

---

---

# DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER



The Dane County Historical Society Office and the Otto Schroeder Records Center are located in the lower level of the Lussier Family Heritage Building on Lake Farm Road just south of the Beltline near Lake Waubesa.

Volume XXVI

Summer 2007

Number 2

---

---

## The Pursuit of Black Hawk

By David L. Gjestson

*Dave Gjestson, is a retired Department of Natural Resources employee who was instrumental in preserving the Battle of Wisconsin Heights site and has become an expert on the war.*

It really wasn't a war, but a chase. In April of 1832, an aging warrior by the name of Black Hawk led about 1,200 men, women and children across the Mississippi River from Iowa with the intent of peacefully reclaiming the Sac and Fox village of Saukenuk, located just upstream on the Rock River. What occurred was an ethnic tragedy that had dramatic impact on the state of Wisconsin.

Black Hawk soon learned that he and his followers would not receive the promised help of tribal allies or the English in Canada thought to have arms and ammunition for them. An attempt to negotiate a peaceful return to Iowa May 14, failed at a place later called Stillman's



**Ma-Ka-Tai-Me-She-Kia-Kiah, a Saukie Brave.** A color lithograph published in Volume I of "History of the Indian Tribes of North America" (1848). Creator: Bowen, J.T. Permission Wisconsin Historical Society. WHS Image ID 3772.

Run, and America's so called war with Black Hawk began.

Black Hawk's followers comprised of Sac, Fox and Kickapoo supporters were able to avoid the military called out to suppress the rebellion, for the most of three months by trekking up into Michigan Territory (present-day Wisconsin) and hiding in the swamps near Lake Koshkonong. Their longevity in hiding was extended because Winnebago scouts leading the army secretly supported Black Hawk, having family members among his followers.

A Winnebago scout stumbled into Black Hawk's trail on July 18 and he was unable to hide his discovery. The chase was on! Militia troops under the leadership of General Henry and Colonel Dodge pushed hard west through the area of the four lakes with Black Hawk just hours ahead. After an overnight on the north end of Lake Monona, and sensing they finally had the elusive old warrior, they pushed through the isthmus between the

*Continued on page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1-2. The Pursuit of Black Hawk
2. 2007 - 175th Anniversary of Black Hawk War
3. Black Hawk Markers
3. New Members
4. Local Historical Society Networking
4. Dane County Bookshelf
5. DCHS Annual Meeting Photos
6. Wisconsin Magazine of History Goes Online
6. Knute Reindahl Festival
6. Memorial Donations to DCHS
7. DCHS Membership & FORWARD! Information
7. Upcoming Events - 2007
8. President's Message

## The Pursuit of Black Hawk (Continued from page 1)



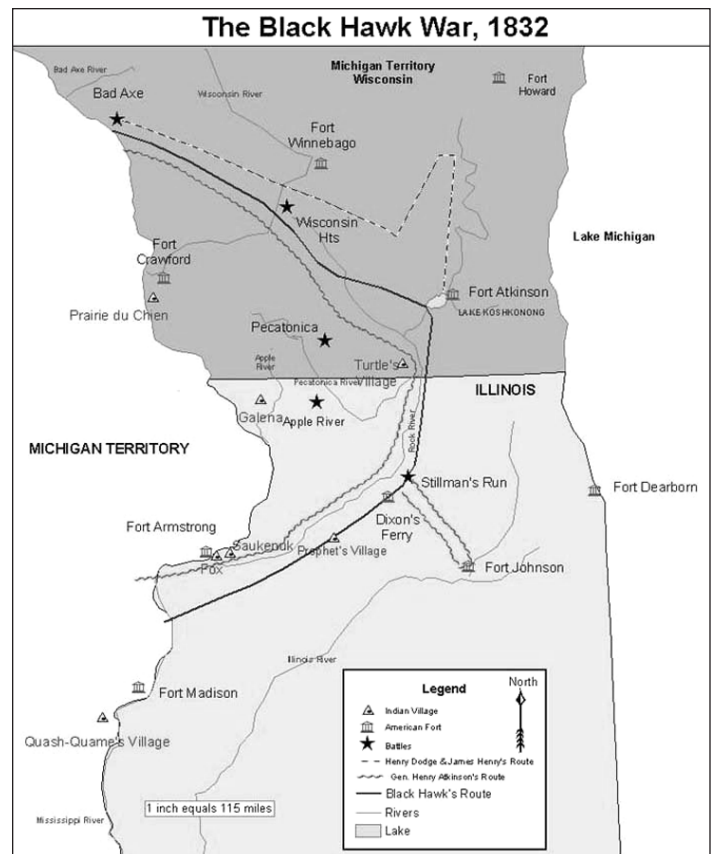
**Wisconsin Heights Battleground.** (1856) Brookes, Samuel M.; Stevenson, Thomas H. Oil painting in the Wisconsin Historical Museum. Permission by Wisconsin Historical Society. WHS Image ID 2286

