

Old Franklin Township Historical Society Newsletter

December 2008 - Volume 2, Issue 2

Our 1918 Cyclone Book Is Finished!

May 21st 1918 Cyclone

A Path Of Destruction



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The Old Franklin Township Historical Society through the assistance of a grant from the Sauk County Arts and Humanities would like to announce their book titled "May 21st 1918 Cyclone – A Path of Destruction." The book covers the cyclone from its start in the state of Iowa to its end near Poynette in Columbia County, Wisconsin, where it hit the encampment of the 161st Artillery of 3000 men enroute to Sparta, Wis. Earlier in the day several

tornados ran through the center of the state of Iowa, with a great amount of destruction in Boone, Iowa at the Northwestern Railroad Shops. The storm that crossed the Mississippi River into Wisconsin had it start in Clayton County Iowa. Featured in the book is the damage in Lone Rock where much of the town was destroyed, destruction around and in the village of Plain where St. Luke's Catholic Church was destroyed and the destructive path across Sauk County. The book of 300 pages contains a large number of postcards and photos submitted from the local area, as well as recollections of people who lived through the cyclone. We have included much of the stormy destruction across the state of Iowa along with its path through Grant County, Wisconsin. We would like to thank the local communities for submitting all their photos and lovely memories. Copies are available for purchase at \$30 plus shipping and handling \$5.00 through members of the Old Franklin Township Historical Society, 915 Wachter Avenue, P.O. Box 218, Plain, Wis. 53577. May also contact Marian Burmester email: trkyhnr811@lycos.com or phone (608) 985-8063.

1918 Spanish Influenza

By Marian Ruhland Burmester

Since 1918 was the terrible year of the cyclone, we will continue with another big event of the year, the Spanish Flu. "I had a little bird, and her name was Enza. One day I opened up the window, and in-flu-enza." This children's rhyme could be heard all over the country during the time of when the "Spanish" Lady had hit our country head on. Between 1918 and 1919 the influenza killed more humans than any other disease in a similar period in the history of the world. In the United States a quarter of the population contacted the flu and 550,000 died. It was worse than the Bubonic plagues that hit the world during the middle Ages. It is estimated that the Bubonic Plague killed about 137 million in three eruptions during the sixth, fourteenth, and seventeenth centuries. The Spanish Influenza killed 25 million in a single year. It is thought that this pandemic originated in China, just like most of the flu virus of today. It spread to the United States with our troops returning from Europe during WW I. The first case was at Camp Funston, Kansas on March 11, 1918. Within seven days this fast moving air borne disease was in every state of the Union. Casualties caused by the influenza were ten time greater than all the casualties of WW I.

Most victims of this virus were between the ages of 20-40 and were healthy, active adults. This is very uncommon because most diseases affect more of the older and younger because of their weaker immunity. Symptoms were headache, high temp, low pulse rates, coughing up of blood like fluids from the lungs, and other things you might relate to the flu we see today. Many people would die 1-3 days after the onset. Their lungs would fill with blood or fluid, with out

much inflammation, simply drowning the people inside themselves.

Years ago in researching my dad's family I came across a note in an obituary from the Sauk City Pioneer Press, Jan. 10, 1929 for my great great-grandmother Catherine Nunn Fell Balzer. "This marriage was blessed with 9 children of which 4 preceded her in death, 3 in early childhood and Mrs. Louisa Schott who died during the flu epidemic in 1919". This sparked my interest in to doing research on the Spanish Flu and is what made it possible for me to write this article.



(I was told Louisa Fell Schott is on the right)

Do you have a story about a family member that fell victim to this disease? We would be interested in hearing about it. Collecting family stories like this or any other from our community is part of saving our heritage.

Photo SCRAPBOOK of 2008



Richard Nachreiner with children registering at mock Presidential Election Nov. 4th



Mary Prem with children voting at old booths at mock Presidential Election Nov. 4th



Mary Jayne Liegel & her Loganville class heading back to school after voting Nov. 4th



Shirley & Jim Greenheck, Sandy Stiemke & Mary Frances Nachreiner view our cyclone display in July



Cyclone display in July – seated is Marvin Needham



Chili Supper Nov. 1st

2008 has been a very busy year. We have just finished writing and publishing our first book. July 19th we held a special open house for the donors to our hall restoration. A few weeks later on July 26th during the fire departments annual 3-day celebration we displayed our many cyclone photos and artifacts to the general public at the old town hall. Our annual Chili Supper on November 1st was a success. Ending the year on November 4th we held a mock presidential election for the students from River Valley and St. Luke's grade school located in Plain along with Loganville 5th grade and three 5th grade classes from Reedsburg. Prior to and after voting the students had a chance to view our cyclone display. It is amazing what is accomplished with a small group of about 10 active members. What more could be accomplished if we had an additional 10 people?



