
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 29

Winter 2010

Number 4

Record Center Highlights – Fifty Nifties

By Barbara Furstenberg

The archives of the Otto Schroeder Records Center of the Dane County Historical Society (DCHS) includes historical documentation of the people, places, businesses and organizations with ties to the County, including books, manuscripts, pamphlets, periodicals, maps, photographs, diaries, scrapbooks, organizational records and other publications.

The Otto Schroeder Records Center is not currently open to public viewing. DCHS does not have staff to maintain open hours to the archive. The Society hopes to remedy this situation in 2011 to restore the capability to open the archives by appointment. If members have questions about specific materials in the archive, they should email the society at: dchs@danecountyhistory.org. We will have a volunteer answer inquiries from members.

In commemoration of the Dane County Historical Society's 50th anniversary in 2011, we have selected "Fifty Nifty" items or collections to highlight from the Otto Schroeder Records Center that reflect the range of materials in the archive. We will be featuring these "nifties" in this newsletter and in each subsequent newsletter during 2011.

Here is the first installment.

1. Souvenir of Diamond Jubilee of St. Francis Xavier Congregation, Cross Plains, Wisconsin, 1853-1928. This 71 page booklet provides rich detail surrounding the founding of Cross Plains, citing a diary written by John Wahl Sr., church records and correspondence, among other sources. St. Francis Xavier was founded by a Norbertine monk, Father Adalbert Inama, in conjunction with a committee of local settlers, to serve a community of recent immigrant farmers who came primarily from the area around Cologne, Germany. The narrative includes information about the church's parochial education program, its social and cultural organizations, the construction of a stone church beginning in 1868, as well as information about the businesses of Cross Plains, photographs and names of parish members. Under the tenure of DCHS Electronic Cataloguing Project Coordinator Debbie Kmetz, whose DCHS Newsletter articles provided detail for this and the following three items, a twenty-one page index to the booklet was created.

2. A New Guide for Emigrants to the West, Containing Sketches of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Michigan, with the Territories of Wisconsin and Arkansas, and the Adjacent Parts. In 1836 J. M. Peck wrote a small book that described the landscape and resources of mid-America, providing travel information for easterners and others who were considering moving to or visiting the developing territories. Among the topics he covered were diseases and health maintenance, the federal government land survey procedures, suggested routes and advice for dealing with transportation service providers. Peck describes the Four lake and Lake Kushkanong [*sic*] areas in Dane County as "abounding with fish, and ... surrounded with an excellent farming country." This book is one of the oldest items in the Otto Schroeder Records Center.

3. WW II V-Mail. This is a red bound copy of the complete set of news briefs that were printed by the *Wisconsin State Journal (WSJ)* between 1943 and 1945

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Record Center Highlights – Fifty Nifties (Continued from page 1)

