



The Pinery

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GENERAL MEETING AT AMHERST

On Thursday, Nov. 20th, the Portage County Historical Society will hold a general meeting in the Village of Amherst. The program will be held in the library of the Amherst High School.

The talk given will bring out the self-sufficient village of the 1880's and 90's and through the turn of the century. Also, those who attend will hear about Grandma Bos' Photograph Gallery. There will be exhibits; Amherst residents have been asking to bring items found in an old-fashioned kitchen.

Keep the date and time in mind--Nov. 20th at 7:30 p.m.--come and bring a friend or friends. Please call 344-5308 if you need a ride or can supply one to someone else.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION MEETING

The Seventh Annual Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History, North Central Region, was held in Montello on August 23rd, with the Marquette County Historical Society as host. Mr. Albert Lange, president of the Marquette Society and chairman of the North Central Region, welcomed the participants and led a morning tour to Montello's granite quarry and monument works also to the American Woodworking Company, long established enterprises.

After luncheon at Ben Deano's restaurant, Robert T. Wright, editor of the Marquette County Tribune, spoke on "Keys to the Past". Reports of activities were given by presidents or representatives of seven of the fifteen societies comprising the region. Miss Lois Williams, Chairman, and Mr. William J. Schereck, Executive Secretary of the Wisconsin Council for Local History, reported on the year's activities of the Council and outlined some plans for its future.

Those attending from the Portage County Historical Society were Mrs. H.R. Steiner, Mr. & Mrs. Nelis Kampenga and Mr. Clayton McLLarkey who is also a member of the Marquette County Society. On Sept. 6th Mr. McLLarkey returned to Montello to take part in the dedication of the "John Muir Country" historical marker, which has been placed on Highway 22 near the south Marquette County line.

20th Annual Institute for Local History

Oct. 17 & 18 were the dates of the 20th Annual Institute for Local History and the 8th Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Council for Local History, meeting together in Madison.

On Friday afternoon, Mr. Richard P. Hartung, Jr., Director of the Rock County Historical Society, conducted a bus tour through Cooksville and Fulton to Janesville, where, after a short walking tour, the group visited the historic Lincoln-Tallman house and adjacent buildings.

The Saturday morning session featured an explanation by Mr. William J. Schereck, Supervisor of the Office of Local History, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, of the new approach planned for the collection, preservation and teaching of local history. Teachers and librarians had been invited to this meeting. The second half of the session was a discussion and demonstration by Mrs. Mary Lou Peterson, from the Madison Public Schools, of a project based largely on resource materials in the local history collection of the State Historical Society. (NOTE: Instructional sets covering a variety of subjects may be available on loan. Teachers or others interested in these should talk to Mr. Kampenga.)

The Council luncheon speaker, Mr. James Igoe, New Hampshire State Librarian, was followed by presentation of awards to outstanding societies, with the Reuben Gold Thwaite Trophy going to Ozaukee County, whose Pioneer Village we had hoped to visit during the summer. Our neighbor, The South Wood County Corporation, was honored for its project of recording local history on tape in interviews with long-time residents of the Wisconsin Rapids area.

FILMING IN WISCONSIN

Did you know that Old Stonefield Pioneer Village at Cassville had been the scene of filming activities this past summer? The Turk Production Company of Chicago produced TV commercials there and while this was going on a Swedish film company checked on Stonefield as the setting for a film story about Swedish immigrants to our American Midwest in the late 19th century. The Cassville river front and Stonefield will portray the pioneer settlement of Stillwater, Minnesota.

MORE ABOUT STONEFIELD

Added this summer to the Pioneer Village of Stonefield was the 1890 Photographic Studio. The first spadeful of earth was turned in June for the building which was completed for the dedication on August 17. The building and its contents were given by the Wisconsin Professional Photographers Association.

Many of the buildings have been built and furnished by trade and business associations in the state. Wisconsin cheesemakers are planning to open an old-time cheese factory next summer and a country creamery will be erected by a dairy group.

HISTORY MOBILE EXHIBITION

The new exhibition of the Traveling History Mobile is on "People and Pollution." The exhibit deals with the historical aspects and present problems of water pollution. Its first showing was at the State Fair in August. It also showed at the Forest and Shawano County Fairs. Robert and Patricia Brodhagen are the new curators. Bonduel, in Shawano County, hometown of Mr. Brodhagen, was the first place of visit.

PLACES TO SEE

Begin now to think about the interesting historical places you can see in Wisconsin next spring, summer and fall; a few are available during the winter season.

Of course, there are the Historic sites sponsored by the State Historical Society: Villa Louis at Prairie du Chien, Wade House at Greenbush, Stonefield at Cassville, the Circus World Museum at Baraboo, and the new Madeline Island Museum acquisition, but there are also a number of county, city and local historical places of great interest. Consider some of the following for your next jaunt: the Ozaukee County Pioneer Village, the Door County Maritime Museum, the Octagon House at Watertown, the first State Capitol at Belmont, Oconto County Society's Beyer House and Museum, the Galloway House at Fond du Lac, the restored Hawk Inn in Delafield, Historyland at Hayward, Pendarvis House and the other historical places at Mineral Point, Horicon Marsh Wildlife Refuge, Aztalan State Park near Lake Mills, the Surgeons Quarters and Cotton House at Green Bay and the restored Surgeons Quarters, Old Agency House, The Fox River Locks at Portage.

