

Old Franklin Township Historical Society Newsletter

June 2011 - Volume 5, Issue 1

History Article

Come visit us at the old Franklin Town hall to see our new display on Sunday, July 31, during the 3-day celebration in Plain, WI. This years display theme is the 1940's. The below article tells the story of how the little Village of Plain celebrated the Fourth of July in 1910.

PLAIN.
The celebration at Plain drew a large number who enjoyed the day in the beautiful grove east of town. The parade formed in front of the town hall, headed by the Spring Green band. Following this was a float carrying about twenty-five young ladies, who sang "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner," their well-trained voices blending in harmony with the beautiful day. On this float was also seated venerable Adolph Borgett, the only survivor of the civil war who was present that day. Mr. Borgett was clothed in his army uniform and bore a bayoneted musket. During the war Mr. Borgett was a cannoneer and at the battle of Pea Ridge was severely wounded, a large part of his jaw being shot away. The parade also contained several fun-making features: There were three well-broken teams of goats driven by Hiram Schoenmann, Roman Schreiner and Clarence Diehl, a ragamuffin band and a team consisting of a horse and an ox drawing a buggy. Appropriate addresses were delivered by Rev. Father Pesch and Anton Beck.

Both addresses were excellent and were much enjoyed by all. In the race program were introduced two brand new features—a goat race and a race between an ox and a horse. The following were winners: Egg race, John McKune 1st, Henry Jordan 2d; fat men's race, John Alt 1st, Fred Schoenmann 2d; free-for-all race, John Dischler 1st, Tom Bindl 2d, Tony Brickl 3d; young men's race, Andrew Alt 1st, Mert Prouty 2d, P. H. Fowler 3d; young ladies' race, Annie Aron 1st, Elsie Kreul 2d. In the ox and horse race Alois Gruber won with the ox, beating Fred Schreiner's horse. The goat race was a tie; drivers, Clarence Diehl, Hiram Schoenmann and Roman Schreiner. John T. Rhuland hauled the largest load, sixty people, to the grounds. The day was ideal and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

Home News, Spring Green, Sauk County, Wisconsin,
Thursday, July 7, 1910

Civil War Sesquicentennial Anniversary

The news article of page one mentions Adolph Borgett a civil war veteran riding on a float. Since this year is the Sesquicentennial Anniversary (150 years) of the Civil War, it is fitting that we mention a little about the Battle of Pea Ridge, which Mr. Borgett a cannoneer was severely injured. Below is a brief summary of this battle found on the web.

http://americanhistory.about.com/od/civilwarbattles/p/cwbattle_pearl.htm

The Battle of Pea Ridge was fought March 7-8, 1862, and was an early engagement of the American Civil War.

Union

Brigadier General Samuel R. Curtis
10,500 men

Confederate

Major General Earl Van Dorn
16,000 men

On the night of March 6, Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn set out to outflank the Union position near Pea Ridge, dividing his army into two columns. Learning of Van Dorn's approach, the Federals marched north to meet his advance on March 7. This movement—compounded by the killing of two generals, Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch and Brig. Gen. James McQueen McIntosh, and the capture of their ranking colonel—halted the Rebel attack. Van Dorn led a second column to meet the Federals in the Elkhorn Tavern and Tanyard area. By nightfall, the Confederates controlled Elkhorn Tavern and Telegraph Road. The next day, Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis, having regrouped and consolidated his army, counterattacked near the tavern and, by successfully employing his artillery, slowly forced the Rebels back. Running short of ammunition, Van Dorn abandoned the battlefield. The Union controlled Missouri for the next two years.

The Battle of Pea Ridge cost the Confederates approximately 2,000 casualties, while the Union suffered 203 killed, 980 wounded, and 201 missing. The victory effectively secured Missouri for the Union cause and ended the Confederate threat to the state. Pressing on, Curtis succeeded in taking Helena, AR in July. The Battle of Pea Ridge was one of the few battles where Confederate troops possessed a significant numerical advantage over the Union.



Memorial Donation

Do you have a loved one that you wish to be remembered through a donation?

Please complete the form below:

Donation In Memory Of _____

Donor _____

Address _____

Send to:
Old Franklin Township Historical Society
P.O. Box 218
Plain, WI 53577

Would you like to submit articles for our

newsletter...?



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 email the society at plainofths@gmail.com

Below is a 20% discount coupon good for entry to any of the Wisconsin Historical Society's ten historic sites across the state. The coupon is a benefit of being a member or the OFTHS, which is affiliated of the State Historical Society. Clip and take along with your membership card to the site or sites of your choice.

THIS VOUCHER GOOD FOR AFFILIATED HISTORICAL SOCIETIES
20% OFF REGULAR ADMISSION PRICE
at any Wisconsin historic site or museum

(608) 264-6400  wisconsinhistory.org

**WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

Valid normal operating hours only through Dec. 31, 2011.
Not valid for any special events requiring advanced registration.
One-time use per voucher.

