane Elliott
Dan Keller
UW– Extension Office
Mona Lundstrom
Joleen Majerus
Gracie Hohman
Bonnie Harper-Lore
Roberta Waddell
Dennis Elrod
Ruth Leahy
Judith Miller
Richard Ruben
Julia Bradford (Buehler)
Mary Dienger
Milda Bautch
Ray Kruger
Avis Fluekiger
Joel Schanning
Susan Smith
Kim Kibbons
Matt Hunken



HOFER HOTEL, ca. 1890s

Article from the Cochrane-Fountain City Recorder, September 2, 1976

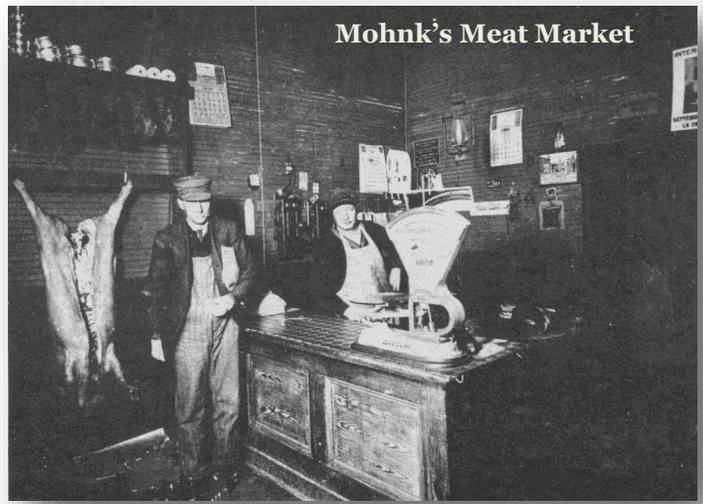
IT WAS LIKE THIS ... in 1886 when people arrived on the new CB&Q train service or by horse and wagon, they saw on Peter Schnug's platted farmland, then called Petersburg, a new hotel built by J. B. Hofer just a block away from the railroad. They also saw the construction of Rohrer Brothers store building across the street. The brick hotel had all accommodations, such as a special ladies' waiting room, just one door away from the main saloon, a large dining room where long tables of delicious food, in generous quantities, was served country style, and private sleeping rooms upstairs. To accommodate horses, a large barn and provisions for stabling was just a short distance away.

Good news traveling as it does, the Hofer Hotel soon became the focal point for travelers and the trading farmers, who each time upon their return, found additions to the community that now had G. M. and J. L. Rohrer's General and Hardware Store supplying the family needs. A few steps to the south, Ferd Hanson, the livestock buyer, had established his corner headquarters. Nestled close by, Florin Reudy had his Photographic Studio. With a glance across the street, one could see the local Barber Shop, another saloon, and the Landsman Newspaper Office, all in the Landsman building. With progress and prosperity bursting out all over, the Hofer Hotel added a dance hall with a sizable stage and decorative curtain drops for coming events. This soon became the fun spot of the area. Even the slightest provocation of a small event would generate into a big thing with all night dances, masquerades, parties, and anniversary celebrations. The long dining room tables were loaded with various meats, salads, sandwiches and cakes, all you can eat for 25¢, the dance admission also a quarter. Local musical groups, and the Livers Orchestra of Fountain City, furnished the music. Plays, cantatas, graduation classes from the District School, and farm group meetings were some of the less exciting events.

To the east, just beyond the Hotel, a machine display building existed with upstairs accommodations for the newly chartered Woodman, Royal Neighbor, and Redman Lodges. Across from this, the Lowe Lumber Yard swung its gates wide for the building trade. The R. D. Jones Grain Elevator was just beyond the railroad track. The first elevator built had no grain moving machinery, which necessitated the horses pulling the wagon load of grain up an inclined ramp to dump the grain into bins built above the height of box cars. Box car loading then only required the dropping of a down spout. The elevator was located where the La Crosse Mill Oatmeal plant is now. At the near foothill, a small stockyard stood and further to the south a cheese factory. The grain business progressing until there was need for construction of a second elevator, the high rise type with grain handling machinery. Adjacent to the elevator was the Pep-in Pickle Co processing plant.