lakes and northwesterly toward the Wisconsin River.

Black Hawk's people were caught at the Wisconsin River on July 21. Because of high water, they needed time to make rafts to carry them across. Seeing the potential for his tribe's slaughter if caught in this condition, he selected about 60 warriors and returned to some high ground called "Wisconsin Heights." Here, he effectively fought off some 600 militia late in the day. Nightfall ended the battle and enabled Black Hawk to elude the military yet again. Another surrender attempt was ignored by the military. The tribe escaped to the west.

The soldiers regrouped at Fort Blue Mounds before picking up Black Hawk's trail again. Re-provisioned and tripling their strength with regular troops and more militia under the command of General Henry Atkinson, the new force crossed the Wisconsin River near present-day Spring Green and soon picked up Black Hawk's westward trail. They caught up with them at the Mississippi River on August 2, 1832. The final battle near the Bad Axe River was really a massacre. Only about 150 Indian survivors were accounted for in the record of the event.

The elusive Black Hawk had escaped capture yet again by heading north and hiding at a small lake near today's Sparta, Wisconsin. He finally surrendered to some Winnebago warriors who turned him over to the soldiers at Fort Crawford August 27, 1832. The chase was finally over. Without an Indian war threat, Wisconsin Territory was created just four years later and rapid settlement produced statehood in 1848.



Map created by Brian Conant, 2002. Reprint permission by Abraham Lincoln Digitization Project (<http://lincoln.lib.niu.edu>).

*2007 marks the 175th anniversary of the Black Hawk War. Former State Archaeologist Bob Birmingham and Black Hawk War historian David Gjestson are coordinating a ceremony to commemorate the event, on July 21, 2007 beginning as 10:00AM at the site of the Battle of Wisconsin Heights, on Highway 78, less than a mile south of County Y, just south of Sauk City. A parking area and historic marker identify the trailheads that lead across the hill where the battle was fought.*

*Wisconsin State Historical Society Director Dr. Ellsworth Brown will be the Keynote speaker; author Kerry A. Trask will present his views as well as offering a book signing opportunity. Public tours of the battle site will follow.*

*Dane County Historical Society is proud to be one of the event sponsors. Contact David Gjestson 608-776-2477 or by email at [gjestson@yousq.net](mailto:gjestson@yousq.net) for more information about the event.*

*If you would like to learn more about Black Hawk and the battle, you can follow the events day by day on the Wisconsin State Historical Society website at: <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/diary/blackhawkwar.asp>. The information there is based on historical documents and first hand accounts.*