(CENSOR'S STAMP)	SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2	(Sender's complete address above)
OVERSEAS V-Mail Edition	V * The Wisconsin State Journal *	Madison, Wis. Nov. 8, 1942
ON HOME FRONT		
City and suburban area residents have contributed \$353,391 or 96% of the \$400,000 War Chest quota . . . A 14-year-old boy, picked up trying to buy \$22 worth of war stamps, was turned over to probation authorities—police said the youth had stolen \$40.00 . . . Some 2,000 high schoolers held a noisy but comparatively damageless University Homecoming compared to last year's . . . County Highway M, from Highway 14 near Oregon to Middleton via Verona, surveyed as possible southwest outer beltline . . . First National bank got citation from Sec. of Treas. Morgenthau for service in sale of more than \$25,000,000 in war bonds.		
LAW TAKES STATE JOB		
Mayor Law appointed chairman of Wis. highway commission to succeed the late William Armstrong, Racine, to stay mayor 'til Dec. 1 to finish work on 44 budget. Gov. Goodland charged that the legislature showed a desire to serve its interest first, the state last; that it was susceptible to lobbyists; that it killed bills without regard to merit; and that it apparently found his economy ideas old-fashioned . . . Sen. Byrnes (R-Green Bay) and Assemblyman Thompson (R-Richland Center), legislative leaders, denied the charges, called the report an "insult."		
DEATHS		
Chauncey E. Blake, 62, leading attorney, ex U. S. court commissioner, 1016 Sherman ave. . . Paul P. Niebur, 69, 1127 E. Gorham St., veteran city water Dept. employee, member of pioneer family. . . Hugh J. Home-wood, 49, Maple Bluff, Gisholt Machine Co. treasurer, suicide. . . Chief Petty Officer William P. McPherson, 62, 2434 Commonwealth Ave., navy veteran.		
PEOPLE		
A Dane county soldier serving overseas sent \$100 to county juvenile authorities to aid an unwed mother or mothers; he used to be interested in Children's Aid society . . . We learned that Lieut. Col. Philip F. LaFollette, ex-governor, is on Gen. MacArthur's public relations staff; Col. McCormick of Chi-Trib has said a congressional investigation is in order because La Follette's letters to McCormick have been censored . . . Ely Culbertson spoke at Union on his world federation peace plan . . . Home after 3 years in the Pacific, Tech. Sgt. George Lynch, 513 N. 6th., who has won 5 medals for air exploits, noticed 2 big changes—hotter shirts and tea ration books . . . And Gordon Gardner, aviation chief radioman, aerial gunner in dive bomber which sank 1st Jap ship in Coral sea battle, and his brother, Staff Sgt. Royal Gardner, visited mother, Mrs. Daisy Gardner, 15 W. . .		
REPLY BY MAIL		
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?		HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?
POST OFFICE STATEMENT FORM NO. 1		
THE WISCONSIN STATE		

Page from WWII V-Mail.

and sent to overseas Dane County military personnel to help them keep up with events at home. Don Anderson, publisher of the *WSJ* during the war, donated copy #1 to DCHS. There were only six bound versions made. While many newspapers throughout the U. S. published such material for the armed services, the *WSJ* version was one of the most complete. The weekly digests covered weather, sports, prominent people, activities on the home front, and deaths, among other topics. Information in the digests helped the service men and women understand the on-going support from the home front.

4. Photograph of the Rural District Schools posing in front of Madison High School, 1919, on the occasion of their commencement. This is a large sepia-toned photograph of several hundred students aligned in rows with adults, perhaps their teachers, interspersed. Signs designate various townships in the county. The photograph was donated to the DCHS by Winnie Lacy of Fitchburg. Winnie's mother, Leita Farrell, was one of the students pictured. Winnie has supplemented her donation with a commentary that explains the importance of Ms. Farrell's rural education and copies of school related documents from her mother's scrapbook. These materials reflect issues facing young girls in the post-World War I era when a passion for education often conflicted with the need to help the family on the farm.



Graduates of the Rural District Schools posing in front of Madison High School, site of their commencement exercises, 1919. (portion of the original photograph)

5. The Anne Short Papers. Longtime DCHS board member Anne Short donated a collection of books, pamphlets, maps, slides, and personal papers that reflect aspects of Dane County and Wisconsin history. A Sheboygan native, Ann was inspired to major in history after taking a course from noted UW professor William B. Hesseltine. In addition to raising a family of five children, Ann pursued a variety of historical jobs that included teaching at the high school level in the classroom as well as by correspondence through UW Extension, leading historical field trips around the state, and writing for local publications. The finding aid for this collection notes that Anne's papers "provide a wonderful record of a modern woman who balanced a career with an active family life . . . Her life has been one that has emulated the Wisconsin Idea, one of service to the state and to the residents of it in times both past and present."

6. Ferdinand L. Kronenberg Architectural Plans and Drawings. Nine boxes contain 149 rolled architectural plans and drawings for buildings constructed in Madison between 1902 and 1946. The prolific Kronenberg designed residential and non-residential works ranging from plain commercial buildings to large hospitals, churches, schools, and park structures. Six of his buildings have been designated historic landmarks. A hotel built in 1902 later became Mickey's Tavern, which still stands today on the corner of Williamson Street and Thornton Ave. Plans are included for surviving Madison homes designed by Kronenberg, such as two large Queen Anne style houses.

