
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.

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Number 3

Dane County Historical Society Celebrates 50 Years

By Mary Clark

This year the Dane Co. Historical Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary as a society. There was much fanfare and publicity for the Society's formation and the convening of its charter meeting in 1961. The Society archive contains hundreds of clippings about the exciting new startup historical society. At that time, several other Wisconsin counties had historical societies; and of course, we had the prestigious Wisconsin Historical Society (then known as the State Historical Society of Wisconsin) right in our backyard. However, local history was not yet well represented in our county. While today there are more than twenty local historical organizations in Dane County, in the early sixties there was only one other active local organization when the Dane County Historical Society was conceived.

The confluence of three factors contributed to Dane County getting its own historical society: 1) the vision of J.W. "Bill" Clark, 2) the determination of the Madison City Farmers Club and 3) the 1961 publication of a slim but important volume called, *Blueprint for Growth*.

The Vision

J.W. "Bill" Clark was well known to everyone in the county in the 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s as Dane County's Agricultural Agent, through his radio and TV appearances, and through his newspaper and circular articles. He related his long-held vision for a county historical society in a December 1, 1960 newspaper column:

Some years back when A.O. Barton, then Register of Deeds and official County historian, was still alive I became

convinced of the need for a County Historical Society in Dane County.

At the time Barton, University artist Byron Jorns, and yours truly started a project we never finished mainly because Barton and Jorns died before we really got under way. Our intention was to do a little book about interesting and too little known places in the County. We began by leisurely visits to such spots as the Rockdale Mill – the E and W Koskkonong Churches and graveyards – the Forest of Fame at Mt. Vernon – the Old French

Cemetery near Belleville – St. Peter's Church at Ashton – St. Norbert's at Roxbury – the 100 year old shrine to the Virgin atop a hill on the old Endres farm near Marxville, and the old stone house and winery in the far N.W. corner of Roxbury Township. We planned, of course, many trips when time permitted. ... The death of first Barton and then Jorns brought the project to a halt, of course, but our preliminary skirmishes in the field left me with several very strong impressions.



BILL CLARK
Co. Agr'l Agent

The Determination

The Madison City Farmers Club has been described as "a convivial group of land-based people whose roots rest deep in the land and in agriculture." The group was organized in 1943 and presented programs, tours and outdoor activities for members. Most members, lived in Madison or its close vicinity, and owned or had other family ties to farmland around the county.

Bill Clark worked closely with the City Farmers group.

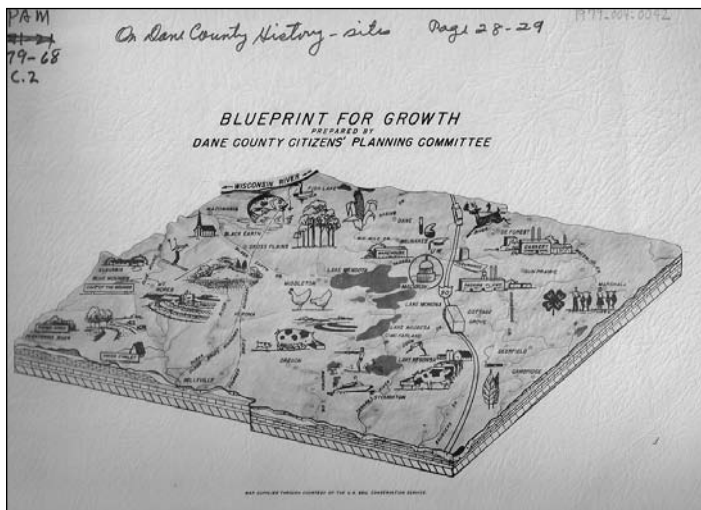
Continued on page 2

Dane County Plat Maps (Continued from page 1)

He reported that, "a number of City Farmers felt the need for a county historical society and a nucleus of history society boosters developed among the club members." As he told the story, "For several years the Madison City Farmers Club has been looking for a modest, non-controversial cause that needed a helping hand. At a recent meeting I suggested a County Historical Society. The club president, Henry Reynolds, grabbed the ball and named a committee headed by Mrs. James Woodburne [sic] of Madison. Mrs. Woodburne went straight to work."

The Publication

A slim, spiral bound volume entitled *Blueprint for Growth* was published by the Dane Co. Citizens' Planning Committee in December 1961. Bill Clark chaired the committee. The report had been commissioned to look at rapid growth in the county and to analyze potential problems with agriculture, water quality, parks, population, roads ... and libraries and historical societies.



