

Old Franklin Township Historical Society Newsletter

September 2007 - Volume 1, Issue 3

Brat Stand – Sept. 7 & 8



You will find our group, again at the brat stand on Sept. 7 & 8. Profit of \$720.25 from our June 15 & 16 brat stand sales will be put in our basement renovation fund.

Renovation Fund



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



Harvest Chili Supper – Nov. 3



The tentative date for our second annual Chili Supper is November 3rd at the American Legion Club House. Menu will include bowl of chili, cheese, bread, coffee or milk with a dessert for \$6.00. Serving will be 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. Watch for more information as the date approaches.

For the first time there is now an Index to Hildegard Thering's book "A History of Plain, Wisconsin" available for sale at \$10 plus s & h \$2.90. Thanks to two of our OFTHS members Sandy Stiemke & Karen Beth. Several years ago these two girls spent many hours of their free time taking notes to compile this Index to be used with Hildegard's book. Profits from the sale are going to the Old Franklin Township Historical Society.

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

Plain Fire Dept. 3-Day Celebration July 29th



3rd Place in the parade
Michael Alexander



Mary Frances
Nachreiner

Thanks to everyone that played a part in winning third place! Laverne Schnor loaned the wagon & Michael Alexander built the top replicating the first school bus that transported children from the Meadowview district to Plain. Mary Frances Nachreiner dressed as a Dominican Nun in 30's - 40's period clothing representing her aunt Sister Rose Dominic Bettinger. Also thanks to Wayne Dearborn for the endless hours he spent repairing the wagon base & later painting the finished horse drawn bus.



Photo from 1931 Chimes

Thanks to Mary Jayne Liegel's dedication & weeks of work our open house display looked terrific again this year.

Indian Artifact Presentation

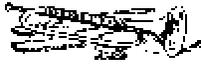


Joe Wankerl will display & talk about his Indian Artifact Collection at the September 6th meeting in the Community Room of the Kraemer Library. His collection includes points collected from his farm in rural Plain. Joe will bring with him Thomas C. Pleger, Ph.D., RPA; Campus Executive Officer and Dean at UW-Baraboo/Sauk County; Associate Professor of Anthropology University of Wisconsin Colleges. Thomas Pleger will give a slide presentation.



Franklin Township – Civil War The Lost Soldiers

By Sandy Stiemke



The Sauk County History of 1880 devotes 28 pages to the Civil War 1861-1865. Listed by township are the names of the men who served and the regiment they served with. The township of Franklin roster shows 19 names and 11 units. I failed to find my ancestor Arnold Gelhaus, or the 37th Infantry with which he served, among them. Surely it was just an oversight. But perhaps not!

Our history books have emphasized the patriotic fever that ensued after the battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. The day after, Congress voted \$500,000,000 and called for 500,000 volunteers. According to the Sauk County History, “No state was more prompt in sending forward volunteers than was Wisconsin, and no part of Wisconsin responded with greater vigor than Sauk County.” (P368) “By October 17, 1863 the President called for 300,000 volunteers to serve for three years or the war, the quota for Sauk County was 197, Franklin Township’s share was 7.”

But later in the war it was necessary to enact a draft. Patriotic fever had been replaced by the realization that the war was not going to be over as soon as expected. The Sauk County History states, “On July 18, 1864 the President called for 500,000 volunteers, Franklin’s quota being 20. On the 1st of October, Deputy Provost Marshall Philip Cheek, Jr. was compelled to remind the citizens of Sauk County that there was still a deficiency in their quota. “The draft will commence in Sauk County on the 3rd of October, and those drafted will report to Prairie du Chien on the 19th. Franklin’s quota of 14 had not been filled by that time. Accordingly, the draft took place in the towns of LaValle, Woodland, Washington, Bear Creek and Franklin. In some a

supplemental draft was necessary owing to quite a number of those enrolled having business and being absent in Canada when the drawing took place.”

Perhaps in an effort to deal with the shortage of available young men, some in Franklin Township looked for an alternative. Franklin Township records show that 12 voters from Franklin requested a special meeting to be held wherein the townspeople would vote on whether or not to raise a tax so that volunteers could be paid \$200 each to go to war in place of having to fill a draft. 79 men voted, but the measure was defeated on a vote of 36 for and 43 against. This meeting was held on January 24, 1864.