Coming back to the hub of the community, the visitor saw the addition of two Harness Shops, that of Heuer, and Keller, south of the Landsman Building, and the Hofer Bank, and Ledig Livery Stable to the east. Neighboring the hotel to the north, a new meat market by August Mohnk and Keilholtz, next to it, the Benicke Department Store, the largest in the County, with a jewelry department run by Otto Radiske.



From the Rohrer Brothers Stores, one need only walk up the street to be at the Keilholtz Saloon Hotel and Dr. Belitz's office before arriving at the Rohrer Garage, Rohrer and Schlosstein Store unit, and Kochenderfer Blacksmith Shop. The Farmers Creamery stood as a sentry where the road turned to Buffalo City, just as the District School stood at the Cochrane Waumandee road junction. The school was in existence long before the Cochrane community.

This thumbnail sketch of Cochrane's growth of business does in no means exclude the desire men had in building their first church. Near the center of this small community seemed the best place for the first church, however, soon a second was built, then another and another.

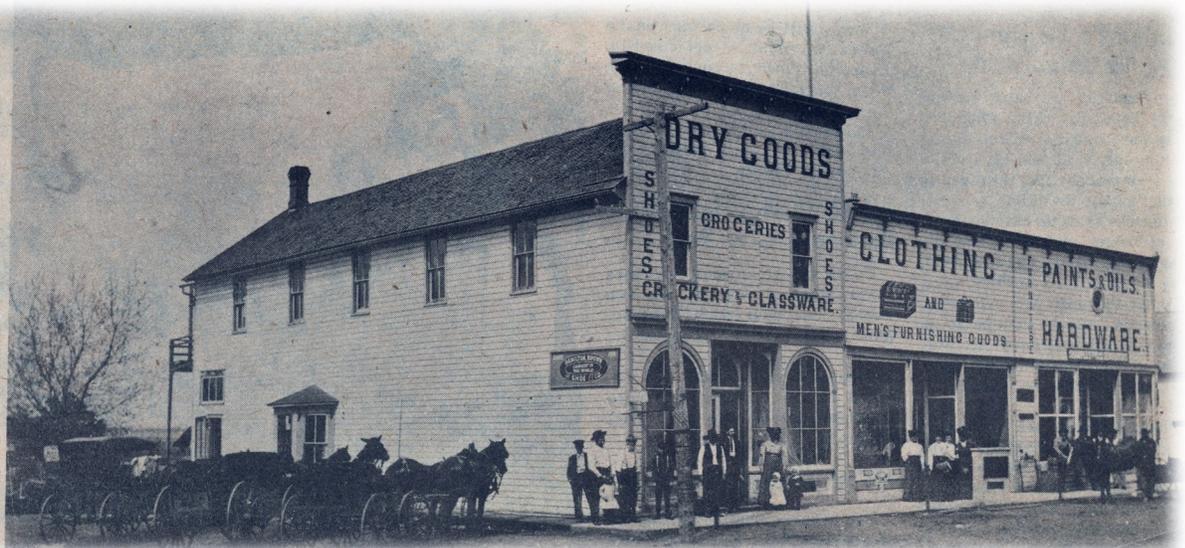
With years, moving buildings, and fires changed the village profile somewhat, such as the Benicke's Store completely destroyed by fire, leaving the corner lot unoccupied for years. Local group ownership built a Ford Garage on the location. It had two fires, the second destroyed it completely. Rohrer Brothers Store, struck by lightning, burned completely. A new bigger store was built by the same owners on the same location. William Bollinger, the new owner of the Keilholtz Hotel, made enlargements. A bigger bank and law office unit took the place of the Landsman Building, which was moved up the street a block, then to the side street a block, resting at the west end of sixth street where it became a pool hall and cigar factory. Once again, after several years, it was moved toward Main Street, where it now rests as a Barber Shop and Tax Office. The Landsman Newspaper Office had moved into the downstairs machine display building.

Transportation also added to the changing profile. A large stockyard and pickle factory was built to the north of the elevator, adjacent to the railroads, which flourished for a number of years, then slowly phased out. There were a number of saw mills processing the log into finished lumber ready for local construction of homes and business places. This alone is a colorful chapter, and could be of great length, in the growth of this community.

All in all, Cochrane is a beautiful little town.