Time to think ahead to Christmas shopping!

Our society has a few items that would make good stocking stuffers.

Contact any member of the society or mail to: Old Franklin Township Historical Society; 915 Wachter Ave.; P.O. Box 218; Plain, Wisconsin 53577.

Index Book to Hildegard Thering's book "A History of Plain, Wisconsin" \$10 plus shipping & handling \$3

Town of Franklin 1955 Centennial Parade – DVD \$20 plus shipping & handling \$1.50 or VHS \$20 plus shipping & handling \$3

"May 21st 1918 Cyclone – A Path Of Destruction" \$30 plus shipping & handling \$5



From the President's desk....

My first year as President of the Society keeps marching on and has been a very busy one. Our Society has had many accomplishments during 2008. Thanks to all of you who have participated in our activities through monetary contributions, or gifting artifacts to the Society collections. I also extend a special thank-you to the Board and Directors who have done "a lion's share" of the work on many projects.

The board has created a long-term plan for the Old Town of Franklin Historical Society, which will set several long-term goals for the organization that includes year-by-year steps to carry us to these goals. To develop the plan we asked ourselves several tough questions: What do we want the Old Town of Franklin Historical Society to look like in 2012, how do we want our membership to change, and what services will we provide?

However, I am asking for a much more serious consideration, that of remembering the Old Town of Franklin Historical Society in your will. Such a remembrance would be a wonderful way to continue the success and life of the one organization that strives to preserve, restore, and conserve our citizens and community's history. Your gift will help ensure there will always be resources available to help our citizens learn about their community. Remember, the society is not a tax supported government organization and relies on contributions and gifts to continue our mission.

Until next time..... Mary Frances Nachreiner email: richmaroakstreet@hotmail.com



"One faces the future with one's past."

~ Pearl S. Buck

When eating that box of chocolate this Christmas Season give the following article from the Sept/Oct. 2008 issue of the Arthritis Today magazine some thought.



Researchers at the Nestle research Center in Lausanne, Switzerland, examined two groups of men – one made up of men who identified themselves as “chocolate desiring” and the other as “chocolate indifferent.” They found that all the chocolate-lovers shared low levels of LDL (“bad” cholesterol) and higher levels of albumin, protein involved in tissue healing.

Now won't that make you feel better after indulging in chocolate during the holidays!

Would you like to submit articles for our newsletter...?



Do our readers have interesting local history or family genealogy?

Do you have any unanswered questions dealing with local history or family genealogy?

Let us know and we will print it in our next newsletter. Just send it to any of the officers listed below or email to Marian (Ruhland) Burmester trkyhnr811@lycos.com

President: Mary Frances Nachreiner; 1240 Oak St.; Plain, WI 53577

Vice President: Gene Hausner; 520 N. Worcester St.; Spring Green, WI 53588

Treasurer: Mary Jayne Liegel; S8552 Valley View Rd.; Loganville, WI 53943

Secretary: Sandy Stiemke; E5551 Narrows Creek Rd.; Loganville, WI 53943

Directors: Karen Beth; 101 Park St.; P.O. Box 125; Rock Springs, WI 53961

Dean Burmester; E3225 Hwy. 58; LaValle, WI 53941

Marian Burmester; E3225 Hwy. 58; LaValle, WI 53941

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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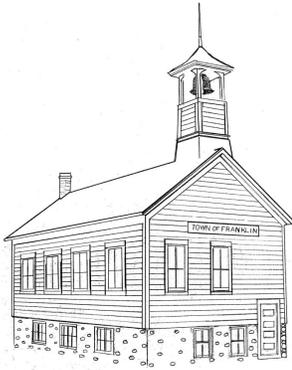


Old Franklin Township Historical Society

915 Wachter Ave.
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Plain, WI 53577

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*Old Franklin Township Historical
Society*

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WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME MEMBERS:

Please check mark membership class:

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Return to the following address with your payment:

Mary Jayne Liegel, Treasurer
S8552 Valley View Rd.
Loganville, WI 53943

**Make checks payable to: Old Franklin Township
Historical Society. Membership: Jan.1 to Dec.31.**

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