
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 31

Spring 2012

Number 1

Open House

Did you ever wonder what the inside of the Dane County Historical Society office or archives look like? Now that we have highlighted fifty of our favorite Otto Schroeder Records Center collections in the last few newsletters, would you like to see some of those items close up and personal? Would you like to be more involved in the Dane County Historical Society and learn about volunteer opportunities or meet the Board Members? Now is your chance.

All Society members are invited to visit the Lussier Family Heritage Center for a Dane County Historical Society **OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday April 29, 2012

1:00pm – 3:00pm

Lussier Family Heritage Center

(Lower Level)

3101 Lake Farm Road

Madison, WI



Some of the other features you can see at the Open House include:

- Performances and video documentaries by Dane County high school students who are participating in the National History Day competition.
- View the historical exhibit panels created by DCHS for display at the airport to commemorate the County's 175 Anniversary.
- Be the first to experience our new online Virtual Dane County Historical Marker Tour.

Bring a friend and join us for a fun afternoon exploring Dane County's history.



Record Center Highlights – Fifty Nifties

By Barbara Furstenberg

This is the final installment of our series highlighting fifty “nifty” items and collections held by the Dane County Historical Society’s Otto Schroeder Records Center.

There would be no Otto Schroeder Records Center without support and donations of collections from people who have recognized the importance of preserving historical papers as a means of telling the story of a place, a family, an organization, or an event. This final installment of the Fifty Nifties highlights some of these individuals.

Walter Scott. *Walter Scott Materials, 1839-1979, 1993.*

This series of articles has already described some of the books that Walter E. Scott, an early pioneer of the Dane County Historical Society, Wisconsin naturalist and longtime employee of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, donated to the Society. Mr. Scott also contributed nine boxes of scrapbooks, publications, bibliographic notes and other materials that he compiled throughout his lifetime. Many files concern birds in Wisconsin; others relate to Dane County water quality and wetlands, particularly the Cherokee Marsh; still other Scott materials relate to local history, another of Scott’s interests.

Paul Boynton Turner (Mr. & Mrs.). In 1909, Bradley Stoughton, a metallurgical engineer in New York City, began a nation-wide search to learn the names and places of residence of Stoughton families and their relatives. All branches of the Stoughton



family in America appear to be descended from Thomas Stoughton. Bradley Stoughton’s collection became the cornerstone of the Otto Schroeder Records Center collection called, *The Stoughton-Turner Genealogical Papers*. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Boynton Turner of Madison supplemented the Stoughton papers with manuscripts, printed materials and photographs that had been compiled by other persons over a span of more than a half century. The Turners published three books from the papers: “The English Ancestry of Thomas Stoughton of Windsor, Connecticut,” “Stoughton Footprints in the Sands of Time” and “Wisconsin Page Pioneer Kinsfolk.” With 48 boxes in all, this is one of the most extensive collections in the Records Center. In addition to the genealogical materials, there are many items relating to the history of Wisconsin and especially of the Stoughton area.

Hjalmar A. Skuldt. Hjalmar Skuldt, born in the town of Primrose in 1905, was a Madison area art teacher and artist. Two of his woodcuts were used as endpapers in books by August Derleth. He graduated from Mount Horeb High School in 1925 and attended the University of Wisconsin. In 1972 he donated to DCHS the *Hjalmar A. Skuldt Papers, 1921-1972*, four folders of artwork, photographs, and correspondence. These include etchings of buildings; scenes of 19th-Century Madison; and etchings from classmates at the University of Wisconsin from 1927-1931.

Forest A. Johnson. Forest Johnson, from Mount Horeb, was one of several early DCHS leaders. While running the family lumber business, he played a prominent role in his community, including leadership of the long-running summer musical, *The Song of Norway*. He was also a long-time supporter of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society. The materials in the five folders of the *Forest A. Johnson Collected Materials* contain clippings, programs, brochures, correspondence, publications, posters, and ephemera concerning various aspects of his life and of local history in Dane County. Major topics covered include the closing of the Ringling Brothers Circus big top show in 1956; the process of documenting the history of Mt. Horeb

Continued on page 3

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

through oral history interviews; exhibits and historic sites operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society; and the 1976 activities that occurred in Wisconsin to honor the U.S. Bicentennial.

