

Old Franklin Township Historical Society Newsletter

March 2008 - Volume 2, Issue 1



The Legend of the Shamrock

It was on the lush hillsides of Co. Armagh that Patrick, as a young Bishop in the year 432 AD plucked the tiny shamrock from anonymity and used it to illustrate the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity to the Ancient High Kings of Ireland, thus elevating the Shamrock to its present status of Ireland's National Emblem. The plant has been grown close to the Ancient Monastic Settlement of the Seeillig Rock in Co. Kerry where Irish still thrives as the National Living Language.

<http://members.tripod.com/~kmarcrum/history.htm>



Renovation Fund



**IT'S A
LONG
WAY TO
THE
TOP!**



SECOND PHASE of RENOVATION FUND DRIVE

WE HAVE BEGUN OUR SECOND phase of our fund raising drive to renovate the old town hall. IN THE BASEMENT ELECTRICAL, BATHROOM, HEATING, WINDOWS AND THE PAINTING ARE ALMOST FINISHED. NEXT WILL BE THE FLOOR SEALANT. SO FAR WE HAVE RECEIVED ALMOST \$37,000, BUT THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SPENT & WE STILL NEED TO FURNISH THE BASEMENT WITH DESKS, BOOKCASES, A TABLE, WORK COUNTERS, & OFFICE EQUIPMENT. THEN WE NEED TO PAINT & GET HEAT INTO THE MAIN FLOOR SO THAT IT CAN BE USED AS A MUSEUM. IF YOU HAVEN'T YET CONTRIBUTED PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION OF YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME OR MONEY.



With the month of March being known as the celebration of the Irish, it brings to mind that the early settlers of the Town of Franklin & the Village of Plain were not the Germans of which most of us can trace our ancestry to. The first immigrants were English, Irish, Swiss and many other parts of Germany other than Bavaria. Cramer, Davies, Claridge, Carpenter, Mitchell, Douglas, Morgan, O'Malley, Dickerson, Welch, Mears, Lehner, Henry, Loux, Wesley, Hudson, Shanahan, Murry, Young, Heiser, Frautschi, Slinger, Bandel, Cooper, Perry, Wilcox, Mills, Magli, Jenewein, Anderson, Trumpf, Slaters, Wells, Davidson, Smith, Whiteis, Butts, Schoenmann, Crall just a list of some of the names of the early settlers.

Levi Butts

By Tim Cooper

Early Franklin township pioneer Levi Butts first arrived in Sauk County from Virginia in about 1846. He settled in Prairie du Sac where he meets and marries Mary Anne Cooper in June of 1847, with this marriage being among the earliest in the county. Shortly after their third child was born in 1855 they moved to Franklin Township. Here they purchased two 40 acre parcels which they received a swamp land grant for on the banks of Honey Creek and across Valley View Road from Lemuel Cooper who was Mary Anne's uncle. Levi farmed this land until he passed away in August of 1863. Mary Anne Butts now widowed and the mother of five young children sells the property to her uncle Lemuel. Shortly after she moves to Union County Iowa near the Missouri border where her parents and most of her other family lived.

No. 401 SWAMP LAND GRANT.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

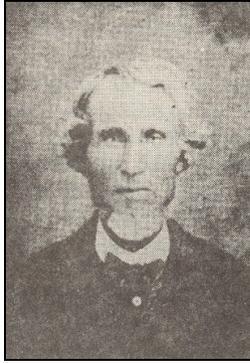
Whereas, Levi Butts of Sauk County, has complied with all the provisions of law to enable him to a Patent for the following described Lands, being a part of the Lands granted to the State of Wisconsin, by an Act of Congress, entitled "An Act to enable the State of Wisconsin and other States to reclaim the Swamp Lands within their limits," approved September 24th, A. D. 1850, to wit: The South east quarter of the South West quarter

of Section Number Four in Town Nine North of Range Two East according to the official plats of survey of said Lands in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Now Know Ye, That the State of Wisconsin, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with law in such case made and provided, has Given and Granted, and by these Presents Does Give and Grant unto the said Levi Butts and to his heirs and assigns, the said described lands; To Have and to Hold the same, together with all the Rights, Privileges, Inappunities and Appurtenances, of whatsoever nature thereunto belonging, unto the said Levi Butts and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, the Governor of the State of Wisconsin has caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of said State to be affixed at the Capital in Madison, on this thirteenth day of December in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty two.

By the Governor: Wm. D. Jones
Secretary of State.



Lemuel Cooper
1815 - 1884

Lemuel uncle of Mary Ann Butts



Matilda (Wilcox) Cooper
1823 - 1892



Alois Brickl Farm (photo taken about 1906 or 1907)
In 1927 Tony Brickl Sr. (son of Alois Brickl) built a new house. This photo is taken from the back of the farm buildings.

March 2007-Vol. 1-Issue 1-page 2 of our newsletter featured an article on the folk art of Paul Seifert. One of the paintings shown was that of the Lemuel Cooper residence on Valley View Road. A reprint of the painting is shown below.

Lemuel Cooper obtained a Land Patent on July 7, 1863, where he built a home for his family depicted in the below painting.

William Jenewin obtained the deed to the land on February 6, 1894 for \$4,500.

Alois Brickl purchased the farm on March 25, 1904 for \$13,500.

Anton Brickl purchased the farm for \$10,000 on Jan. 12, 1916.