-Howard Mohnk

Remember . . . the G. M Rohrer Store in Cochrane, where Rudy's Red Owl and Graettinger's Hardware are now located. As you can see, they handled a variety of supplies, including groceries, dry goods, shoes, clothing, paints, hardware and most everything needed by the family. (George Freiderich photo)



**WELCOME, and THANK YOU to the BCHS'
Newest LIFE MEMBERS!**

Becky Olson (Rotering)

Marcia Drysdale

Linda Schmitt

Kim and Lynette Wagenbach

Bonnie Harper-Lore

Dave and Robin Becker

Drew and Elisabet Ibach

Anne Keller



IT WAS LIKE THIS . . . when Henry Kochenderfer operated his General Store in 1900. This was before the addition of another store unit being built adjacent and on location where the outdoor merchandise is displayed.

For a two year period, Alfred Rohrer became a partner with Henry in this business, who then purchased the business from him in 1904. Soon the second store

unit was added and the hardware business was transferred to the new unit, with Fred Schlosstein occupying the original store selling groceries and dry goods on a short time partnership arrangement with Alfred. Each then operated their stores independently with Fred enlarging his dry goods and groceries and Alfred included automobiles with the Hardware. Prior to all this, Henry had built the

Blacksmith Shop near the store location, which he operated for a twelve-year period.

After selling his hardware business, he established a large planing and sawmill to the rear of the store near the railroad, furnishing the finished lumber and moulding for the building trade and for his own construction. He built both store units, the Blacksmith Shop, Rohrer's first gar-

age, and several houses in that area.

Standing in the doorway are wife Alvina and Henry. Perched atop the store is Herman Mohnk in the process of exercising his profession as a painter. The house next to the store is the Kochenderfer residence, where the daughters were born.

(Kochenderfer family photo)

Prairie Moon News

We have had many visitors this summer as once again, people are welcoming being able to visit outdoor SAFE places. The flowers are beautiful and we continue to plant lunch– unintentionally. The grounds are such a wonderful place to stop, rest, and enjoy the scenery, meditate a little, and enjoy nature and peace.

Many thanks to all the weeders and tenders who help maintain the site.

The first graders from CFC visited in spring and enjoyed seeing the various rock art as part of a study of rocks. Children from various church groups have enjoyed the place and people regularly stop and have lunch at the picnic tables. They enjoy browsing amongst the dinosaurs, the snake, and other sculptures. Naturally, the children love the dinosaurs.

The Herman Rusch Sculpture Garden, the Schlosstein Exhibit, and the Mehringer Garden are three rock art exhibits, each one very different from the others. Herman also incorporated two outside exhibits from a friend of his named Ladsverk. There are so many styles of artwork to view. All of this art was created by people not trained in art. This art is often called “naïve,” or “Depression” art because most of it was made at very little expense, since no one at the time had a great deal of money. There were some articles about some of these techniques that came out in Popular Mechanics at the time. Largely, however, the artists were inspired by their own creativity and what influenced them in their daily lives.

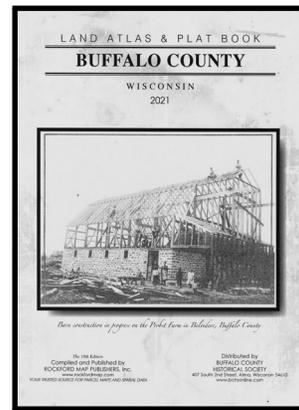
We will once again have an open house/quilt show in September. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy for a small admission charge.

The dates are as follows:

Friday, September 16th from 3-7 p.m.
Saturday, September 17th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The red, white, blue, and gold quilts that will be given to veterans will be available to view at the VFW club in Cochrane, WI at the same times as listed above.

Marj Kammuller—Friends of Prairie Moon



2021 Plat Books

available exclusively at the
BCHS!

Call the office to schedule a
pick-up or visit our web-
site, www.bchsonline.com
to have it shipped to your
door!

Alma Historical Society News

The Alma Area Museum opened on Memorial Day week-end and will be open until August 28, 2022 when the museum will close for the winter. Thanks to all the volunteers who cleaned the museum before we opened. Our volunteers are the backbone of the museum. The AHS board of directors recently approved updates to our track lighting and the purchase of a new dehumidifier. These will be great improvements to our museum.