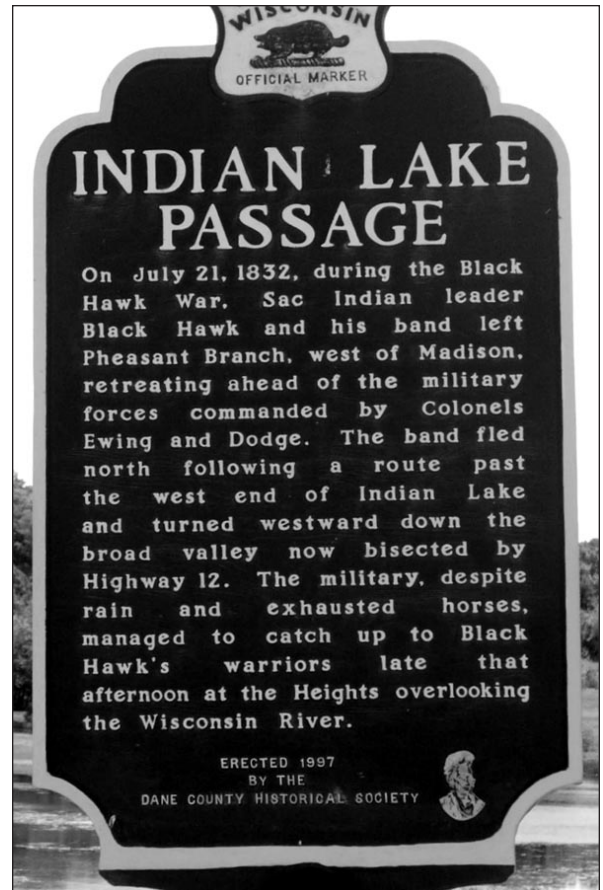
# Black Hawk Markers

By Mary Clark

Ten years ago, more than fifteen county and local historical societies in southwestern and south central Wisconsin, including the Dane County Historical Society, joined with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the city of Janesville, and five Indian tribes in a project to place historical markers along the entire Wisconsin segment of the Black Hawk War trail used by the Sac and the Fox as well as the military in 1832. The Black Hawk Trail includes nearly three dozen historic markers stretching from Turtle Village (Beloit), where Indians entered the state, to the site of the massacre at the Bad Axe and Mississippi Rivers. The Black Hawk Trail winds all the way through Dane County, and the Dane County Historical Society was instrumental in erecting one of those markers that tell the story.

**Indian Lake Passage.** One of the very first markers to be erected on the Black Hawk Trail, this marker indicates a portion of the escape route of Black Hawk. The Dane County Historical Society erected it in 1997. It is located off Hwy 19 at the Indian Lake Park boat landing.

**Blue Mounds Fort.** In 1992, five years before the Black Hawk Trail marker project, the Dane County Historical Society erected a marker in the Village of Blue Mounds, commemorating the stockade fort that was hastily erected south of the present village. Built in the early days of the four-month Black Hawk War, it provided refuge for local miners and farmers.



## NEW MEMBERS

*Welcome Aboard!*

The following members are new to Dane County Historical Society since the last newsletter. We are pleased to welcome them and appreciate their support; just as we continue to appreciate the steady support of our family of renewing members.

Gary L. Boley	Blue Mounds
Charlotte Esser	Cross Plains
Paul Hessman	Annapolis, MD
Jerome Hillebrand	Cross Plains
Debbie Kmetz	Madison
Alaskan Ice Co.	Marshall
Tim E. Schuepbach	Madison
Lorette & Bill Wambach	Sun Prairie

---

---

# Local Historical Society Networking

By Barbara Furstenberg

Thirty-eight representatives from sixteen historical societies in Dane County met at the Lussier Family Heritage Center on March 17, 2007. The meeting was organized by the newly formed Networking Committee of the Dane County Historical Society (DCHS). While enjoying a St. Patrick's Day continental breakfast of Irish cheese, soda and brown bread, Irish apple tart, cookies, and fruit, the group was entertained by Carol and Bill Kinney of the Fitchburg Historical Society, who gave an illustrated presentation on the Irish roots of Fitchburg.

The meeting continued with a report and discussion of the Dane County Historical Society Library and Archives Questionnaire distributed by DCHS in 2005. Seventeen societies returned the survey. The ensuing compilation revealed a rich treasure of books, maps, photos, pamphlets, correspondence, newspapers, reminiscences, and other materials documenting the history of our county. The survey further revealed a variety of cataloging methods. Six societies use a traditional card catalog; five societies have developed an electronic catalog. Most reported that their collections had only been partially cataloged. Several societies are investigating electronic cataloging programs.

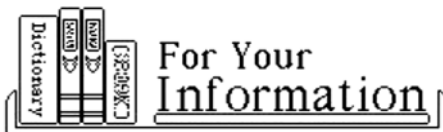
Debbie Kmetz, the DCHS archives consultant, demonstrated the cataloging system that is being used at the Otto Schroeder Records Center. Debbie and her crew of volunteers have worked with the PastPerfect software to create standardized electronic catalog

records that will make the Otto Schroeder Records Center archives more accessible to researchers around the state and beyond.