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Record Center Highlights – Fifty Nifties (Continued from page 2)

es at 1806-8 Jenifer Street and 416 North Butler Street and the Schumaker-Bollenbeck house at 104 East Gorham Street. Prominent non-residential buildings include the Delta Upsilon fraternity house, Emerson and Franklin Schools in Madison and Blessed Sacrament Church in Madison. Kronenberg also designed St. Francis Xavier School in Cross Plains.

7. The Reinke family tree. Although the Dane County Historical Society does not maintain general records of interest to most genealogists, there are some specific family history materials in the collection. This spiral bound booklet documents over 300 descendants of Friederich and Wilhelmina Reinke, who came from Germany and settled on a farm in the Town of Springfield in 1868. There are pictures, background information on German immigration and Springfield, and copies of newspaper reports about family members, including several obituaries. The genealogical information is a model of organization. All descendants are indexed in two ways: 1) a chart that shows their place in the family; 2) personal data on key dates, parents, spouses, children, and occupation. The booklet was compiled by George F. Reinke, whose forty-one years in various capacities in Dane County government included eight years as the first elected County Executive. He compared the making of the document to the preparation of the Dane County budget. Reinke was also a DCHS board member and former president of the society.

8. Madison Citizens for Fair Housing records. This collection includes three folders containing minutes, correspondence, membership lists, pamphlets and other working papers of the widespread coalition of Madison leaders who worked successfully between 1960 and 1966 on a campaign for a city ordinance that created the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission. Stressing outreach to labor, social, religious, and education groups, the organization developed a comprehensive educational program with a speakers bureau that even sent presenters to gatherings in private homes. Some of the issues that the organization addressed were the Triangle Redevelopment Project (through discussions with the Madison Board of Realtors and Madison Redevelopment Authority) and the elimination of restrictive covenants in real estate contracts. A local branch of the Wisconsin Citizens for Fair Housing, the Madison Citizens group also advocated for fair housing legislation on a statewide level.

9. Austin M. Blake scrapbook. Austin M. Blake's lengthy career as a physician in Waunakee extended over seventy years. When he died at age 95, he was one of the oldest practicing physicians in the U. S. and the oldest resident of Waunakee. In 1902, he bought Waunakee's first automobile. He was a founder and director of Waunakee State Bank. Among his hobbies were sports, especially baseball, woodworking, and horticulture. The village of Waunakee organized a day in honor of Dr. Blake's 60 years of service in 1947. Doc Blake Day included a parade, community picnic, baseball game, entertainment, and an outdoor movie. More than 3,000 people attended the event, which was reported in the *Waunakee Tribune*, *Capitol Times* and *Wisconsin State Journal* of Madison, and *Milwaukee Journal*. According to the *Waunakee Tribune*, "His faith and confidence in himself; his love of his fellowman and the enjoyment he is extracting from his simple life have made him the great man we...honor." The scrapbook contains photos of the doctor and his wife and newspaper clippings, primarily about Doc Blake Day.

10. Madison Theatre Guild scrapbooks. Seven large archival boxes contain clippings, photographs, programs, correspondence, a charter membership list, scripts, ticket booklets, circulars and advertisements documenting the activities of the Madison Theatre Guild for the years 1946-1977. Also included are several essays detailing the history of the formation of the group by Julia Hanks Mailer and one by Nina Brinton on the Madison Civic Theatre (1940), the precursor of the Guild. Included in the histories are lists of officers, play directors, and a seasonal list of playbills.

**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.



I would like to order ____ number of copies:
Dane 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 (608-224-3605)

Donations and Memorials - January-December 2010

The following donations were given to the Dane County Historical Society in 2010. Donations of any amount are always greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to Dane County Historical Society. We depend heavily on donations for carrying out our mission to collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Dane County, Wisconsin.