Our annual picnic was held on July 26 at Rieck's Lake Park. Great food and camaraderie was shared and we had a great turn-out. The home of Ruth Breitung was chosen as the Historic Building of 2022. The house was built by her father, Roy Rudolph Mueller, who constructed many beautiful homes and buildings in Alma. Sherri Collins gave a wonderful talk on the Roy's many contributions to the town. The AHS was excited to be able to present his daughter Ruth with this year's Preservation Award.

Now that the museum is open and people are starting travel and stopping to visit us, we are in need of museum volunteers on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Max at 608-685-3534. Just volunteering one day next year would be great. Let us know if you'd be interested in helping out!

Dorothy Peterson

MONDOVI AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

It is a busy time at the Mondovi Area Historical Society. At the society's February meeting, a proposal was presented by our property management coordinators to improve conditions in the older part of our Rural Life Museum. Their proposal called for the replacement of exterior warped boards, insulating the interior both on the ground floor and in the attic to make the building more climate controlled, and the replacement of the sliding door on the east end of the building with two swinging doors. After discussion and questions, members present at the meeting approved the plan.

As a result of the action taken at the February meeting, it has been a beehive of activity at our buildings in the Mondovi Tourist Park. In preparation for the installation of the insulation, most of the exhibits in that part of the Rural Life Museum have been dismantled and put into storage. While that project was undertaken, the new doors were built and installed.

In addition to the work being done in our Rural Life Museum, two new exhibits have also been created. In the Rural Life Museum, "Norwegian Immigrants' Artifacts" has made its debut. The exhibit features tools and other objects (donated to the MAHS by Gary Schlosstein) used in daily life by Norwegian settlers. In the Country Schoolhouse Museum, a new map showing the locations of Buffalo County and Mondovi area schools has been completed and put on display. The map replaces one that had been in the school since 1997 and was a long overdue project.

On Sunday, July 3rd, the MAHS held its annual "The Past in the Park" event. The theme for this year's edition was "Remember When...." The event featured a car and tractor show, a display of items from the MAHS's "attic", the Mondovi Area Community Band's summer concert and a traditional Fourth of July speech by Mondovi High School Principal Darin Gray.

Upcoming events for members of the Mondovi Area Historical Society will be staffing our booth at the Buffalo County Fair and holding a potluck picnic in August.

Finally, the MAHS's museum buildings are open Sunday afternoons from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., closing for the season at the end of August. Our buildings area also open by appointment.

For appointments call 715-835-0336 or email: mondovihistory@yahoo.com.

FOUNTAIN CITY AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Our museum is cleaned, the flags are out, the flowerpots brimming over with blooms, and ready for our summer visitors. Tourist season is when we welcome the most of our guests. Come in and stay awhile!!

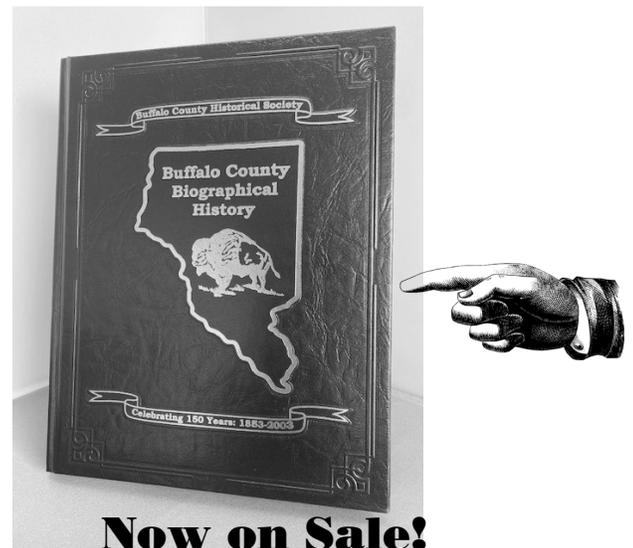
The museum hours remain, Friday from 1pm to 4pm, and by appointment from Memorial Day through September. We have added a few new items to our small museum shop and hope that everyone can find a little "something" to take home with them. From books, to cards, magnets, t-shirts, brochures, and art, we have bits and pieces of history to summon all our summer shoppers.

We continue to meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, at the museum, and have had an average of around 10 members join together. We welcomed a new life-time member to our last meeting. Welcome Richard Wicka.