The report was released right after the Dane County Historical Society had initially been formed. It was important in the origin and shaping of the Society because it cited a need for a county historical marker program; and it recommended county funding assistance for that purpose. This helped to focus the activities of the new historical society.

DCHS is Born

The first action after formation of the Society was to select a Board of Director and elect Officers. The first officers were Mrs. James Woodburn, president; Edward J. Smith, first vice-president; Dr. W. T. Lindsay, second vice-president; Harold Hill, secretary; and Lloyd Kravick, treasurer.

Once Delma Woodburn, was elected as the Society's first president, she remained in that position for 16 years.



The Dane County Historical Society was organized recently at a Charter Night meeting at the Dane county fairgrounds. Officers picked are, left to right, Mrs. James Woodburn, 211 N. Prospect ave., president; Edward J. Smith, Mt. Horeb, first vice-president; Dr. W. T. Lindsay, 813 S. Shore dr., second vice-president; Harold Hill, 414 Franklin ave., secretary; and Lloyd Kravick, Rt. 2, Cambridge, treasurer.

If Bill Clark was the person responsible for founding the Dane County Historical Society, Delma was the person who really launched it and set its course.

Delma Donald Woodburn was an extraordinary person in her own right. She was born June 2, 1899 in Springdale Township on a farm which her great-grandparents had established in 1855. Delma was raised in a politically active family. Her father, John Sweet Donald, served in the State Assembly and the Senate, and served two terms as Secretary of State. Her mother, Vona, was interested in the causes of the day, including Women's Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) and progressive ideas on education. In 1920, at age 21, Delma voted in the first election for which women had achieved the right to vote.

Delma was one of the first graduates of Wisconsin High School. She received a B.A. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1921. She married professor James Woodburn in 1923, and they had two sons.

In 1934, after her father's death, Delma assisted her mother in running the family's three farm properties in Springdale. The family donated some of their farmland to Dane County, later to become Donald Park near Mt. Vernon. She remained active and passionate about the heritage of Dane County, as evidenced by her involvement with the Friends of Donald Park group, the Mount Horeb Historical Society; and through her early leadership and guidance of the Dane County Historical Society. Delma passed away in 2001 at 102 years old.

Continued on page 3

Dane County Plat Maps (Continued from page 2)

First Year

In its first year, the Dane County Historical Society issued charter memberships to 143 individuals and families.

That first year of the Society's existence was primarily consumed by organizing activities, (affiliating with Wisconsin Historical Society, electing officers, drafting bylaws, incorporating as a 501(c)(3) organization, setting a dues schedule, etc.); however the folks managed to squeeze in a couple of organized tours; a publication,

and planning for the first historical markers. The organizers were a busy group.

The Dane County Historical Society is very proud of our long history and accomplishments. We remain true to the ideals of our founders.

"We are a transplanted people and you and I have been privileged to stand on the shoulders of some pioneers who provided the things we have today."

Milo K. Swanton,

spoken at the 1961 Charter meeting of Dane Co. Historical Society

Time to Renew Your Membership

It is time once again to renew your membership in the Dane County Historical Society for the coming year. The Society depends on membership dues to carry out its mission of preserving, advancing and disseminating knowledge of the history of Dane County. In 2011, our goal was to get fifty new members for our 50th year. As it turned out, we more than doubled that goal; and we hope to increase that membership even further in 2012.

The Society celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2011. After all these years, the Society continues to be very enthusiastic and busy with programs and projects.

We really appreciate and thank our many members who have given of their interest, their time and their money to help the Society achieve its mission. Your support means a lot to the Society; and your membership gives us a boost for the important work we do on behalf of everyone who values the heritage of this county.

Please consider joining the society at the GOLD-EN MEMBERSHIP level. Golden membership dues

are applied to the Society's Legacy Fund, which ensures that the work of the Society will go on.

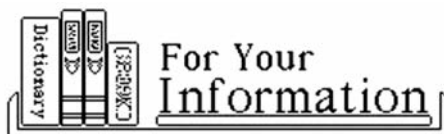
Special 2-for-1. For those that renew or join at the Golden Level, we are offering a two-for-one opportunity for you to share your love of history with someone else. For 2012, renew your own Society membership at the Golden Level and give a friend or family member a One-Year Gift Membership for FREE. Give us the name and address of someone you would like to receive a complimentary membership to Dane County Historical Society for 2012. We will send your guest a notice that you have given them this wonderful gift of history. They will enjoy full membership benefits for the upcoming year.

