



Old Franklin Township Historical Society Newsletter

March 2007 - Volume 1, Issue 1

The mission of the Old Franklin Township Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and display artifacts, documents, and photographs relative to its history; to act as a resource and research facility for local history; and to disseminate, for educational purposes, any material that may illustrate the history of Franklin Township and all areas of historical connection.

OFFICERS:

President: Phyllis Dearborn; 1525 Honey Creek Dr.; Plain, WI 53577
Vice President: Mary Frances Nachreiner; 1240 Oak St.; Plain, WI 53577
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
Marian Burmester; E3225 Hwy. 58; LaValle, WI 53941
Jim Geishirt; S8598 Valley View Rd.; Loganville, WI 53543

History of the Society

by Phyllis Dearborn

The Old Franklin Township Historical Society (OFTHS) was organized in 2004 when the future of the old Franklin Town Hall was being decided. A survey had been conducted earlier by the town board, which showed the majority of the townspeople wanted the Old Town Hall used to “display historic items.” We proposed restoring the building and using it as a museum to house artifacts and memorabilia that represent our area’s history. We obtained 501c3 tax-exempt status and became affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society in 2005 and signed a 25-year lease with Franklin Township in 2006 for \$1.00/year.

First Annual Chili Supper

by Phyllis Dearborn

October 28, 2006, a Harvest Chili Supper was held to kick off a fundraising project to restore the hall, which will include installing insulation, bathroom facilities, heat, and bringing the electrical system up-to-code. Remodel the basement to use as an office and research area. Estimates have been obtained showing about \$65,000 will be needed. Almost 700 letters went out to the residents of Plain and Franklin Township in November 2006, and to date, \$25,445.11 has been raised toward this goal. We made \$500 above expenses from our chili supper.



Building fund money raised



1955 Centennial Parade Video

by Phyllis Dearborn

This film was taken by Gerald Lomasney with one of the first movie cameras sold for individual use, and so is not as clear as our present-day digital ones. But what wonderful pictures he has captured! We are grateful to Maggie and Gerald Lomasney for donating their time, effort, and expense to place their film on DVD/VHS and giving the Old Franklin Township Historical Society the opportunity to sell them as a Fundraiser.

To purchase contact any officer or it is available for sale at several businesses in Plain. The price is \$20 for CD or VHS.

This parade took place on Saturday, June 4, 1955 with "A Century of Progress in Farm Machinery" being the theme. This was to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Town of Franklin. It was an eighty-three-float parade in which four hundred and fifty people took part.

Paintings of Folk Artist Paul Seifert

by Marian Burmester



Residence of Lemuel Cooper, 1879 in watercolor, oil, and tempera on paper, 21 ½ x 28 inches in the collection of Howard and Jean Lipman. Later this residence was known as the Tony Brickl farm on Valley View Road, just outside of Plain. Presently owned by Greg & Tammy Alt. Painted by primitive folk artist Paul A. Seifert. A German immigrant who made his living by selling flowers, fruit, and vegetables that he raised on an eighty-acre farm near Richland City. Between 1875-1885, Seifert periodically took off on foot with his sack of colored papers and paints in search of farmers; in Richland, Grant, Sauk and Iowa Counties; willing to pay \$2.50 for a picture of their farmstead. Seifert used colored paper or cardboard for his scenes-tan or gray or blue permitting this underlying color to peak through to form part of the landscape. Discovered in the 1950's by a New York folk art historian who included samples of his work in a textbook thus his paintings became worth thousands.



Any ideas on the location of this painting?

by Marian Burmester

It is another Seifert painting of a farmstead in the vicinity of Plain, Wisconsin. It is a watercolor, oil, and tempera on cardboard,

15 ½ x 28 inches at the New York State Historical Association, Cooperstown.

If anyone has any ideas of where this farmstead might be located contact either Marian Ruhland Burmester (608-985-8063 trkyhnr811@lycos.com) or Karen Ruhland Beth (608-522-5035 honeycreek-1@lycos.com).

Many farmsteads in Sauk County may have been the subject of one of his paintings. Our society is documenting a history on this folk artist & his paintings of the area. We would appreciate any new information.



From the President's desk....

We are so pleased and excited to bring you the first issue of our newsletter. We plan to send out issues three or four times a year to help keep all members and contributors up to date on what's happening with our society. Feel free to send us an email with your suggestions for future newsletters.

Plans have been drawn up for renovating the basement of the Old Franklin Town Hall into office and research space. We will be putting in heat, plumbing for a small restroom, and bringing the electrical up to code. There will be computer stations, along with space for research files. We are busy now getting the permits and approval necessary to begin renovating as soon as the weather permits.

Our fundraising campaign is nearing the \$26,000 level towards a goal of \$65,000. We will start with sewer and water hookup and installing heat and will progress with renovating as funds become available. Many thanks go to our contributors for their generous donations. If you have not yet donated, please consider helping us reach our goal by donating what you can and/or becoming a member. We always need more people interested in their local history and genealogy. Look for our members at the Brat Stand a couple times this summer to help raise funds.

Until next time..... Phyllis Dearborn email: pdear@merr.com

Recent donations since January 2007 to our society include:

- 1) Teacher's bell used at the Meadowview School donated by Vernon Bindl.
- 2) School books in German and English, from both St. Luke's and Meadowview School from the 1911-1920 era, used by Herman, Tony, Celia, and Clara Weiss. There are wonderful old colored maps, completed penmanship assignments, bible history stories, and completed writing projects that were exhibited at the Sauk County and Wisconsin State Fair with the winning ribbons still attached. We have Lucy Herbrand to thank for saving these and giving them to us.
- 3) The Knight's of Columbus sword from Edward Kraemer donated by Duane and Gwen Kraemer.
- 4) Meister's Bar ashtray, Meister's Bar jackknife attached to a key ring, and George Grauvogel Saloon metal comb in a sleeve—donated by Ilene and Rudy Feiner.
- 5) Mary Anne Liegel donated books from her mother, along with a hanging scale for weighing grain, etc. and also an old padlock.



Send email to Marian Burmester trkyhntr811@lycos.com to receive every newsletter.

WE INVITE YOU TO:

- Become a Member
- Contribute your Family History
- Contribute Artifacts of Importance to our History

OUR INTENTIONS ARE TO:

- Restore the Town Hall
- Collect and preserve the history of the people of the Town of Franklin and the Village of Plain

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 1ST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 7:00 PM AT THE KRAEMER LIBRARY IN PLAIN, WI. EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

----- Cut on this line -----

DONATION AMOUNT: _____ **BUILDING FUND AMOUNT:** _____
100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE (receipt will be sent)

WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME MEMBERS:

Please check mark membership class:

- ☐ \$15 Individual
- ☐ \$25 Family
- ☐ \$100 Sponsor

(Jan. 1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2007)

Return to the following address with your payment:

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

Fill in your name and address. Email if you want to receive every newsletter.