Donations of \$100 - \$500

Cataloging Fund (Foundry Collection)

- George Jacobs (multiple donations totaling in the \$100-\$500 range)
 - In Memory of Owen D. “Dick” Coyle
 - In Memory of William E. “Jingles” O’Brien
 - In Memory of Diane L. Cobb
 - In Memory of Richard G. Cassidy
 - In Memory of Morris R. Zimmerman
 - In Memory of Jack K. Jallings
 - In Memory of Doris L. Wolff
 - In Memory of Bishop George O. Wirz
 - In Memory of Theresa A. Pfeiffer
 - In Memory of William F. McKee III

General Fund

- Clifford/Alice Freyeremuth
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
- Amy Gilliland
- Beverly Kneebone (multiple donations totaling in the \$100-\$500 range)
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
 - In Honor of Loretta Virnig
 - In Honor of Raymond Virnig
 - In Honor of Dr. Anthony Brown
 - In Honor of Merle Manion
 - In Honor of Robert Gill
 - In Honor of Jake/Ruth Loew’s son Robert
- Lloyd Velicer/Sharon Mulak

Madison Central HS Fund

- Joanne Jensen (multiple donations totaling in the \$100-\$500 range)
 - In Memory of Rose Marie Schuepbach (St. Louis)
 - In Honor of 50th Anniversary - Mary/Knobby Kelliher
 - In Memory of Shirley Porter Cuncy (Class of 1953)
 - In Memory of Rollo Vollam
 - In Honor of 50th Anniversary - Phyllis M. Pullara/Richard E. Olson
 - In Memory of Merle Manion (Class of 1954?)
 - In Memory of Theresa Gambino Pfeiffer
 - In Honor 50th Anniversary – Char/John Clementi

Donations up to \$99

General Fund

- Michael Bovre
- Joe Corry
- Jack Davison
- Mabelle Ewald
- James/Barbara Furstenberg
- John/Bernice Gorman
- Donald/Nancy Hamilton
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
- John/Diana Haverberg
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
- Jerome Hillebrand
- Howard Kanetzke
- Kurt/Dana Karbusicky
- Luba Konowalskyj/Gray Williams
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
- John/Charlotte Larsen
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
- Bruce/Mary Lund
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
- Merle/Karen Manion
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
- Thomas/Nancy Mohs
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
- Alice J. Punwar
- Anne Short
- Anne Walser
 - In Memory of Stanley Woods
- Marge Westergard

Legacy Fund

- Karen Baumann
- Dee A. Grimsrud
- Paul Hessman
- Beverly Schwierske
- Anne Short
 - In Memory of George Reinke

Madison Central HS Fund

- All-Central High Reunion
- Joshua/Stefanie Morrill
 - In Memory of Rose Marie Schuepbach (St. Louis)

Since 1968, the Dane County Historical Society (DCHS) has been gathering published and unpublished materials related to Dane County. Among the collected materials are a variety of reminiscence writings and recollections that depict the county's landscape and the lives of its inhabitants in compelling and moving ways.

Reminiscence writing offers valuable insights into and documentation of everyday life in the past, recording aspects of local, family and social history that may not be easily documented in any other way. Reminiscence writers are not simply eyewitnesses to history but active participants on a local scale. We hope you enjoy this remembrance of a past winter in Madison, taken from one of the many reminiscence volumes held by DCHS in the Otto Schroeder Records Center.

Julie's Angel

By Shirley Behm

The children sighed and wiggled impatiently one Sunday in church. The service seemed endless. I signed and wiggled a bit, too. The perfect January weather beckoned – bright sun, cold crisp air, a hint of wind. We couldn't wait to go ice skating on the lake. Finally, the benediction was over and we hurried home. A quick lunch, a change of clothes into snowsuits, hats and mittens, and we were on our way.

Our plan was to drive to Winnequah Park, leave the car in the parking lot and begin our adventure on the boat channel that started in the park. Skates on everyone, let's go. Tom and Julie, at five and six, were already good skaters. Johnny, two, was just learning on double-bladed skates with leather straps over his boots. They were clumsy, but he had fun, anyway. Ed and I loved to skate. We grew up in Oshkosh near Lake Winnebago where winter meant ice boating and skating on the lake.

This afternoon we looked forward to skating on Squaw Bay on Lake Monona where the ice was clear and smooth. We explored along the channel, getting used to the ice and making our way toward the expanse of ice on the lake. Our anticipation grew as we neared the mouth of the channel. Tom and Julie skated ahead and back again urging us to hurry. Ed picked Jon up and skated with him in his arms. When we reached the bay and set him down, we discovered he had lost one strap.