Expires December 31, 2011 Cash Value \$.0001

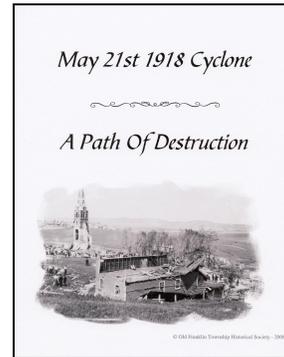
**Museums &
Historic Sites**

- 1) Madeline Island Museum
- 2) Reed School
- 3) H.H. Bennett Studio
- 4) Circus World
- 5) Wade House
- 6) Villa Louis
- 7) Stonefield
- 8) First Capitol
- 9) Pendarvis
- 10) Old World Wisconsin
- 11) Wisconsin Historical Museum

wisconsinhistory.org



Copies of our first publication "May 21st 1918 Cyclone – A Path of Destruction" are still available. For more information visit our website at <http://www.townoffranklinhistoricalsociety.com/> or write the society at Old Franklin Township Historical Society; 915 Wachter Ave.; P.O. Box 218; Plain, Wisconsin 53577; email: plainofths@gmail.com.



Recent donations to our society include:

- Donna Hausner Atwood, 7 Fairwood View Rd., Phoenix, Maryland 21131 donated items that were Herman and Emma Bindl's school items. A German prayer book, printed in German, no date and in delicate condition.
Herman and Emma's writing or penmanship workbooks. Beautiful handwriting. Both German and English words. Some of the writings are dated April 12, 1912 and Nov. 15, 1912 on letters written.
Decorated pen box Herman Bindl ruler - 6 inches, Emma Bindl - 7 inches, 4 wooden pen tip holders, 7 pen tips, petrified eraser, 1 black marble, 1 ink pad - used in Emma's book.
Herman Bindl was married to Frances Hausner. They had no children. Frances was daughter of Michael and Barbara Hausner. Herman was born in 1903 died in 1968. Emma was also born in 1903 but not twins.
The writing workbooks and pen case and contents were used in our display "Schools No More", which we had on display and explained at the School Fair, nursing homes, Senior Center and Spring Green Elementary and at the OFTHS museum and chili supper.
- Marcus Weston, S12614 Big Hollow Rd., Spring Green, WI 53588. Donated a 1898 handwritten letter (written by Florence and Hazli) to Miss Anna Claridge (Marcus' mother), which is an obituary and poem for Albert Lorenzo Claridge, Address White Mound, Wis. He was 21 years old and hurt while hauling a load of lumber. Copied the original fragile letter, so it could be read and not touch the delicate letter.

The above donations are just a small listing of the items that have been donated recently. We apologize if we have missed listing your donation. Please remind us & it will be listed in our next newsletter.



From the President's desk....

As we approach our summer season, the Old Franklin Township Historical Society (OFTHS) officers and members are involved in several activities. It is also, that time of the year when we can use some of our member's time to help with the various projects and planned open houses at the museum.

Each year, we feature a decade in a display at the museum, which can be viewed at the open houses.

This year we will feature the 1940's. If you have something to share with the OFTHS relating to the 1940's, please share with the officers of the society, or join us at our monthly meetings. We meet the First Thursday of each month, starting at 7:00 p.m., at the old Franklin Town Hall.

We are also finishing the rock cap on the South wall of the building, and installing windows on the west side of the building, along with an update to the original paint on that wall. Much of the structural work to the building is being coordinated with the Township of Franklin Board, which we are very appreciative of. We appreciate their cooperative working relationship in helping maintain the early History of the Township of Franklin town hall establishment.

We are also planning a "brat sale" event, on June 24-25th, at the Cenex Station location in Plain. Funds raised during these events help fund the various updates to the old town hall.

An open house to view the 1940's theme is also planned for July 31st to coincide with the Plain EMT/Fire Department celebration.

The OFTHS members and officers invite you to participate in the planned upcoming activities. We are looking forward to seeing you! Enjoy the summer of 2011.

Until next time..... EugeneHausner email: gene.hausner@gmail.com



"It is said that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Will we be wise enough to learn?"

~Charles Darwin

Visit the "Brat Stand" next to the Cenex Station in Plain on Friday, June 24th & Saturday June 25th. Help to support our fundraiser. The profits are used to restore our museum, the old Franklin town hall.



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Old Franklin Township Historical Society

915 Wachter Ave.
P.O. Box 218.
Plain, WI 53577

Postage
Stamp

plainofths@gmail.com
<http://www.townoffranklinhistoricalsociety.com/>

PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

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Vice President: Mary Jayne Liegel

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