Tony Jr. and his sister Anna farmed the land after their parents passed away.

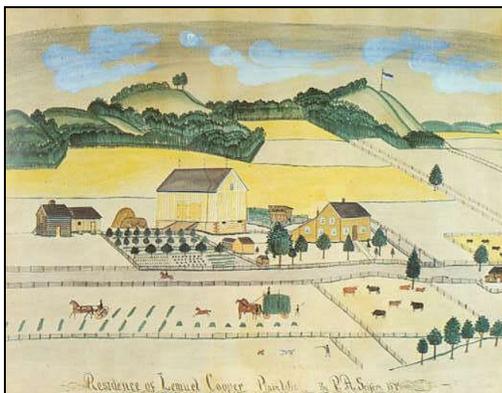
Presently owned by Greg & Tammy Alt.



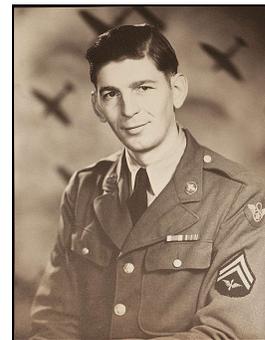
Alois & Justina (Bindl) Brickl
Married Oct. 5, 1876



Anton & Anna (Lins) Brickl
Married May 10, 1916



Paul A. Seifert. Residence of Lemuel Cooper, 1879.
Watercolor, oil, and tempera on paper, 21 1/2 x 28 inches
Collection of Howard and Jean Lipman
Painting is the front of the farm buildings.



Tony Brickl, Jr.
Served in England during WW II



Help us to cut expenses by adding you name to our newsletter email list.
Contact Mariah Ruhland Burmester trkyhntr811@lycos.com



1918 Cyclone/Tornado Project



Just a little reminder, we are still looking for information, photos, stories, etc on the May 21, 1918 tornado. We understand that many families may not want to part with these photos. We would be happy to have the opportunity to make digital copies of the original and this way the families' personal collection would stay intact. We have begun writing, but it is never too late to accept more material for our book. Our project deadline is June 2008.

It would be very appreciated, if anyone has artifacts that they could loan to the society for our open house display. So far we have one oral history of the cyclone. If you have an older family member with stories or memories of this event please contact any officer or the following.

Mary Jayne Liegel, Treasurer; S8552 Valley View Rd.; Loganville, WI 53943; phone: 608-546-4562
Phyllis Dearborn, President; 1525 Honey Creek Drive; Plain, WI 53577; phone: 608-546-2395
pdear@dishmail.net

Marian Burmester, Director; E3225 Hwy 58; LaValle, WI 53941; phone: 608-985-8063
trkyhntr811@lycos.com

Sandy Stiemke, Secretary; E5551 Narrows Creek Rd.; Loganville, WI 53943; phone: 608-727-2462
scrary@jvl.net



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?

Just submit to Mariah Ruhland Burmester trkyhntr811@lycos.com

Recent donations since December 2007 to our society include:

- 1) Kathy Bindl donated to us the picture she drew of the First Mass at Plain that was displayed at the Parish 150th.
- 2) Phyllis Dearborn donated 1 copy of each of the 3 booklets written in commemoration of St Luke's 150th Anniversary.



From the President's desk....

This issue begins the second year of our newsletter for members and monetary donors. We will continue to keep you updated on our activities.

The cyclone of 1918 project is into its second phase: photos and newspaper articles from along the path of the tornado have been gathered. This info has now been dispersed to a committee interested in putting information for each area along the affected path into script form in preparation for publishing a book. Keep tuned!

We hope to have our research and office area open by early summer. Members will be able to research for free; for others, there will be a daily fee, amount as yet undetermined. I am sure we are all looking forward to spring after such a snowy and cold winter.

Until next time..... Phyllis Dearborn email: pdear@dishmail.net



"History isn't really about the past - settling old scores. It's about defining the present and who we are."

~ **Ken Burns**



Memorial Donation

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

Please complete the card below:

Donation In Memory Of _____

Donor _____

Address _____

Send to:

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

Bad Baby Names

Did you know that no one in the census collection at Ancestry.com has the first name "Breakfast"? Not surprising? Well what if you learned that there are eighty-five entries for people named "Lunch" and one hundred and one named "Dinner." Isn't breakfast the most important meal of the day? Well, apparently it's not important enough to name your kid after.

Ancestry Weekly Journal

AncestryWeeklyJournal@email.ancestry.com

December 09, 2007 8:00 PM

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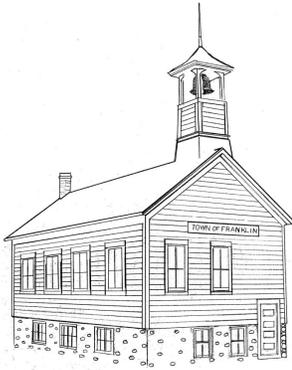


Old Franklin Township Historical Society

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P.O. Box 218.
Plain, WI 53577

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PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE



*Old Franklin Township Historical
Society*

Donations are separate from membership.

DONATION AMOUNT: _____

RENOVATION FUND AMOUNT: _____

100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE (receipt will be sent)

Newsletter is a benefit of being a member or donated money.

WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME MEMBERS:

Please check mark membership class:

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

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.**

(Name)

(Address)

(City - State - Zip code)

(Email address to cut cost in mailing newsletter)