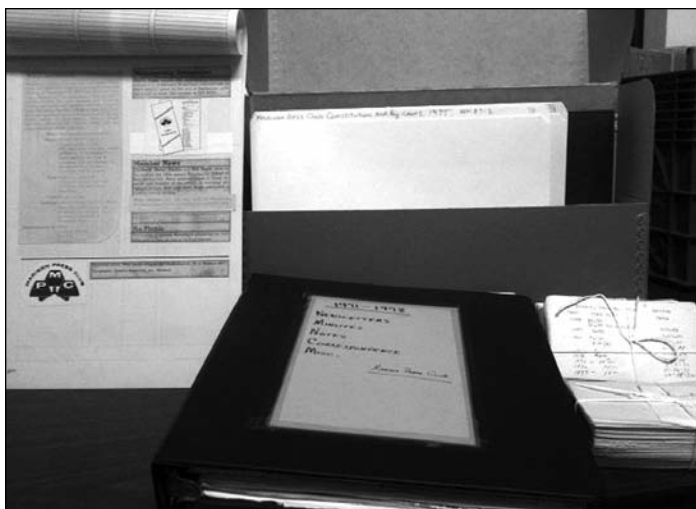
Alicia Ashman. Alicia Ashman served on the Madison Common Council in the 1960s and 1970s, during the turbulent years of the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War movements. In cleaning her office, the well-organized Ms. Ashman realized that she had amassed a body of documents pertaining to national, state, county, and city elections; Police and Fire Commission issues; Project Fresh Start; neighborhoods like Bayview and Lake Wingra; and many social issues. Ms. Ashman called Madison historian and DCHS member and friend, Ann Waidelich for advice on what to do with these papers. Ann suggested donating them to the Dane County Historical Society. The resulting *Alicia Ashman Papers* collection consist of seven boxes that provide insight into municipal government and political activity of the period 1963-1977.

Charles Shetler. Charles Shetler was a former Wisconsin Historical Society librarian. He donated to DCHS five folders of programs and bulletins detailing plays that were presented between 1925 and 1930 in the Garrick Theatre, which was located at 113-115 Monona Avenue in Madison. This theatre had been built about 1910 and was known as the Orpheum. It was the second vaudeville theater in the city. There was a theater at this location until the mid-1930s. Live vaudeville, variety and serious drama were presented throughout its history. The *Garrick and Orpheum Theatre Programs, 1925-1930* collection records the repertoire of stock companies, the Al Jackson Players and the Dorothy LaVern Players. Well-known or currently popular plays from New York and Chicago were presented in runs lasting from five to eight days and with new shows appearing weekly. Costumes and props were often provided by local businesses, like Woldenbergs. There are advertisements by such long time Madison businesses as Rentschler's Floral Shop and Rennebohm Drug Stores.

John Dallman. John, who with his wife Vera, is a long time member of DCHS, arranged for 20 boxes containing *Town of Berry Records, 1850-1972*, to be deposited

in the Otto Schroeder Record Center for safe-keeping after several break-ins at the Town of Berry town hall. Dallman is a former DCHS board member and was a founder of the Cross Plains-Berry Historical Society. Dallman is not only interested in human history, he is Curator Emeritus of Paleontology and Historical Instruments at the University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum. Among the zoological digs he conducted was the uncovering of a prehistoric giant beaver in the Kenosha-Racine area, three mastodons in Dane County and two mammoths in southern Wisconsin. Mr. Dallman created the historical exhibit panels about some of our historical markers on display on the ground floor of the Lussier Family Heritage Center. The Town of Berry records consist of office records of the town clerk, including materials relating to taxation and assessments, schools, licensing, elections, vital statistics, maps, the town library, military affairs, and internal personnel records.

Doris Green. One of the newest donations to the Otto Schroeder Records Center is a box of bank records, membership documents, and financial records from the Madison Press Club, donated by Doris Green. These materials will be an addition to the existing collection, *Madison Press Club Records, 1965-1981*, already in the DCHS archive. Ms. Green was president of the Madison Press Club when it finally dissolved in 1981. The Madison Press Club was founded by a group of professional journalists and members of the press “to promote the welfare and advancement of the journalistic profession and related fields by sponsoring public



Continued on page 4

Record Center Highlights – Fifty Nifties (Continued from page 3)

recognition of outstanding professional achievements, fostering activities of occupational interest, and arranging for meetings and programs among members and guests.” The club was connected to the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Karen Faster. East side Madison resident Karen Faster has donated an impressive collection of materials relating to the Atwood Community Center in the 1990s. Ms. Faster represented that Center on the United Neighborhood Centers of Dane County, assembling a set of minutes, reports, financials and memos. There are also Atwood Community Center Board of Directors materials, including their 1993 Capital Campaign, a cookbook project and newsletters. There is also information related to Center Director Becky Steinhoff’s 1993 campaign for Madison City Council; and the 1997 March for Tolerance.

