



The Pinery

PUBLISHED NOW & THEN BY THE PORTAGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CENTENNIAL ISSUE

This is our Centennial issue of "The Pinery", not because it gives anything definite about the Centennial celebration which we hope you all attend and enjoy, but because it will give Society members some information relative to the part the Society has had in preparing the Centennial Booklet and its interest in the fact that Stevens Point, the County Seat of Portage County, was chartered as a city just 100 years ago.

A CITY IS CHARTERED

The bill, #530A, to incorporate Stevens Point as a city was submitted to the legislature on March 20, 1858. It was referred to the Committee on Incorporation and reported favorably by that Committee on March 26. The Assembly passed the bill on April 17 and it went to the Senate and was passed there on May 5. However, a large number of amendments were attached to the bill by the Senate. On May 6 the Assembly concurred in all amendments but one and passed the bill back to the Senate. On reconsideration on May 10 the Senate dropped its remaining amendment and passed the bill. It was then sent to the Governor who signed bill 530A on May 17, 1858. The bill ultimately became Chapter 267 of the Private and Local Laws of 1858. A search for the signed original bill discloses that at some time in the past it was mysteriously removed from the Secretary of State's office.

The Act of Incorporation provided for a Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The city was divided into three wards with two aldermen for each ward. Election precincts were also established. One of the important benefits of the city charter was the fact that the city was now entitled to

three representatives on the County Board.

The first election was held on June 26, 1856 and the following were the first elected officers of the new City of Stevens Point:

Mayor - William W. Schofield

Treasurer - H. B. Martin

Aldermen - Moses Perkins, Anson Rood,
Valentine Brown, Seth W.
Holmstad, A. G. Hamaker
and H. Ferguson

The new City Council met for the first time on July 1, 1858 in the Old District School House and elected the remaining needed city officials - a city clerk, attorney, street commissioners, and surveyor. They also named one of their members, Anson Rood, as President of the Council.

THE CENTENNIAL BOOKLET

The Centennial Booklet prepared by your Society is out and we do hope that you will like it. Because we would like you to know something about the work that made this booklet possible as a souvenir of the Centennial, we are giving you the following information:

Three committees were appointed to work on the booklet and the following gives briefly the work of each.

The Drafting Committee was given a three-fold task: to determine the scope of the material to be covered in the booklet - to secure the help needed to research and write the material - and lastly to review the completed material for readily discernible historical errors or statements.

Twenty three individuals interested in history, though not all members of the Society, collaborated in the preparation of this material. Their willing help and

cheerful co-operation is a bright spot in the Drafting Committee's memory, as well as the invaluable assistance given to this staff of writers by the College Library and our Public Library.

The complete manuscripts are filed for future reference and use in the files of the County Historical Society at the College Library. They have blazed a trail that should lead to further projects recording the history of Stevens Point and Portage County.

The Editing Committee received the material from the Drafting Committee. The editors were allowed a specific number of words for the total material, and also a specific limit for each section. These necessary limits caused the greatest difficulty because the writers had been instructed to write without limit (for future historical use). As a result some of the copy had to be cut over fifty percent and some had to be re-written in places in order to fit the space allowed. In some instances this meant the elimination of some of the best writing as well as some items which the authors may have considered more important than the parts which remained.

A second part of the editorial work was the determination of a uniform punctuation style; for example, capitalization of titles, comma usage, and hyphen elimination. It also required the adoption of a uniform diction such as, "township" for the survey unit and "town" for the political unit.

The Publication Committee went to work upon receipt of the author's manuscripts which had been edited by the Editing Committee. Contrary to popular opinion the labor involved in preparing a publication for print has hardly begun upon receipt of the manuscripts. A layout of the booklet was prepared and the manuscripts were fitted to the actual space available. This often involved further editing of the manuscripts in order to shorten them by a line or two to fit the space allotted. In addition titles were prepared for the Chapter headings and the index pages and art work was selected.

The Publication Committee also had the responsibility of selecting the pictures to be used in the Booklet and preparing sub-titles for them. Information for most of the sub-titles was supplied through the

efforts of Mrs. Win Rothman whose assistance in all phases of the booklet can only be described as outstanding. After selecting and titling the pictures, the Committee then arranged them in the booklet to correspond as closely as possible to the subject matter of the various chapters. This was not always possible because many pictures were available on one subject and sometimes none or only one on another. However, anyone with a good imagination should be able to tie the pictures to the chapters in most cases.

Of course the Committee had the able assistance of the Worzalla Publishing Company which published the booklet, plus the invaluable technical assistance and supervision of Had Manske in carrying out this operation.

In addition to attending to the details of publication the Committee was also responsible for working out the arrangements for financing the costs of publication and the sale of the booklet with Herman Toser, the Director of Centennial activities for Stevens Point.

The Centennial Booklet is on sale at the present time. Its cost is \$1.00 and it can be secured by purchase from any one of the Centennial Queen candidates or at the American Legion Building in Stevens Point. Orders by mail should be addressed to the Centennial Steering Committee, Stevens Point. However, the cost for mail order copies is \$1.25. The added charge is for mailing costs.

WINDOW DISPLAY

Your Society will have a window display during the Centennial celebration in Stevens Point. Mrs. Win Rothman, Chairman of the project, has arranged for the window of the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation - an excellent location. The display will include a large map with the location of various "firsts" in early Stevens Point history.