"Why don't you skate here with the children, Shirley?" Ed said. "I'll go find the strap." Julie and Tom practised skating backwards and in circles while Jonny happily played on one skate. "Look at me,

Mom, look at me," the children called.

I watched them, my cup filled to overflowing. Does life get any better than this, I wondered? Suddenly Julie dropped through the ice several feet away from me. I flung myself onto the ice and grabbed for her, catching the edge of the hood on her jacket as she slipped under the water. With an unknown source of strength I pulled her, choking and gasping, back out of the hole. I held

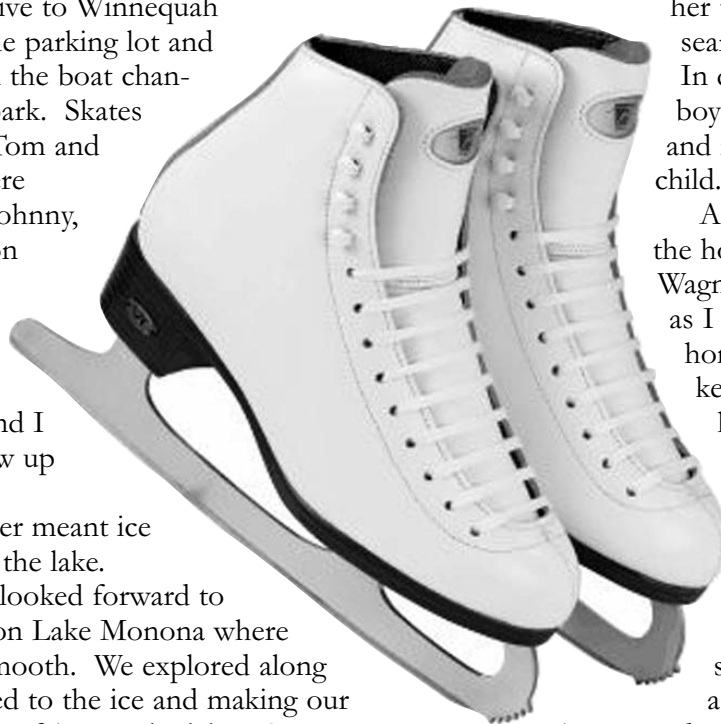
her tightly in my arms, as my eyes searched for Ed, still out of sight. In desperation, I ordered the little boys not to move, not even an inch, and ran to shore with my freezing child.

Across the park playground was the home of an elderly friend Delia Wagner. My tears and prayers mixes as I ran, "Please, Lord, let Delia be home; make the baby stand still; keep Tom from checking out the hole in the ice ... Lord, please."

The door opened at my knock and Delia took Julie from my arms and immediately stripped off her wet clothes. I turned and ran back to the boys. Miracle of miracles, both stood where I had left them, and as I reached them I saw Ed hurrying toward us. He had not found the strap, but sensed somehow that we needed him. We took the boys in safety to the home where our daughter, her wet clothes in a heap on the living room carpet, was wrapped snugly in quilts and Delia's arms.

Later when we all safe at home, Ed went back to the bay to try to find out why the ice gave way under the weight of a small child. He discovered the round hole through which Julie had fallen and five other holes with

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Julie's Angel (Continued from page 5)

a thin covering of ice on top, making them almost invisible. The ice around them was 10 to 12 inches thick. Puzzled and angry at the lack of warning signs, Ed knocked on nearby doors. He learned that the owner of a pier had neglected to remove the pilings of his pier before the water froze. Just the day before, he had hired a company to jack the pilings out, leaving six holes in the ice. He thought they were small enough

to freeze over during the night. They had, but not solidly. They were just large enough for a child to fall through and the water beneath was 30 feet deep.

Our memories of that day are deep as well. Julie would never again skate anywhere except on a rink without suffering nightmares. It took many years for me to rediscover the joy of skating on a lake on a perfect day with perfect ice.