Please take a moment to fill out the membership form included with this newsletter and mail in your membership dues today; or use our online membership option, available through the DCHS website, to renew your membership online:

<http://www.danecountyhistory.org/member/index.html>

We thank you for being such a good friend of the Dane County Historical Society.

Dane County Bookshelf



Occasionally, the Society hears about publications related to Dane County. If anyone knows of additional 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.

Spaghetti Corners and All That ... Sauce! / by Catherine Tripalin Murray. Published by Greenbush Remembered, 2011. 464 p. Spaghetti Corners, at Park & Regent Streets in Madison, was the heart of Old Greenbush's thriving Italian community. Murray has collected the stories of a neighborhood forever changed by urban renewal. Her latest book presents the memories and recipes of fathers, grandfathers and sons of the "Bush."

Record Center Highlights – Fifty Nifties

By Barbara Furstenberg

The Otto Schroeder Record Center has been maintained and cared for over the years, through the efforts of many dedicated people. For this installment of the Fifty Nifties series, we have asked board members, friends and volunteers to select a favorite collection or publication in the Otto Schroeder Records Center to highlight. Not surprisingly, everyone had at least one item or collection in the archive that they could point to as noteworthy in their opinion. The following article describes how each of these volunteers became associated with the Dane County Historical Society, and highlights the collection they selected to share with the newsletter.

Karen Baumann. (*Mental Health Association of Dane County Records*)

When Karen was a cataloging archivist at the Wisconsin Historical Society, she was very helpful to the DCHS board as it explored the computerization of its card catalog. After her friend and colleague, Debbie Kmetz, became the DCHS archives consultant in 2003, Karen continued to work with Debbie to facilitate DCHS adaptation of the PastPerfect software to the archives. Since her retirement from the Wisconsin Historical Society, Karen has been spending several hours each week processing and cataloging at the Records Center.

Karen's pick for the Fifty Nifties is the large collection of materials from the Mental Health Association of Dane County (MHADC) – 1953-1984, an organization which was founded in 1953 to protect the rights and serve the interests of the mentally ill and to facilitate programs to promote mental health. She thinks this collection is “nifty” because its size (17 boxes and cartons) facilitates substantive research. Karen adds, “Particularly interesting is the organization's conflict with the Wisconsin Association for Mental Health—the state group expected to receive 50% of the local group's income. The United Way, the local group's main funding source, wanted the money to stay in Dane County. Squeezed between the two, the MHADC disaffiliated from the state group in 1979 and by 1983 had voted to dissolve. Their fate is an interesting case study of the inadequacy of shared goals and of other factors which contributed to the demise of this do-good organization.”

Michael Boyre. (*Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce Businesses & Organizations File*)

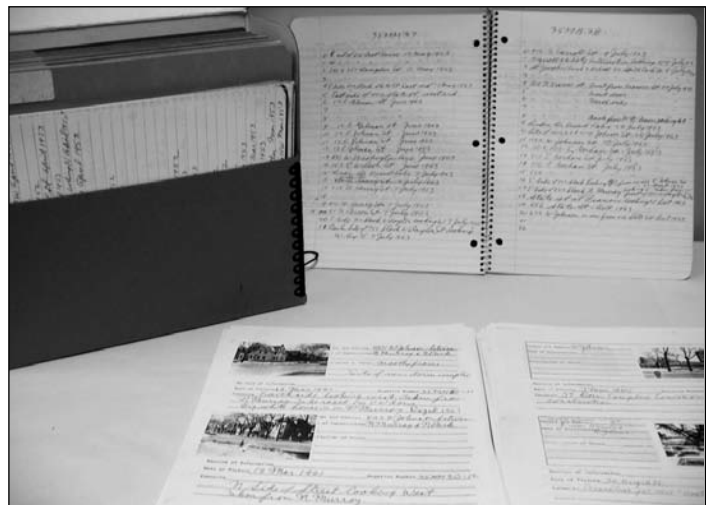
Mike got involved in the Dane County Historical

Society in the 1970's through his involvement with the Koshkonong Prairie Historical Society, which focuses on Norwegian immigrants of the area; Mike has been Koshkonong's long time president. DCHS board members Claire Mulvey and Anne Short encouraged him and he was eventually invited to join the DCHS Board of Directors by board member Gladys Martin of Mount Horeb. Mike's family had settled in the Koskonong area between 1850 and 1873, and he grew up in Albion, Paoli and Montrose. Mike served as the president of DCHS for many years, including during the time that the society worked on publication of its *Forward!* book.