AMHERST CIRCUIT MEETING

Past history but worth recording, the Amherst Circuit Meeting was held February 20th. This was the second of these meetings held at Amherst under the direction of Miss Winifred Harvey.

A panel composed of Mr. Roman Jungers as moderator, Mr. Morris Carey, consultant

(Mr. Carey knows and has recorded early history of Amherst), and the following participants gave a very interesting program: Mr. Gordon Johnson discussing early beginnings and the organization of the village of Amherst; Mrs. Alice Loberg, early industry in Amherst; Mr. Gardner Harvey, early doctors, medicine and drug stores in Amherst; Mr. Fred Berto, early transportation in Amherst and vicinity; Mrs. Walter Bohman, early recreation.

A quartet dressed in costumes worn by pioneers in Amherst sang a group of songs popular in early days in Amherst. Each also gave a history of the costume and the person who had worn it.

BOARD AND OFFICERS FOR 1958

At its Annual Meeting on April 16, held in the College Library in Stevens Point, your Society re-elected the following to the Board of Directors:

Mr. James W. Hull; Mrs. Win Rothman, Miss Marie Swallow, Stevens Point; Mr. Had Manske, Mr. Clifford Swanson, Park Ridge; Mr. Malcolm Rosholt, Rosholt; Miss Winifred Harvey, Amherst; Miss Alice Gordon, Nelsonville; Mr. Howard Woodside and Mr. N. R. Kampenga, Plover and Mr. Warren G. Jenkins, Park Ridge.

Mr. C. E. Nebel of Stevens Point was elected as a new member of the Board to fill a vacancy.

At this annual meeting, a representative group of the people who did the research and wrote up the material for the Drafting Committee for the Centennial Booklet presented interesting facts about their research, the materials written up and other items of historical interest pertaining to the subject which was assigned to them. Those presenting this material were: Mr. Maurice Willett on early communications - newspapers, railroads, roads, telephone, telegraph, etc.; Mrs. Robert Jenkins on early day lawyers and courts; Mrs. Emil Pagel, fine arts of the early days and Mrs. V. A. Benn on early doctors and medicine.

At the May 21st Meeting of the Board of Directors the following were re-elected as Officers of the Society:

C. D. Swanson, President
N. R. Kampenga, Vice President
Miss Alice Gordon, Secretary
Mrs. Win Rothman, Treasurer

RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF VALUE

The Society acknowledges with gratitude the recent acquisition of certain papers of Dr. John Phillip, one of our earliest physicians, through the generosity of the doctor's grandson, Carl Rogers of Eagle River. The collection is composed of eleven items, included in which are two land patents to the doctor dated 1856 and 1857 and a deed from A. G. Ellis dated October 14, 1856.

Acquisition of the Butterfield papers is also acknowledged. This collection includes twenty one items and is composed of such documents as, a Deed dated 1843; Land Office Certificate of Preemption dated 1854 and signed by Albert G. Ellis; a timber cutting agreement covering timber on the Big Plover River dated 1856 and a deed dated 1855.

The acquisition of these papers and manuscripts is a valuable addition to the Society Manuscript Collection which is growing rapidly. Incidentally this collection is already paying dividends as for example the Chapman-Rogers Collections produced heretofore unknown data on elections that was used in the writing of the Society's history of Stevens Point and Malcolm Rosholt has also used them in his history of Portage County.

Members of the Society should continually bear in mind the Manuscript and Photographic Collections of the Society. How about your attic - or the attics of friends? Many items of historical value are destroyed by third or fourth generations who are no longer interested in their grandfathers or great grandfathers. Time and again we hear the comment, "If I'd only known you were interested. Last year we burned a couple of bushels of old pictures, letters and papers".

We are interested! If you do not have such items, contact relatives, friends and neighbors and ask them to donate or loan old letters, photographs and papers to the Society. Our Collections are stored in a fire proof vault. Help your society in this search for valuable data.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the State Historical Society will be held at Leatham Smith Lodge at Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin June 26th through the 28th.

OPEN FOR VISITATION

Villa Louis, Old Wade House and the Stonefield Farm and Craft Museum and Nelson Dewey Homestead are now open for visitation and will continue so until October 31st. These sites are open to the public from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P. M. daily. Adults 60¢, Children 15¢.

Villa Louis built in 1843 by Col. Hercules Douseman is at Prairie du Chien.

Old Wade House built in 1852 as a stage coach inn and restored by the Kohler Foundation is at Greenbush, six miles west of Plymouth on State Highway 23.

Stonefield and Nelson Dewey Homestead built by our first governor is one mile north of Cassville on State Highway 133.

MEMBERSHIP

To increase the membership of the Society and to stimulate sales of its Centennial Historical Booklet, a coupon is being inserted in the booklet with the offer that for the \$1.00 paid, the purchaser receives the booklet and a membership in the Society with dues paid to April 1959. It is appreciated that many who send in the coupon may not continue as members after April 1959, but on the other hand it is anticipated that a good number will continue as dues paying members. If you have friends whom you would like to see in the society, remind them of this special offer.

CONTRIBUTORS

In this issue the article A CITY IS CHARTERED is from C. D. Swanson's article on Political History of Stevens Point submitted to the Drafting Committee in the preparation of material for the Centennial Booklet.

The reports of the work of the various committees in getting the Booklet ready for the Centennial are given by Mrs. Win Rothman of the Drafting Committee, Mr. Warren Jenkins of the Editing Committee and Mr. Howard Woodside of the Publications Committee.