These are just a few of the historical places statewide. There are many old mills, feed, flour and lumber, around the state-- a few turned into museums by local history lovers. Also, there are many fine small museums owned by localities, local historical societies or under private ownership. Watch for them when you are on a week-end drive or tour. One of these is the Thunderbird Museum at Hatfield, privately owned, which contains a collection of Indian and local history materials.

A VIEW OF STEVENS POINT 1854

While reading through a typescript entitled "Potter-Crosby Letters 1843-1898" prepared by Ralph Kimball Potter, Dennis R. Bodem, State Archivist of Michigan, came upon two letters written in 1854 to Mr. Potter's grandfather by a cousin living in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Knowing that this material would be of great interest to the president of our Society, Mr. Bodem offered copies of the letters and

enough explanation from Mr. Ralph Potter's family story to establish the relationship between the Potter family and David C. Bailey of Stevens Point.

Samuel Potter had come to America from England in 1843, and in 1854 was living near White Lake, Michigan. In his attempts to learn the whereabouts of whatever relatives he had in the United States, he had been given the address of the cousin, David C. Bailey, and had written to him to inquire about other members of that branch of the family. Mr. Bailey replied, furnishing some information on his sister and others. Included were some comments on his location in Wisconsin: "I am in good health only a slight cold and that every one has in this changible climate...Mary lives in Chicago. I cannot come there for I think times are better here than there. The price of land is some thing here to what it is there..." Closing with "Please write again", the letter was dated April 16/54.

When Samuel Potter received this letter, he did write again to David, saying that he would like to hear more about Stevens Point. The following is David's reply:

"Stevens Point May 26/54
Respected Cousins It is with pleasure that I sit down to answer your letter hoping these few lines will find you in as good health as they have me. Though they do not leave me in as good health as I wish for. I have a cold and have had ever since I came to Wisconsin and shall have if I was to stay here for ten years for the weather is so changible. It changes very suden though it is generally healthy. There is no fever nor ague here. Now about the country, it is level and very beautiful. The timber is principlly Pine but we have all kinds of hard wood that grows in this part of the country, except Beech. There is over 70,000,000 of sawn lumber run and to run down the river Wisconsin this season which brings from 15 to 20 per M, and wages on the river is \$1.25 to 2.00 per day and pilots git from 3 to 5 per day just according to how hard they work. I live in this little vilage which 5 years ago there was 2 dwellings and now there is 200 acres nearly that is laid out in village lots. There is 4 taverns, 14 or 15 stores, 2 saloons, a printing office, brokers office and lawyers offices any quantity and the land office here to, 2 black-smith shops and 3 or 4 carpenter shops.

One is a steam shop. Cabinet shop and 2 or 3 shoe shops, 3 saw mills, a lath mill. 0 yes and a bakery. And there is a steam saw mill going to be put up in this sumer and there is a steam boat building now. There is not much prairie land here or none very near here. Though there is some open-ings the soil is very sandy. But there is heavy timbered land and there is plenty of land not far from here to be taken up yet. There is such a noyes in the shop that I cant write anything scarcely. I work at the Carpenters trade for 1.37½ per day and if I was master of the trade I could get 25¢ more a day. I would write this sheet all over if I could write in such a nois. There is one church and another building and 3 schools and plenty of other things accordingly. David C. Bailey"

"Well I have got rid of the boys and I will give you a little more history. There is a plank road coming in to town from Green Bay. It is nearly compleated and there is a rail road surveyed here from Milwaukee and 2/3 of the stock taken up and one of the contractors are here now. And there is steamboats run up the river in 80 miles of here and they run up from Green Bay up the fox river about 40 miles from here and a daily line of stages come in here. There is any quantity of sawmills but the sawyers are abused by the nuisances coming in here and sticking them selves up that they are good sawyers when they are not. All read and all write. yours Etc. D.C. Bailey"

The xerography from which the above material was excerpted may be seen in Nelis Kampenga's office at the University.

ICONOGRAPHY

A high point (as far as local historical societies are concerned) was reached in the recent convention of the Society for American Archivists, held in Madison October 8-10, when the curator of Iconography of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Paul Vanderbilt, presented his slide-lecture illustrating the uses of Victorian and Edwardian photographs. Mr. Vanderbilt's skillful and poetic use of the photograph of commonplace scene and portrait was a masterly blending of art and history. Here was a remarkable demonstration of the use of photos of places, faces, and occasions,

many of which had lost identification and had become the type of material too often relegated to the rubbish heap in the process of house-cleaning or estate-clearing.

It is the intention of our own Society to collect the sort of materials that would recreate the past and capture the passing scene.

The Portage County Historical Society should be considered as a reasonable and useful depository for old photographs and records to serve that purpose.

The David C. Bailey letter transcribed above that records first hand the scene and place of another day is indicative of the kind of material that more often than not is discarded and lost.

CALENDARS, ETC.

The Society has for sale the 1970 Wisconsin State Historical Society's Calendars.

Be sure to make your purchase from your Portage County Historical Society. The Public Library and the University Bookstore are selling these for us, or you may call 344-5308 for delivery.

The Society also has on hand some boxes of the Pioneer School note paper. Still available at \$1.00 each.

Both of the above will be on sale at the General Meeting on November 20, at Amherst.