Mike's choice as a “50 Nifty” is the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce collection of information about Dane County businesses and organizations (ca. 1970-2004). This large collection also includes governmental units, clubs, and non-profit groups. The 113 boxes contain newspaper and magazine clippings, annual reports, business questionnaires, occasional correspondence, promotional literature, newsletters, and other materials. Mike recalls that he and other board members made several trips to pick up the extensive files that make up this collection. The entire collection has since been inventoried and cataloged. The collection takes up many shelves in the archives; the inventory list alone spans 143 pages.

Mary Clark. (*David Mack Photographs of Madison, Wisconsin*)

Madison native Mary Clark has progressed from archives volunteer to board member to being the current president of the DCHS Board of Directors. Since retiring as a librarian for the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction four years ago, she has been working for a library software company.



Continued on page 5

Record Center Highlights – Fifty Nifties (Continued from page 4)

During her six year tenure as DCHS president, she has applied her computer expertise to support the development of the PastPerfect database for the Records Center, while generating a series of interesting public programs.

Mary has chosen the David J. Mack Photographs of Madison, Wisconsin (1953-1963) as her “Nifty” nomination. The collection consists of eleven 3-ring notebooks containing original photographs of historic residences and business buildings in Madison taken by David Josef Mack between 1953 and 1963. Mack, a 1931 University of Wisconsin graduate, was a distinguished professor of Metallurgical Engineering at UW. He was a leader of Capital Community Citizens and its Landmarks Committee. The collection also contains some correspondence about this group; and negatives, contact prints and individual photographs, arranged alphabetically by street name. Mary says, “I like this collection for the 50 Nifties, because it is so unique; and it is fun to compare the photos to the same locations today.”

George Jacobs. (*Wisconsin Foundry Collection*)

George, a former DCHS board member, became involved in the Society at the behest of his father’s cousin, Herb Jacobs, a prominent Madison newspaperman and one of DCHS’s founding members.

George has selected the Wisconsin Foundry and Machine Company records for this article, for the following reason: “The Wisconsin Foundry became a nationwide implement manufacturing company that went the way of the rust belt.” The company was founded in Madison in 1910 to design and manufacture road building equipment, specialty foundry casting and decorative metalwork. During World War II, the company made parts for equipment used in bomb removal and crushers used in streets in army camps. The Wisconsin Foundry collection of records and photo-



graphs visually documents the company’s output as well as showing the workers performing jobs and attending company events. George points out that the Botham family, which owned the company, has deep roots in Wisconsin; Sandy Botham, a Madison West High School basketball star, is now the basketball coach at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. George feels this collection could provide excellent support for further research.

Debbie Kmetz. (*Madison Mirror*)

Debbie is perhaps more familiar with the collections in the Otto Schroeder Records Center than anyone else. During her five years (2003-2008) as Electronic Cataloging Coordinator for the Society, Debbie masterminded the conversion of the records into the PastPerfect electronic database system. Debbie’s twenty-four years at the Wisconsin Historical Society’s Office of Local History gave her a good feel for local historical organizations’ needs and missions, so she also provided the Board with many ideas for collection development and public programming.

Debbie really likes the collection of the *Madison Mirror*, the only known full-run original copy of Madison Central High School student newspaper. Madison Central High School was the oldest public high school in Dane County, with antecedents dating back to 1854. There are twenty bound volumes of the student newspaper with approximately 2,600 pages of newsprint covering the years between 1924 through 1969. Emphasizing that the newspaper was very well done, Debbie explains that it, “offers researchers a chance to observe growth and change, make comparisons, and analyze the impact of larger events on the school.” There were stories about how the Depression affected Central, which served as a boarding school for students from surrounding rural areas. During World War II the paper followed students who had entered military service. There is a lot of information about the development of the sports teams. The *Madison Mirror* was donated to DCHS by Principal William Marsh along with other materials when the school officially closed its doors in 1969. During the past decade, generous Madison Central High School alumni have donated funds to pay for the digitalization of the *Madison Mirror*. The digitized version is now available online at the DCHS website (<http://www.danecountyhistory.org/mirror/mirror/MADIMIRR/index.pdf>).