There are many projects on the to-do list and many projects yet to consider. There is never an end to interesting ventures, and that makes each meeting very thought provoking, and full of great discussion. Where to go and how to get there?

Our windows have displayed the talents of local photographers for the last months and will continue thru the summer. We thank them for their loan of outstanding photos.

Welcome everyone, come and visit on Friday afternoons.



BUFFALO COUNTY BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY: 1853-2003

Originally priced at \$65, now only \$35!

Stop by or visit our website for other great books available for sale!

www.bchsonline.com



Cookbook Clippings



The preface to the 1976 Buffalo County Extension Homemaker Cookbook states,

"Dear Friends:

As we celebrate America's Bicentennial, many of us are searching for treasured information from the past. We, the homemakers of Buffalo County, have been searching for our precious heritage in one of the areas we know best- the art of cooking.

As you page through this cookbook, you will find many recipes that were a part of our ancestors' life mixed with those that reflect today's living. Many of the older recipes are examples of foods that were popular with the various nationalities that made Buffalo County their home. As you can see with many of the recipes, each family adapted them to fit their own lives.

We hope that each of you find some treasured recipes from your own past included in the cookbook, plus some new recipes for the future.

Extension Homemaker Cookbook Committee

Mrs. Orvin (Joan) Julson, Chairman

Mrs. Agnes Grass

Mrs. J.J. (Betty) Rosenow

Mrs. Lloyd (Jane) Sendelbach

Mrs. William (Theone) Kees (artwork)



RASPBERRY PIE

Mrs. John Stiehl

- 1 pt. raspberries
- 1 c. graham cracker crumbs
- 1/3 c. butter (melted)
- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/4 c. reconstituted lemon juice

Mix graham cracker crumbs with melted butter. Pat into bottom and sides of 9 inch piepan. Save 1 tablespoon crumb mixture for the top of pie. Wash and drain berries and put in piepan. In a small bowl mix the lemon juice and sweetened condensed milk. Pour over the berries. Garnish with crumbs and refrigerate. You may substitute strawberries or peaches for the raspberries.

OLD FASHION BERRY PIE

Clara Linse

- 1 c. sugar
- 2 T. cornstarch
- Dash of salt
- 3 c. of fresh berries
- 1 T. of butter
- 1 T. of lemon juice
- 1 plain crust

Mix sugar, cornstarch and salt; sprinkle over fruit in 9 inch pastry lined piepan (plate). Dot with butter and adjust top crust. Bake in hot oven 40 - 50 minutes. Start with 400° the first 20 minutes - reduce heat to 375°.

PIE CRUST

Jenny Schaffner

- 5 1/2 c. flour (sifted)
- 2 c. or 1 lb. pkg. lard
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 egg
- Water (*see directions)
- 2 tsp. vinegar

Cut lard into flour and salt until it is the consistency of corn meal. Put egg into 1 cup measuring cup, beat egg with fork, add water * to make 1 cup. Add 2 teaspoons vinegar. Blend into flour mixture. Roll into crusts. Unbaked crusts freeze well. Makes 5 crusts.

NEVER FAIL PIE CRUST

Mrs. George Waste - Delaine Ganz

- 3 c. flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 1/4 c. shortening
- 1 egg (well beaten)
- 5 T. water
- 1 T. vinegar

Cut shortening into flour and salt. Combine egg, water and vinegar. Pour liquid into flour mixture all at once. Blend with a spoon just until flour is all moistened. This is an easy crust to handle and can be re-rolled without toughening. It also keeps in refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Yield: 2 double crusts.



PUMPKIN PIE

Mrs. Adeline Rippley

- 1 1/2 c. pumpkin (prepared)
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. ginger
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3/4 c. sugar (use half brown and half white)
- 2 eggs
- 2 T. butter (melted)
- 1 1/2 c. milk

Mix above ingredients and pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake in a moderate oven 350° for about a half hour or until cut in the center with a knife and comes out clean.

This makes a mild pumpkin pie not too spicy and yet the brown sugar adds a little extra flavor.