Local society representatives were given a chance to demonstrate or explain some of their own activities. Access to cemetery records was a common area of interest. Jack Davison, Ed Addison, and Peter Klein demonstrated the Sun Prairie Death Index, an electronic database of area cemetery burials that the Sun Prairie Historical Society has compiled with support from the City of Sun Prairie. Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society is working on a similar project. Cross Plains-Berry Historical Society has a project to collect paper copies of obituaries. Mount Horeb Area Historical Society has obtained cemetery records from the Southwestern Wisconsin Genealogical Society. It was suggested that this might be an area for future collaboration among the local historical societies.

By morning's end, the participants were enthusiastic about the common interests, issues, and opportunities that had been raised. The DCHS Networking Committee is planning another meeting in September.

## Dane County Bookshelf



Occasionally, the Society hears about new publications related to Dane County. If anyone knows of additional new publications about Dane County, its history or its people, please pass them on to us. If anyone would like to donate books, town or family histories, or other publications about Dane County to the records center, please let us know.

*Black Hawk: The Battle for the Heart of America* by Kerry A. Trask. 368 p. Henry Holt, 2006. A recounting of the Black Hawk War. Author is a professor at UW-Manitowoc, and will be featured speaker at the 175th Black Hawk War commemoration co-sponsored by DCHS this summer.

*Pine Bluff: A Crossroads in Wisconsin* by Bob Buege. 345 p. Douglas Publications, 2004. Tells the story of tiny Pine Bluff from the point of view that the small town might soon be swallowed up by "rampant urbanization". Includes a CD-ROM with a 12-minute slide show featuring photos of people and places around Pine Bluff. A copy of this book had been generously donated to the Otto Schroeder Records Center.

# Annual Meeting Photographs - May 7, 2007



Dane County Historical Society dedicated its 2007 historical marker on May 5, 2007 at the Sun Prairie Post Office.



Afterwards, the annual meeting co-sponsored by DCHS and the Sun Prairie Historical Society was held at the beautiful Sun Prairie Community Service Building.



An exhibit of printed materials related to Rural Free Delivery Service was on display at the meeting.

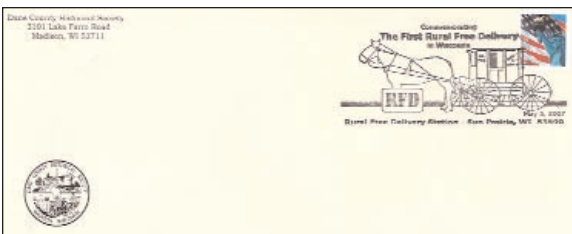


Speakers at the Annual Meeting Presentation were Peter Klein, curator, Sun Prairie Historical Library and Museum and Becky Burbach, acting postmaster, Sun Prairie Post Office.

The post office created a commemorative stamp cancel especially for our dedication event. Some of these collectible cancelled envelopes remain and are available for sale at \$2.00/ea. Note: these envelopes are not valid for actual mailing because the specific cancel date has passed; however, they do have collectible value. Contact DCHS if you would like to purchase one or more of these collectible postal souvenirs, celebrating DCHS.



The Sun Prairie Landmarks Quilt was on display and looked beautiful in the sun-lit meeting room.



---

---

## Wisconsin Magazine of History Goes Online

The Wisconsin Historical Society's quarterly Wisconsin Magazine of History is now available for free online. Volume I, number 1, was published in September 1917, and its successors have appeared every 90 days ever since.

Unfortunately until recently, this publication containing more than 2,000 feature articles was largely hidden from view. However, thanks to a grant from Milwaukee's Schoenleber Foundation, all 30,000 pages of the magazine have been converted to digital format and are gradually being published on the Wisconsin Historical Society's web site.

Currently, the first 35 volumes (1917-1952), including the covers and every page appearing exactly as it was first printed, are available online. The rest are scheduled to be available sometime this year. Take a look!

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wmh/archives/search.aspx>

The site has a powerful search interface that allows users to search for subjects, names, article authors and more, including any word or phrase on any page; or to simply browse by issue or date. Every article and its abstract will also be individually retrieved by Google and other search engines.

---

## Knute Reindahl Festival

The 1st Annual Knute Reindahl Festival will be held at Burke Lutheran Church, 5720 Portage Road, Madison on August 17, 18th and 19th. Knute Reindahl and his family were members of Burke Lutheran Church and are buried in that cemetery. Knute's birthday is August 16th; he would have been 150 years old. The festival is being held to celebrate his accomplishments as a string instrument maker.