Shirley Levine. (*Zor Shrine Temple Records*)

Shirley is an active volunteer with the Society.

Continued on page 6

Record Center Highlights – Fifty Nifties (Continued from page 4)

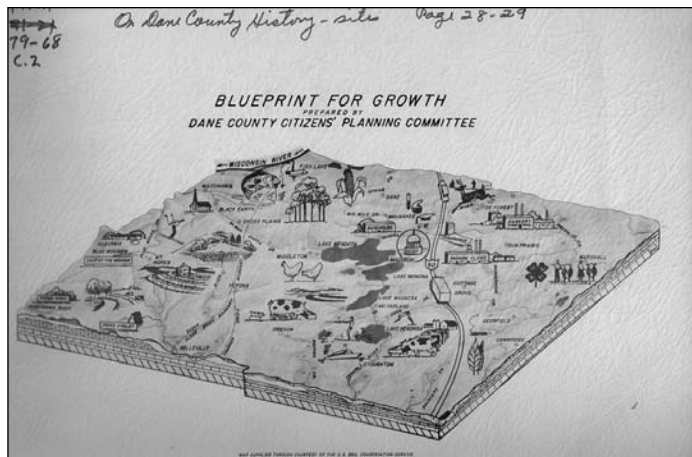
Several years ago, she attended a Dane County Area Genealogical Society program where DCHS materials were highlighted and described; she was fascinated by the collections held in the Otto Schroeder Records Center, and has been volunteering ever since. Her meticulous attention to detail in identifying, indexing and sorting documents has resulted in the effective organization of several large collections.

One assignment that Shirley found especially interesting was sorting the voluminous records of Madison's Zor Shrine Temple and its membership. She recalls, "I came to admire the tenacity and foresightedness of Rufus Welles, donor of most of the materials. Today they fill 5 full size and 4 half size archives boxes, 1 carton, and 24 flat boxes and are testament of a bygone era when fraternal organizations were the common denominator of many social relationships. Zor Shrine is still active today and their past records document the good works enabled by their vast fund-raising talents." The Zor Shrine Temple Records consist of scrapbooks (1932-1988), the Zor Zephyr newsletter (1943-1999), yearbooks and member rosters (1948-1968), subject files, photographs, and assorted publications of the Madison, Wis. chapter of the fraternal organization, the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine for North America, more commonly known as the Shriners. The records include information on the activities of the Camel Patrol, a unit of the Zor Shrine Temple that appeared in parades and gave camel rides to children; the Saxophone Sextet musical squad; Zor bands and clowns; and the Nomad Cycle Patrol, the Zor Veterans Patrol and other activities.

Jerry Remy. (*Blueprint for Growth*)

In 1961, Jerry Remy read in the newspaper about an organizational meeting of an historical group to be focused on Dane County. A descendent of early Norwegian and French settlers in the county, Jerry had grown up hearing his grandfather's stories. His grandfather had farmed in "Frenchtown," an informal community of French farmers located northeast of Belleville. Jerry took his grandfather to the organizational meeting and has played an important role in DCHS ever since, serving as president as well as holding other board officer positions, and has coordinated the Society's historical marker program for many years.

Jerry points to the December 1961 publication of the Dane County Citizens' Planning Committee, entitled *Blueprint For Growth*. One of the first activities of DCHS after it was formed, was a contribution to this report, which analyzed county problems and set up a series of benchmarks for future growth and develop-



ment in the areas of agriculture, education, industry, rural road signs and farmstead numbering, land use, churches, public health, water resources and population and growth. The land use section includes historical sites suggested by the Dane County Historical Society. This report contains source materials, questionnaires, minority or dissenting opinions and some raw data on agriculture and agricultural processing, soil resources, parochial schools, parks, social institutions and problems. There are lists of Dane County milk plants, canneries and canning plants, service and market cooperatives, implement dealers, feed mills, egg buyers and other agricultural information.

Anne Short. (*Dane County plat book collections*)

Anne is a well-known and very popular adult educator in Wisconsin history. A Sheboygan native, she majored in history at the University of Wisconsin and taught high school social studies before marrying John Short and raising a family in Madison. In 1952 Anne began teaching high school history correspondence courses through the UW Extension. After earning her Master's Degree, she began giving historical field trips around Wisconsin for UW Extension. An early member of DCHS, she served on the board for about twenty-five years. Among her many contributions were the editing of *Forward! A History of Dane, the Capitol County* and initiation of the DCHS website. In 1990 she received a prestigious Award of Merit from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Anne has selected the Dane County Plat book collection as her "Nifty." Anne points out that these books are of special interest to genealogists. Despite the fact that the Society does not specialize in genealogy, we still receive many inquiries from people who are looking for information about their family origins. A detailed article describing this collection appeared in the Summer, 2011, Dane County Historical Society Newsletter.