Mr. & Mrs. William Schultz. Although the primary focus of the Otto Schroeder Records Center is to collect manuscripts and print publications, the archive does hold two unusual paintings donated by Mr. and Mrs. William Schultz. These small (8”x20”), handsomely framed oil paintings of flowers and prairie grass, dated 1877 & 1878, were painted by well known Madison artist, James Reeve Stuart. Stuart (1834-1915), is primarily known for his portraits of prominent Madisonians. Many of Stuart’s other paintings are displayed at the UW, at the Wisconsin Historical Society, at the Dane County Courthouse, and elsewhere. These two paintings had been displayed in the home of Mr. Schultz’s grandmother, Emma Hemerley Schultz Gundlach. The Schultzes initially contacted Historic Madison; Ann Waidelich, a former president of Historic Madison, referred them to the Dane County Historical Society, at the time when DCHS was just getting settled into the Lussier Family Heritage Center.

1976 Bicentennial Collection. In addition to individuals, several organizations have donated materials to the Otto Schroeder Records Center over the years. One of the most comprehensive of these collections came from the Dane County Bicentennial Committee and the Dane County Commission on Culture and the Arts, which organized countywide events commemorating the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution. The eighteen boxes in this collection contain minutes, public relations materials, proposals, clippings and correspondence relating to a multitude of celebratory events, including a “Heritage Days” exhibition; the development of a Prairie Heritage Trail; a wagon train that traveled through the county; a “Mock Convention to Reconsider a Bill of Rights in our Time;” a Dane County Bicentennial Quilt of squares made by local communities; and a showmobile, plays, and concerts.

The fifty collections highlighted in these “Fifty Nifty” articles over the past year, exemplify what DCHS president, Mary Clark, calls the “snapshot” aspect of the Otto Schroeder Records Center. As a local history repository, the archive can be neither complete nor comprehensive. The purpose of the archive is to maintain and preserve materials which provide information useful for the study of Dane County local history from its beginning to the present. We collect materials relating to all aspects of Dane County, including the townships, cities, incorporated and unincorporated villages, along with their associated people, places and events. The collections are intended to provide a “snapshots in time” of what life was like in Dane County throughout its history. From our collections, a researcher should be able to glean a good idea of how folks lived and worked and played and interacted to create the Dane County that we know today.

Annual Report

Dane County Historical Society Annual Report 2011 is now available on the website at: <http://www.danecountyhistory.org/about/annrpt11.pdf>.

Board Corner

Welcome New Board Members

The Dane County Historical Society is pleased to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors.

Dane Varese and Marianne Volker were confirmed in a board election process that took place at the annual membership meeting at Wollersheim Winery on September 19, 2011.

Dane grew up in Dane County as part of a large Italian-Irish family. As so many of our other members, Dane has family ties to the old "Bush" neighborhood. He graduated from Middleton High School. He has recently moved back to Dane County after spending the last seven years in Milwaukee, earning a degree in critical writing from UW-Milwaukee. He worked as a staffer for former Senator Russ Feingold, and is now employed by a nonpartisan political watchdog group. Dane lives in Verona.

Marianne is also a Dane County native. She graduated from West High School. She currently lives in Verona, where she and her husband John are active in the Verona Historical Society. Marianne claims "a passion for history" and says, "I feel it is very important to get all the 'stories and memories' documented"

The board is very pleased to welcome Dane and



Marianne to help us guide the Dane County Historical Society toward its goals. Their enthusiasm is evident and their ideas are sure to help us move forward.

With the addition of these two new members, the Dane County Historical Society Board of Directors now has eight active members and three emeritus members. This means we still have three VACANT seats on the board. If anyone else is interested in serving on the board and helping achieve the mission of the Society please contact us.

Board Officers Elected

At a recent meeting of the Dane County Historical Society Board of Directors, the Board elected officers for 2012.

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 the Quicken financial software. 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. Training/orientation is available.

Donations and Memorials – January-December 2011

The following donations were given to the Dane County Historical Society in 2011. Donations of any amount are always greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Society. We depend heavily on donations to carry out our mission to collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge about the history of Dane County, Wisconsin.

Donations of \$100-\$500

General Fund

- Joanne Jensen
— For DCHS 50th Anniversary celebration
- Sharon Mulak/Lloyd Velicer

Archival Supplies

- Peter W. Clark

Madison Central HS Fund

- Joanne Jensen (multiple donations totaling in the \$100-\$500 range)
— In memory of Marietta Cassini Peterson (class of 1960)
— In memory of Theresa Schuepbach (class of 1946)
— In memory of Stan Woods

Donations up to \$99

Archives Processing (Foundry Collection)

- Gertrude M. Hall
- George Jacobs, Jr.
— For Louis W. Busse and Joan E. Howe
— In memory of Jacklyn Jung