The festival will kick off on Friday the 17th with a display of Knute's violins and cello's, and a small demonstration of their beautiful sound by some accomplished string players. There will be a short film running throughout the festival documenting his life, with family members and Reindahl historian, Ron Humphrey, speaking and answering questions. There will be a grave tour by Sue Kittel-Moore, Burke Lutheran Church's historian, both Friday and Saturday.

Saturday evening there will be a dinner available at the church followed by a string concert played with Reindahl instruments. Sunday morning, Burke Lutheran has two services, where the string players will provide special music on the Reindahl instruments.

Family pictures and other Reindahl items will be on display all three days. Call Kathy Foss, Director of Music and Drama Ministries, Burke Lutheran Church at 608-244-8486 for information or questions.

---

---

## Memorial Donations To DCHS

The following memorial and honorary donations were given to the Dane County Historical Society thus far in 2007. Memorial donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. Your gift in honor or in memory of a friend, family member, or event would be most appreciated and will help support the work of the Dane County Historical Society.

All memorial donations are added to the Dane County Historical Society's Legacy Fund, unless otherwise designated by the donor. All honorary and memorial gifts are acknowledged in the newsletter. Gifts of \$100 or more are recognized in the Society's Annual Report.

In memory of Don Philipp By Beverly Kneebone	\$ 25.00
In memory of Terry Karabis (Central High Class of 1965) By Kathryn Buechner Fernholz <i>(For Madison Mirror Digitization Project)</i>	\$ 10.00
In memory of Wallard Finn By Beverly Kneebone	\$ 25.00
In memory of Earl Henry Redders By Stanley W. Woods	\$ 50.00
In memory of Victor Tortorici By Joanne Jensen <i>(For Madison Mirror Digitization Project)</i>	\$ 25.00
In honor of Central High School Class of 1966 By Jack & Cheryl Parrino	\$100.00
In memory of James Guzzetta (son of John and Jean Guzzetta) By Joanne Jensen <i>(For Madison Mirror Digitization Project)</i>	\$ 50.00
In honor of Joanne Schuepbach Jensen (Central High Class of 1956) By Kimberly Jensen <i>(For Madison Mirror Digitization Project)</i>	\$ 50.00
In memory of Frank J. Rane, Sr. (Central High Class of 1941) By Joanne Jensen <i>(For Madison Mirror Digitization Project)</i>	\$ 50.00
In memory of Martin S. Cipar By Stanley W. Woods	\$ 50.00
In memory of Heloise Marsh By Joanne Jensen	\$ 25.00

**Dane County Historical Society Presents  
FORWARD! A History of Dane: the Capital County**

FORWARD traces the history of Dane County through the twentieth century. As home to state government, Dane County history provides background and insight into the development of Wisconsin throughout this period. The book was researched and written by Allen Ruff and Tracy Will. Tracy Will is well known to many Wisconsinites as one of the hosts of the popular television series, *Wisconsin Stories*, developed cooperatively by Wisconsin Public Television and the Wisconsin Historical Society. The first published history of Dane County in nearly 100 years is replete with fascinating details and rich graphics. It has over 400 pages of text, hundreds of pictures, complete index, maps, photos, and graphics enliven the text.



I would like to order \_\_\_\_ number of copies:  
 Historical Society Members @ \$26.95 each      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 OR Non-Members @ \$29.95 each                      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping and Handling: Add \$3.00 per copy      \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL ENCLOSED    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: DCHS, 3101 Lake Farm Rd., Madison, WI 53711  
 If you wish to pick up the book in person to save shipping and handling charge, please call DCHS (224-3605)

**DANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Please renew your membership if you have not already done so. Your continued interest and support enables the Society to carry out its goal preserving Dane County's heritage for tomorrow's generation.

*(Circle your choice.)*

- Individual - \$17.00
- Family - \$23.00
- Contributing - \$45.00
- Sustaining - \$65
- Business/Professional - \$40
- Student - \$10.00

*Make your check payable to:* Dane County Historical Society.