And so it was that the draft of October 3, 1864 claimed those unable to buy their way out regardless of age and commitments at home.

German immigrant, Arnold Gelhaus, age 43, was one of them. Arnold was the father of five; the youngest, his namesake, was seven months old. Arnold had been a resident and landholder of the Town of Franklin since 1855. He was placed in Company H, 37th Infantry, the majority of whom were draftees. Six of these draftees were from Franklin Township: Joseph Bandel, drafted November 20, 1863, Paul Luther drafted October 3, 1864, and Levi Schoville drafted November 19, 1863. Arnold Gelhaus, George Gasser and Jacob Wintermantel drafted October 29, 1864.

Arnold Gelhaus left Franklin Township never to return. When fellow comrades Paul Luther and Jacob Wintermantel came home they left him behind in a hospital. Initial correspondence with the Government informed his wife Catherine that he had been mustered out July 25, 1865. A later letter from the Adjutant General’s office dated April 25, 1866 states that there was “no evidence of death on file.” It was necessary on June 18, 1866, almost a year later, for Paul Luther and (George) Jacob Wintermantel to sign an affidavit stating that

“they were mustered out about July 15, 1865 and on the 21st day of July 1865 Private Arnold Gelhaus was taken sick and sent to Division Hospital (with chronic diarrhea) and on the 23rd day of July we visited him in the Hospital and on the 26th day of July we left with Regiment for our homes in Wisconsin to be paid and discharged and that said Arnold Gelhaus was left in the Hospital at that time ...” Given that information, the Government found his Death and Interment record. It appears that while being admitted into Douglas Hospital in Washington D.C., Arnold Gelhaus had become Arnold Gelhouse (and lost his German identity.) Under that name he died and was buried on August 8, 1865.



Arnold was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. But it was not until September of 1992 that any of his descendents were able to locate his grave, and travel there to pay their respects and place flowers on his grave. Joyce Yanke White, great-granddaughter of Arnold Gelhaus who had married and moved to Virginia, was the first family member to see where he was buried. It was an emotional moment for the rest of us back in Wisconsin to finally see the picture she had taken of his grave - located in Section 13, Grave 11909.

August Derleth, great grandson of Arnold Gelhaus spoke of him in “Wisconsin Earth –

A Sac Prairie Sampler”, when he talks of taking a trip to the Gelhaus homestead and to White Mound Cemetery. “Great-grandmother Catherine Hugobach Gelhaus with her second husband, I stood in brief homage to these two, and that other shadowy third, great-grandfather Gelhaus, whose troubled ghost may be near, though his dust has long since ceased to stir in whatever unknown earth he may lie between here and New Orleans wherever he fell in battle or was lost or slain.”

But we are proud that this “lost soldier” Arnold Gelhaus has a place of honor in Arlington National Cemetery. The sacrifices and service of the drafted soldiers of Company H 37th Infantry may have been lost on the writer’s of the 1880 Sauk County History Books. It has not been lost on their descendents, including myself, great-great granddaughter of Arnold Gelhaus, and great-great-granddaughter of his namesake Arnold.

If we acknowledge today, though many years later, what our ancestors sacrificed for all of us they are no longer “lost”.





1918 Cyclone/Tornado Project

Just a reminder that we are still looking for information, photos, stories, etc on the May 21, 1918 tornado, please contact:

Phyllis Dearborn, president; 1525 Honey Creek Drive; Plain, WI 53577; phone: 608-546-2395;

pdear@dishmail.net

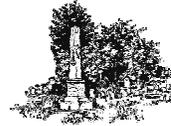
Marian Burmester, director; E3225 Hwy 58; LaValle, WI 53941; phone: 608-985-8063;

trkyhntr811@lycos.com



Wish List

- New interested members & volunteers
- 8-10 ft. used table-wooden top for research area
- Printers & copier or source for obtaining good used one
- Computers-at least 2 late models
- Build bookcases
- Files & computer desks



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



Time to think ahead to Christmas shopping!