President's Message from Mary Clark



Mary Clark

We had a lot of activities going on at the end of 2010, so time just kind of got away from me. One thing we have been working very diligently on is creating the historical text to be used in a year-long exhibit at the Dane County Regional Airport, to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the founding of Dane County. The exhibit consists of six kiosk panels, each describing a different aspect of our history. The exhibit will open on February 11, and will be on display at the airport all year. I hope everyone gets a chance to get out there and see it.

So now -- Welcome to 2011!! I especially want to welcome all the new members in this anniversary year for Dane County Historical Society. Our membership drive goal for 2011 was to reach "50 new members" for our Golden Anniversary year. I am thrilled to report that we have met and far exceeded that goal already. And it is only January!!

For those of you that are new to our society (and even for some of you "old timers"), I hope you will find that the Dane County Historical Society is successful in expanding your knowledge and interest in the heritage of Dane County. One of the primary ways we do this is through publication of this quarterly newsletter. This issue is actually the fourth issue for 2010. (... Yes, we're a little tardy with this one). You will receive four additional issues of the newsletter in 2011 – Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

Some of the other DCHS initiatives of note include our participation in National History Day. Every year, we honor the competing history students from Dane County with a spring open house where the students are able to present their projects and practice their presentations before our membership. As a lifelong amateur history buff, I am always amazed at the level of research and scholarship these middle and high school students bring to their projects.

We will be holding a general membership meeting as well. At this meeting, we bring in an interesting speaker, have some refreshments and then conduct our official Dane County Historical Society business meeting. I encourage all of the brand new members to attend this membership business meeting if you can. It is at this meeting that we present the annual report for the past year; we elect board members and discuss the direction of the society. This year's 50th Anniversary membership meeting should be very special and interesting.

The Dane County Historical Society operates the Otto Schroeder Records Center at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison. The Records Center was opened in 1968, housed at Madison Public Library. The society maintains a collection with many specialized materials. I like to say that the collection is not broad but it is "deep." We have spent several years getting the materials cataloged into Past Perfect to make them more widely available. Unfortunately, we don't currently have staff assigned to work in the archives, so we have no "open hours" for the archives. The Board hopes to address that situation in the coming year.

Another way that the Dane County Historical Society informs the public about Dane County's past is through the placement of historic markers around the county. In 2011 we will be dedicating a marker at the historic Wollersheim Winery property just across from Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. Watch for more information on that. The dedication ceremony at the winery should be fun!

So – again, welcome to all members (new or renewing). We're off and running with our Golden Anniversary year for the Dane County Historical Society.

A Short History of the Dane County Historical Society

The Dane County Historical Society was founded when in 1961, a group of dedicated county residents got together and decided that Dane County needed an historical society. There had been interest in forming a county historical society for many years prior. Finally in 1960, J.W. (Bill) Clark, the Dane County Agriculture Agent at the time, encouraged an already interested Madison City Farmers Club to initiate the formation of the Society. The charter meeting of the Dane County Historical Society was held on February 13, 1961 at the Dane County Fairgrounds. It was reported that over one hundred people attended that first meeting. Shortly afterwards, Delma Donald Woodburn became the Society's first president, and remained in that capacity for over sixteen years, until 1977.

As its first official act, the Dane County Historical Society published a brochure called *Historic and Scenic Sites of Dane County*, prepared by Bill Clark and Herbert Jacobs. That first year of the Society's existence was characterized mostly by organizing activities; however the members managed to squeeze in at least two organized public tours. One tour took in many historical sites in eastern Dane County, and the other tour was to the State Historical Society's Stonefield Farm in Cassville. The organizers were a busy group. Other activities during the initial year included: the Society's official affiliation with the Wisconsin Council for Local History; the selection and planning for the very first historical site to get a DCHS marker (St Mary of the Oaks chapel in Berry); and the design and adoption of the Society's logo, which is still in use today. Membership dues in 1961 were \$2.00.

Two years later in 1963, the Society began its historical marker program in earnest when it erected four historical markers: the marker at St. Mary's of the Oaks, and markers for Hauge Log Church (Daleyville), Stephen Babcock (McFarland) and Robert La Follette (Stoughton).

In the fifty years since it was formed, the Dane County Historical Society has accomplished a great deal. The Society has continued to manage its robust historical marker program since those first markers were placed in the early 1960s. More than forty-five markers have now been erected by the Society all over the county.