General Fund

- Barbara Posekany
- Beverly Kneebone
— In honor of Wes Garinger
— In honor of Christopher Thieh
— In honor of Miles A. Kiefer
- David/Christine Cookson
- Donald/Denise Peterson
- Douglas/Melanie Woodworth
- Edwin/Judith Borke
- Elizabeth Jackson
- Frederick Wade/Marilyn Townsend
- City of Boise Public Works
— In memory of Stanley Woods
- Jeane Stites
- Jerry Minnich
- John/Marilyn Schairer
- Jonathan Cooper/Jane Richard
- Joseph/Adrienne Imilkowski
- Judy DuFour
- Lawrence Gueller
— In appreciation of research help
- Mark/Érica Fox Gehrig

- Martin Timmins
- Mary Pyle
- Mary Ellen Kearney
- Maxine Dimick
- Philip/Elizabeth Lewis
- Phyllis Young
- R. Penny Rodes Demott
- Robert/Mary Bean
— In honor of DCHS 50th Anniversary
- Ruth Haglund
- Ruth Elsner
- Ruth Dahlke
- Sandra Bennett
- Shirley/Edward Behm
- Thomas Boykoff

Archival Supplies

- Ann Waidelich
- Beth Palmquist
- Beverly Kneebone
- Donald/Barbara Sanford
- George Jacobs, Jr.
- Janet B. Robertson Trust
- Karen/Joseph Baumann
- Karen Turner
- Randall/Doris Montague
- Sandra Bennett
- Winifred/Philip Lacy

Madison Central HS Fund

- Beverly Kneebone
- Central High School reunion
- Deborah Cardinal/Walter Burt
- William Pidcoe, Jr.

Legacy Fund

- Beverly Kneebone
— In honor of Marvin Selvig
- Donald/Joan Peterson
— In memory of Loma Klossner
- Eric/Jennifer Schroeder
- James/Barbara Furstenberg
— In memory of Jack Jallings
— In memory of Stanley Woods
- Jane Campbell
- Karen/Joseph Baumann
- Paul Eastwood/Teresa Mulrooney
- Robert/Mary Bean

DCHS Has a New Facebook Page!!

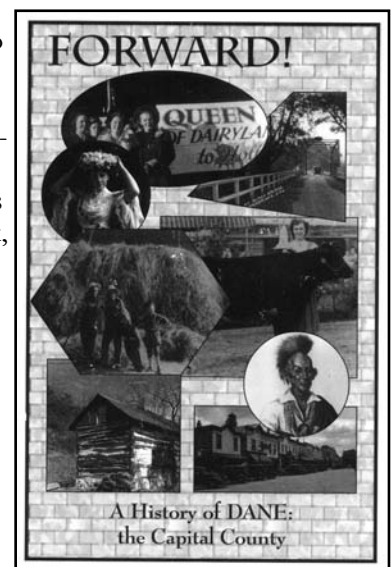
By Dane Varese

As many of you are probably well aware, new media has become a valuable asset to nearly every non-profit organization in recent years. That is why the Dane County Historical Society is excited to have recently launched a facebook page of our own. Facebook, a popular social media networking website comprised of over 500 million people around the world, has become the common avenue many organizations have turned to due to the ability to cultivate a wider audience. We envision our facebook page to be an extension of the website, alerting our followers to the latest news and events offered by the Society and encouraging non-members to become more knowledgeable about what our organization has to offer.



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 Allan 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:

Dane County Historical Society Members Copies @ \$26.95 each \$ _____

OR Non-Members Copies @ \$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
3101 Lake Farm Rd.
Madison, WI 53711

Return Service Requested

Check your mailing label to see if you have renewed for 2012! If it says COUR, this is a courtesy newsletter mailing; if it says 2011, you have not yet renewed for 2012.

Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Madison, WI Permit No. 1
--

President's Message from Mary Clark



Mary Clark

I hope everyone can find some time to join us for the Society's first-ever OPEN HOUSE on April 29th this month. We are excited to have our members visit the Lussier Family Heritage Center. I am looking forward to seeing and meeting our members on that Sunday afternoon.

Also, if you haven't already done so, please renew your membership for 2012 now. The Society depends on membership dues to carry out its mission of preserving, advancing and disseminating knowledge of the history of Dane County. The Society celebrated its 50th anniversary last year; and after all these years, the Society continues to be very enthusiastic and busy with programs and projects. In 2011, our goal had been 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.

Check the mailing label on this newsletter to see if you have already renewed. If your mailing label still says "2011" that means you have not yet renewed your membership for this year. You can find a 2012 membership form on the Dane County Historical Society website; or you can use our Online Membership Tool to renew your membership online with a credit card or PayPal account. Go to <http://www.danecountyhistory.org/member/index.html>.

Please consider joining the society at the *GOLDEN MEMBERSHIP* level. As a special anniversary feature last year, all Golden membership dues in 2011 were added to our Legacy Fund to be put toward sustaining the Society in the future. For 2012, the Board of Directors has decided to carry on that tradition by continuing to designate half of all the Golden membership dues to the Legacy Fund again in 2012.

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.

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