Continued on page 7

Record Center Highlights – Fifty Nifties (Continued from page 6)

Ann Waidelich, (*Municipal Reference Service Collections*)

Ann is a former DCHS board member and was a Madison Public Library librarian who provided reference service to City and County employees and the public regarding information about government services. She worked for the Municipal Reference Service (MRS) from the mid-1970s until her retirement in 2000. Part of her job involved collecting and cataloging documents written by and about the city and county governments. Since her retirement, Ann has continued her research into Madison history, giving talks and carrying out projects. Most recently she did a study of Schenk's Corners and the Schenk-Huegel Store as part of an East Side History study group. Ann is also active with the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society, where she impersonated Harriet

Morrison Dean, mistress of the Dean House on November 13, 2011, celebrating her 182nd birthday.

When the Municipal Reference Service was terminated due to lack of funding, Ann ensured that the Otto Schroeder Records Center received many of these documents, which have been shelved together to become the Municipal Reference Service Collections. Included in the MRS collection is a comprehensive 264 page *Bibliography of Government Publications By and About Madison, Dane County, and Other Cities and Towns in Dane County, Wisconsin*, which Ann created in 1977. This bibliography contains a broad topical arrangement with an index of names, organizations and specific subjects; it provides a good starting point for researchers studying many topics involving area local government.

Supplies Matching Grant Goal Reached!

Thank You – In the last issue of the Dane County Historical Society Newsletter, we reached out to the membership with a plea to help us raise matching funds for our Wisconsin Historical Society / Wisconsin Council for Local History grant for the purchase of archival supplies.

The grant we received, in the amount of \$550 is a “matching grant,” which means that the Society must come up with a matching amount of funds from local or non-grant sources. Our grant proposal was strengthened by our stated plan to raise at least \$500 of that matching amount through direct member donations. As it turned out, the membership stepped up and we raised the needed \$500 in the first ten days after the article appeared; so far, we have received a

total of \$805 in donations for archival supplies. The first shipment of supplies has been ordered and has arrived at our archives location in the Lussier Family Heritage Center. Soon we will begin opening the boxes and using the new archival supplies to continue processing the collections.

We received donations specifically earmarked for archival supplies from the following members:

Karen Baumann.....	\$ 50
Sandra Bennett.....	\$ 50
Peter Clark.....	\$300
George Jacobs.....	\$ 30
Beverly Kneebone.....	\$ 50
Winifred Lacy.....	\$ 50
Randall& Doris Montague.....	\$ 50
Beth Palmquist.....	\$ 50
Janet B. Robertson Trust	\$ 50
Barbara & Donald Sanford.....	\$ 25
Karen Turner	\$ 50
Ann Waidelich.....	\$ 50

Investing in high-quality archival storage materials is imperative for the long-term survival of our valuable records. However, acid-free storage materials can be very expensive, so the generosity of our members is especially important to our having a successful archives program. With the additional donations over the required matching amount we will be able to purchase even more supplies.

Thanks to all who donated to this project; and thanks to all our members who support our efforts.



Dane County Historical Society
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Board Officers Elected

At the most recent meeting of the Dane County Historical Society, Board of Directors meeting, the board elected officers for the upcoming 2012 year.

The organization's bylaws prescribe that Board Officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors from among their number at the first meeting of the Board following the annual meeting. Officers serve for a period of one year, and may be re-elected for additional one-year terms.

Officers for 2012 are:

President - Mary Clark

Vice-President - Joanne Jensen

Secretary - Barbara Furstenberg

At this meeting, the board also discussed duties of each officer position; and proposed dividing the Secretary position into two separate positions:

1) recording secretary and 2) corresponding secretary. No final action was taken, as this would require a change to the Society bylaws

and a vote by the membership. This proposal will be addressed with the membership at a later date.

One officer position was not filled; the Treasurer position remains vacant. This position requires someone with attention to detail and who is familiar with Quicken financial software. Training/orientation is available. If anyone would like to help out the Society by volunteering for the Board of Directors Treasurer position, please contact Mary Clark at dchshistory@danecountyhistory.org for more information.



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