*Mail to:*

Dane County Historical Society  
 3101 Lake Farm Rd. • Madison WI 53711

The Dane County Historical Society has an office and archive room in the lower level of the Lussier Family Heritage Center, Lake Farm County Park at 3101 Lake Farm Road.

Phone: 224-3605  
 e-mail: danecountyhistory@sbcglobal.net

**Upcoming Events 2007**

Don't miss these programs. Mark your calendars!

**July 2007**

July 12 **Gems You May Not Know About in the Dane County Historical Society.** At Lussier Family Heritage Center. (5:00-8:00pm). Event sponsored by the Dane County Area Genealogical Society. Bring your own picnic or fast food meal at 5:00pm and enjoy the outdoors or eat inside. Afterwards (6:30-8:00pm) Debbie Kmetz, will show and tell about the collections in the DCHS Otto Schroeder Records Center.

July 21 **Black Hawk War ceremony.** At Wisconsin Heights Battlefield on Highway 78 south of Cty Y, just south of Sauk City. (10:00am-2:00pm). SHS Director, Dr. Ellsworth Brown and author, Kerry Trask will speak. Public tours of the battle site to follow. DCHS is a co-sponsor. For more information, contact David Gjestson 608-776-2477 or gjestson@yousq.net.

**August 2007**

Aug 17 **Knute Reindahl String Festival.** At Burke Lutheran Church, 5720 Portage Rd. Madison. The festival will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Knute Reindahl's birth. Performances on Reindahl-made stringed instruments. Reindahl lived on Monona Dr. from 1910 until his death in 1934. For more information, contact Ron Humphrey 608-837-4198 or maunesh@spwl.net

**September 2007**

Sept. 8 **Genealogy Fair.** At Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (9:00am-2:00pm) 4505 Regent St., Madison. Event sponsored by the Dane County Area Genealogical Society. Dane Co. Historical Society will staff an exhibit booth at the fair. For more information, contact the Genealogical Society at widcags@gmail.com.

---

---

Dane County Historical Society  
3101 Lake Farm Rd.  
Madison, WI 53711

Check your mailing label. If it doesn't say 2007,  
your membership has expired. Please renew now.  
If it says "COUR" this is a courtesy copy.  
See insert for membership information.

Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Madison, WI Permit No. 739
--

Return Service Requested

## President's Message from Mary Clark

We had a very interesting and successful Annual Meeting in May; and dedicated our latest historical marker commemorating First Rural Free Delivery in Wisconsin. I would like to thank the Sun Prairie Historical Society, the Sun Prairie Historical Library and Museum, and the City of Sun Prairie for their help in carrying out this year's event. You can read a summary of that event and the minutes from the DCHS business meeting in this issue. I hope to see even more of you at next year's annual meeting.

The Dane County Historical Society celebrated its 45th anniversary last year. I invite people close to the Society to reflect on what has been accomplished over the years, and to wonder what the future might hold.

Each year, we count on the generosity of individuals, businesses, and others to support the Society's educational programs, publications, markers, and general operations. However, the Dane County Historical Society Board of Directors recognizes the need to address the more long term funding issues of our organization. It is imperative that we raise funds to support the Dane County Historical Society into the future – and to that end, the board has articulated the goal of establishing a permanent, long term funding foundation to supplement the Society's more traditional revenue sources. Establishing the Legacy Fund is the first step on that journey.

Honorary and memorial gifts provide a meaningful way of paying tribute to those whose passion or work is dedicated to history or to Dane County. All memorial donations to the Society will be added to the Legacy Fund, unless otherwise designated by the donor. Won't you consider making a gift in honor or in memory of your favorite long-time Dane County resident, history buff, Madison Central High School grad, family member, or friend? The future of Dane County Historical Society starts today!!

Send donations to: Legacy Fund, Dane County Historical Society, 3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison, WI 53711.

*Mary Clark, President*

The Dane County Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter), by the Dane County Historical Society and printed by The Printing Place. Submissions are due 15 days prior to publication. Reader reviews, testimonials, flak and flattery, are also welcome. Send to: DCHS Newsletter, 3101 Lake Farm Rd. Madison, WI 53711. E-mail: <a href="mailto:danecountyhistory@sbcglobal.net">danecountyhistory@sbcglobal.net</a> Mary Clark, President, Howard Sherpe, Editor, Dane County Historical Society
---