FAVORITE LEMON PIE

Mrs. Marvin Passow

- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. water
- 3 T. cornstarch
- 3 egg yolks (beaten)
- Grated rind and juice of 1 lemon
- 1 T. butter
- 3 egg whites (beaten for meringue)

Dissolve cornstarch in a little cold water. Mix water, sugar and cornstarch and cook until clear. Remove from stove and add 3 beaten egg yolks, rind and juice from lemon, and butter. Top with meringue. (Real tangy flavor.)

QUEEN OF LEMON PIE

Bertha Steiner

- 1 c. sugar
- 2 tsp. butter
- 1 tsp. flour
- 1 lemon (grated rind and juice)
- 3 egg yolks
- Dash of salt
- 1 c. cold milk
- 3 egg whites
- 1 pie crust (unbaked)

Cream sugar and butter well. Add flour and mix. Add juice and grated rind of lemon. Add egg yolks and salt. Add milk and mix well. Beat egg whites stiff and fold into mixture. Put in crust and bake until done. May be served with whipped cream.



CREAM PIE

Beatrice Sendelbach

- 3/4 c. sugar
- 1/3 c. flour
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2 eggs (well beaten)
- 2 c. milk (scalded)
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 T. butter

Combine butter, sugar, salt, flour and eggs. Add milk slowly, stirring constantly. Cook over hot water until thick and smooth. Add vanilla. Pour into baked pastry shell. Cool. Serve with whipped cream or meringue.

VARIATIONS:

You may add bananas, coconut or pineapple. Add 1 cup well drained pineapple, heat thoroughly.

EXQUISITE PIE

Lottie Siler

- 1 stick of margarine
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 eggs (beaten)
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 T. of vinegar
- 1/2 c. coconut
- 1/2 c. raisins (seedless)
- 1/2 c. pecans
- 1 pie shell (unbaked)

Melt margarine in pan with sugar. Add eggs, vanilla and vinegar. Mix well. Add coconut, raisins and pecans. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake 30 minutes at 350°.

CRUSTLESS PIE

Lottie Siler

- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 stick margarine
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 c. milk
- 1/2 c. Bisquick
- 1 c. coconut

Cream vanilla, margarine and sugar until smooth. Add eggs (one at a time), milk, Bisquick and coconut. Pour into piepan that has been greased and floured. Bake at 350° oven for 45 - 50 minutes.



My Grandma's Apron

Grandma's COVER-ALL apron was a big affair of dull printed cotton, slow to soil. Its uses were really limitless.

The apron made a basket when she gathered eggs from her house, late in the afternoon. Carefully, she carried them so as to not break the precious food.

If there were fluffy yellow chicks to be carried to the kitchen during a sudden cold spell...they made the trip peeping contently in Grandma's apron. As these same chicks grew and found their way to Grandma's flower beds, of course she used her apron to chase them away.

Lots of chips and kindling were needed to start the fire. Yes, she carried them in her apron.

Vegetables and fruits too, all found their way to the kitchen in Grandma's apron.

While things were cooking, a handy holder for removing hot pans from the stove was, you guessed it, Grandma's apron.

If the men were working in the fields not too far away, the apron waved aloft was the signal to "come to dinner."

At threshing or company time, when the long dining table was crowded with hungry folks, Grandma hovered about passing food and flipping the big apron at pesky flies.

If Grandma had just combed her hair and had to go to the pump house for milk and butter but the wind was blowing, she would simply turn that apron around on her waist, pull it up around her head, and it made a dandy babooshka.

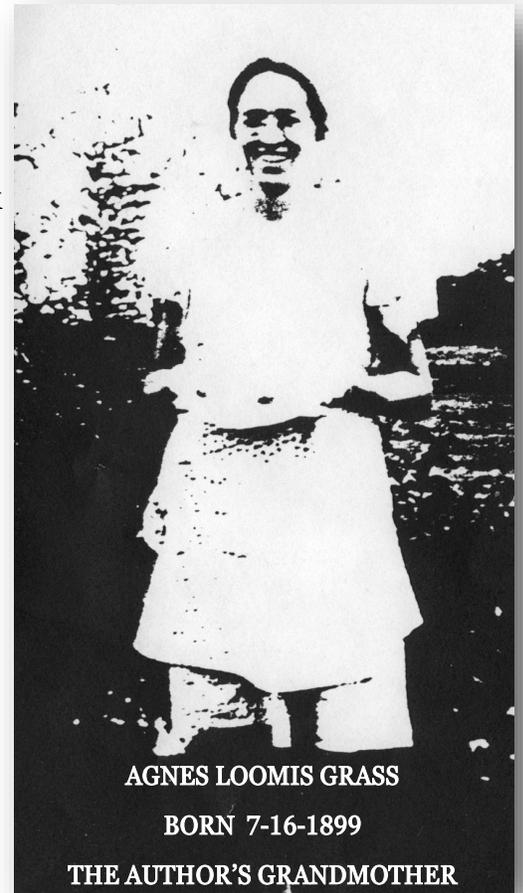
When grandchildren came to visit, the apron stood ready to dry the children's tears. If the little ones were a bit shy, the apron was a good place to hide.