On Nov 13, 1968, the Society formed the Dane County Historical Records Center, which opened at Madison Public Library. In August of 1999 the archives was moved out of Madison Public Library and into storage at the Lakeview Sanatorium nurses dorm. Shortly afterwards, the DCHS Board began discussing fundraising for a move into the Society's current home at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison. Late in 2002, after a major fundraising effort, the Dane County Historical Records Center was renamed as the Otto Schroeder Records Center and moved into the Lussier Center.

Once the Records Center settled into its new digs at the Lussier Family Heritage Center, an electronic cataloging project, with guidance from consultant Debbie Kmetz, began to take shape. Under the watchful eye of Ms. Kmetz and a number of dedicated volunteers, the collections of the Otto Schroeder Records Center were cataloged using PastPerfect, and the catalog is now being prepared for loading to the Internet, making the materials more visible for all to see.

Since 2004, the Society has also sought other methods to make its archival collections more accessible by digitizing materials and making them available for free via the Internet. A full run of *The Madison Mirror*, student newspaper from Madison Central High School has been made accessible on the web. A current project will provide online access to a number of older county plat books.

In 2000, the Society published a full-length book, *Forward! : a history of Dane: the capital county*. This undertaking was something to be proud of, as the volume was the first published history of Dane County in nearly 100 years.

The Society established a Networking Committee in 2006, to help it better understand the variety of services and programs offered by other local historical societies in Dane County. DCHS is one of twenty-three Dane County area local historical societies affiliated with the Wisconsin Historical Society. In coordinating and cooperating with other area societies, DCHS is fulfilling one of its primary functions, as laid out in its Bylaws: "Encourage the work of local historical societies and other organizations concerned with Dane County history to provide appropriate coordination of effort."

As the Society rounds the corner of 50 years of service, it continues to pursue its mission of promoting an understanding of Dane County heritage.

Dane County Historical Society
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Early African American Settlement in Dane County

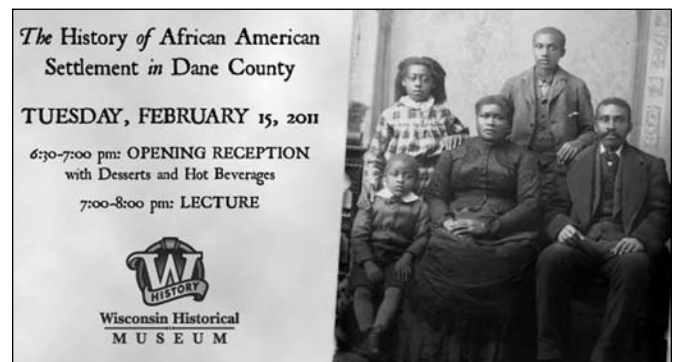
Tuesday, February 15, at 7:00 pm • Wisconsin Historical Museum on Capitol Square

In partnership with the Dane County 175th Anniversary Committee, the Wisconsin Historical Museum is proud to welcome University of Wisconsin-Madison Professor Sandra Adell and community member Betty Banks as they discuss the history of early African-American settlement in Dane County. Doors open at 6:30 pm for the 7 pm program.

Betty Banks is a native of Madison. She is the executive director of Today Not Tomorrow Inc., a local nonprofit organization that uses entertainment and technology to encourage youth to stay away from risky behaviors and to make positive changes in their lives today and not wait until tomorrow. Over the years she has played an active role in the community promoting social justice and equality.

Professor Adell is a faculty member in the Department of Afro-American Studies at the UW-Madison. Books include "Double-Consciousness/Double Bind: Theoretical Issues in 20th Century Black Literature," "Literary Masters: Toni Morrison," and "Confessions of a Slot Machine Queen." Additional publications include a number of scholarly journals, including Diacritics, Transitions, Comparative Literature Studies and The Journal of Caribbean Studies.

Free and open to the public (suggested donation: \$5)
Wisconsin Historical Museum
30 N Carroll St., Madison



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: dchs@danecountyhistory.org
Mary Clark, President, Howard Sherpe, Editor, Dane County Historical Society