Get an early start this year. Our society has several items that might 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 to Hildegard Thering's book "A History of Plain, Wisconsin" \$10 plus shipping & handling \$2.90

(This is an index only)

Town of Franklin 1955 Centennial Parade – DVD \$20 plus shipping & handling \$1.10

Town of Franklin 1955 Centennial Parade – VHS \$20 plus shipping & handling \$2.80

Cards created by Patricia Blakeslee (with either photo or logo of old town hall on front) - \$5 each



From the President's desk....

Community support for our Brat Stand sale in June was tremendous. Look for us again on September 7th & 8th to help raise more funds.

Our Open House at the Town Hall during the 3-day celebration was well attended. Many thanks goes to Mary Jayne Liegel for her many hours spent collecting, copying and preparing the displays of St. Luke's Memorabilia. Thanks to all who lent items for our displays. This exhibit will remain up until after October 20-21. We will have open hours during Alumni Weekend on Oct. 13-14 and Oct 20-21 and also by appointment up until that time. Displays from the Parish Archives will also be up in St. Luke's School Gym during those weekends.

Michael Alexander did a great job in replicating the "bus" for our float. We are proud to have received 3rd place.

Renovation of the Town Hall is proceeding as funds allow. New windows have been put in, tubing for radiant heat and insulation have been placed and a new concrete floor poured. Walls have been insulated and drywall is now ready for paint. Window wells have been prepped and primed.

Completion of painting walls and woodwork and sealing the concrete floor needs to be done prior to bringing in file cabinets and research materials. We are looking for volunteer help to build bookcases and complete painting. Approximately \$29,000 has been spent; so we will need to raise more funds in order to complete the restoration of the basement. We hope you had a chance to see what was done so far during our Open House.

Many newspaper articles, and pictures have already been collected for our 1918 Cyclone Project. We had a wonderful response to our articles in local and Iowa newspapers. People have called, emailed, and sent pictures both from our area and from Iowa. Please contact us with your information, if you have not already done so.

Follow up from our 1st newsletter in March: Wayne Dearborn believes the Seifert painting with unknown location is the present Becker farm that is located on Hwy B east of the Harrisburg church. We don't know who owned the farm at the time the painting was done. The painter would have been standing in the field next to Badger Road across the brook pictured in the painting. One must look past all the buildings put up since the picture was painted. See what you think.

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



Recent donations since June 2007 to our society include:

- 1) Alma Liegel-old Missal, St. Luke's-related booklets.
- 2) Sandy Stiemke-folders of newspaper clippings.
- 3) Dorothy & Cletus Alt-1942 8th Grade Graduates & Solemn Communion, Scenery picture received as a wedding present, Solemn Communion Certificate of Edward A Alt, 1927.
- 4) Gertie Bindl's children-photos Bindl and Nachreiner families, cyclone of 1918, old stock certificates, old Chimes & Zenith, misc. booklets related to St. Luke's.
- 5) Mel Nachreiner-1969 Atlas of Sauk County, WI, 1983 Calendar- Bank of Spring Green, WI with photos from local area.
- 6) Marlene Bauer Gruber-copies of scrapbooks with Home News articles.
- 7) Tim Cooper-Index to pre-1907 Marriages for Sauk County Wisconsin
- 8) Copies of many photos related to St. Luke's from people of the area- solicited by Mary Jayne Diehl Liegel.
- 9) Rita Ruhland-Album of Ruhland, Alt, Haas photos & Haas Communion pictures.
- 10) Dolores Hetzel Liegel - composite of 1952 St. Luke's High School Graduates.

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 on the back of our newsletter or email to Marian (Ruhland) Burmester trkyhnr811@lycos.com



Email List....

We mailed approximately 70 newsletters through the US Postal. It would help us cut down on the expense of printer ink, paper, postage stamps etc.; if everyone that has email access would send their name & email address to Marian Ruhland Burmester at trkyhnr811@lycos.com.

Our newsletter is also posted on the Village of Plain website <http://www.plainwi.govoffice2.com/>.

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Old Franklin Township Historical Society

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

Postage
Stamp

PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER

Please check mark membership class:

- Individual \$15.00
- Family \$25.00
- Sponsor \$100.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Send payment to the following address:

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

DONATION AMOUNT: _____

RENOVATION FUND AMOUNT: _____

100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE (receipt will be sent)

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

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