As Grandma bent over the hot wood stove, and when she hoed in the garden under a blistering sun, the apron was used to stroke a perspiring brow. And as she cooked it made the best hand towel to wipe her sticky hands.

In chilly weather, Grandma wrapped the apron around her arms as she hurried on an errand.

If company was sighted coming down the lane, hastily the apron was used to dust the tables.

And in the evening, when the day's work was done, Grandma shed her garment of many uses and draped it over the canary cage.



-Written by Mrs. Ervin Finger

These articles are excerpts from the BCCHS' publication, A Commemorative History of the Buffalo County Fair, 1872-1982. This publication is available for purchase in our office (on sale for \$1.00!)

Mrs. Fred Seyforth, Mondovi (Buffalo County Journal, July 12, 1934)

“We left Gilmanton at 4 o'clock in the morning by lumber wagon, snuggled deeply in the warm buffalo robes which were so common in those days, and the hay which would later feed the horses. We passed many ox-carts bearing families and stock.

A great sight greeted our eyes, for the handful of people seemed like thousands. The grounds were surrounded by a high board fence which served as a wall for stalls for the horses and oxen. Here too were about a dozen cattle and some horses for exhibition.

The population of the county wasn't mixed like nowadays. Except for the Irish of Irish Valley, the New Englanders and a few Scandinavians in the northern part of the county, most people were German and Swiss. Folks didn't have many newspapers and no radios, so they were more satisfied to stand around and visit – like at a big picnic – and talked mostly in German. There were German sign posts and speeches in German and the German women wore handkerchiefs over their heads and great full skirts.

We children had ten cents to spend. Our money was script instead of coins, for your history will tell you the country was in real financial depression and panic in those days. I bought a nickel's worth of stick candy. But there was something new for sale – tame grapes. I had to try them; so Warren Cook, who ran the only stand on the grounds, picked each separately – so many for a penny instead of by the bunch.

The exhibit hall was small and we feared we'd fall through the planks on the floor and get hurt. I remember best a statue of a duck with ducklings modeled from butter. The maker stood over it all day to keep people from touching it. But the biggest surprise of all was an organ – the first in this community. People marveled at this wonderful new invention while a Burt girl from the southern part of the county played it.

But about ten o'clock there was a great shouting of “Here they come!” and all of the people rushed to the gate, for down the road, drawn by a four-horse team, came the Mondovi Cornet Band. The wagon was like a

hay rack, with benches in a square facing one another, and painted fancy in black and red. The band were boys dressed in blue with army caps. My how they played! It was the first band most of us had ever heard, and people stood and listened for hours.

We brought our lunches from home and ate on the grounds. There was no speeding home in fast autos, and it was dark when we got home. The day had passed too quickly, but we had learned a lot in those few hours and talked of the event for months.”



Charles Michaels, Cochrane (from the *Buffalo County Journal*, August 3, 1939)

“I have attended the first and second year of the Buffalo County Fair at Cream..., and will give you my recollections of what I heard and saw there. My father and brother Herman and I started out in the morning to walk to the fairgrounds. We followed no road but made a beeline across fields and woods, went down to (Anton) Fink's private dugway and entered the fairgrounds at the back gate unmolested; we did not even know that there was a price for admission to be paid, anyway, we did not pay.

It was there where I heard and saw the first brass band in my life; how well do I remember the great brass tuba horn about seven feet long and the tunes they played. Here I saw the first baseball game of my life – I can still see the umpire jumping around asking the man at bat what kind of ball he wished pitched; he would often call out “high ball, Mr. Pitcher” or “low ball, Mr. Pitcher.” I often wonder how far that would go in these times.

Then there was two Italian boys with harp and violin playing for nickels and dimes. Here I saw my first sulky plow in operation. For people I remember I say my uncle Christopher Schultz, his wife, aunt Mary, cousin Robert, Charles Schultz, John Haigh, August Voss, Christ Steiner, Adam Klingel, and many others, too numerous to mention. There was a little stand where a man from Gilmanton sold nothing but Swiss cheese; my Dad bought a big hunk of that cheese, the man had no wrapping paper and I can still see my Dad carry that piece of cheese home seven miles in his bare hand, never-the-less it tasted good when we got home for supper. I was a lad about seven years old at the time. Could tell you much more but what I liked most and best was the great big brass tuba.”

Albert Hess, Arcadia (from the *Arcadia News-Leader*, August 20, 1959)

“I attended the last fair in the town of Lincoln in 1876, at the age of five years. I remember it was a nice October day and my father hitched up our best team to a lumber wagon supplied with two spring seats. We drove from our home in the town of Montana west about six miles, over the bluff which is now designated as County Trunk Highway EE. We got to the fairgrounds early in the forenoon, unhitched the horses and tied them to the wagon, giving them hay and oats for feed. We then began browsing around, looking at the exhibits which weren’t too plentiful. Still there were quite a few chickens, geese, ducks, and rabbits displayed. I remember the rabbits, for I saw my first white rabbit. There were rolls of homemade butter, heads of cabbage, pumpkins, squash, potatoes and other vegetables. In the ladies’ department there were quilts, embroidery and other needle work. There were a few cows, calves, and a number of horses, mostly stallions.

One of the main attractions was a horse race. A track had been laid out in a stubble field next to the exhibits, and farmers brought their fastest horses to view for the various prizes offered. As there were but a few of these, our neighbor urged my father to enter one of his horses which was a pretty good trotter as evaluated in those days, but as he had no sulky or buckboard he had no way of entering the contest. The race was soon off and

all you could see was a cloud of dust and flying stubble that the homemade sulkies and buckboards and horses’ feet churned up. Some of the horses trotted, some paced, and some galloped. It surely was a sight for my eyes. I don’t remember the names of the contestants, nor which farmer won the race and the prize.

At noontime families gathered in shady places and had dinner from baskets of food brought along, as there were no lunch stands. There was a stand where soft drinks were sold, as well as candies, cookies, and bologna. This was considered a luxury, and three good-sized ones sold for 25 cents. So bologna was part of our dinner. A barrel of red lemonade was supplied free, and families came to fill their dinner pails with lemonade for their dinner drink.

The afternoon was spent in various contests for the young people, and there were speeches by office seekers and others. As the sun lowered and the shadows began to lengthen, we hitched up our horses and wended our way homeward.”





REMEMBER WHEN . . . Cochrane's first boy's basketball team was organized in 1921 and the first girl's team in 1922. At that time the school had no facility for basketball games, so all activities were carried on in Herold's Hall, located where the bowling alley is now. Ezra Hutchinson was coach for both teams. The boys are, left to right, Ferd Sweitzer, Albert Sei-

wert, Belmont Schlosstein, Laverne Rohrer, Elmer Gahnz, Clayton Rohrer, Hugo Gahnz and Clinton Rohrer. The girls were, left to right, Twilma (Klein) Myers, Leona (Meili) Blade, Elvera (Schlosstein) Leiser, Esther (Krause) Rohrer, Angeline (Rohrer) Gahnz and Maude (Rohrer) Leo. (Boy's photo i scourtesy of Belmont Schlosstein and girl's of Mrs. Leona Blade, La Crosse.)



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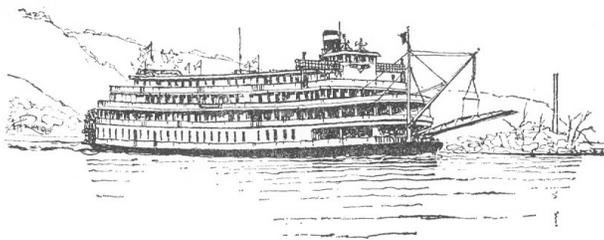
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