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THE TIMES OF MINERAL POINT

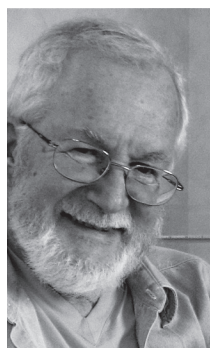
ILLUSTRATED

A Catalogue
of Views

VOL. I, NO. I

Summer 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE MINERAL POINT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ♦ DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE UNIQUE HISTORY OF MINERAL POINT, WISCONSIN



What's up with this newspaper?

The Editor
offers to
explain

The idea came during a chat with friends who think history is valuable. Around here, there are a lot of those folks. We got to imagining a newspaper that would run today's news, but in vintage tabloid form, with the look and feel of our historic city. The notion seemed practical enough, and exciting enough, to warrant a try.

So here it is, an experimental model that may come off the press only once. Maybe more than once. We'll see.

All things historic, plus...

Our sponsor, the Mineral Point Historical Society, liked the idea because this newspaper embodies several of the Society's goals:

It places the historical society in the role of "umbrella organization" for a number of local organizations that foster, and struggle to support, "things historic."

It carries out the Society's central purposes — historic preservation and the education of the citizenry.

It takes a regional approach, to cover events throughout Wisconsin's Old Lead Mining area.

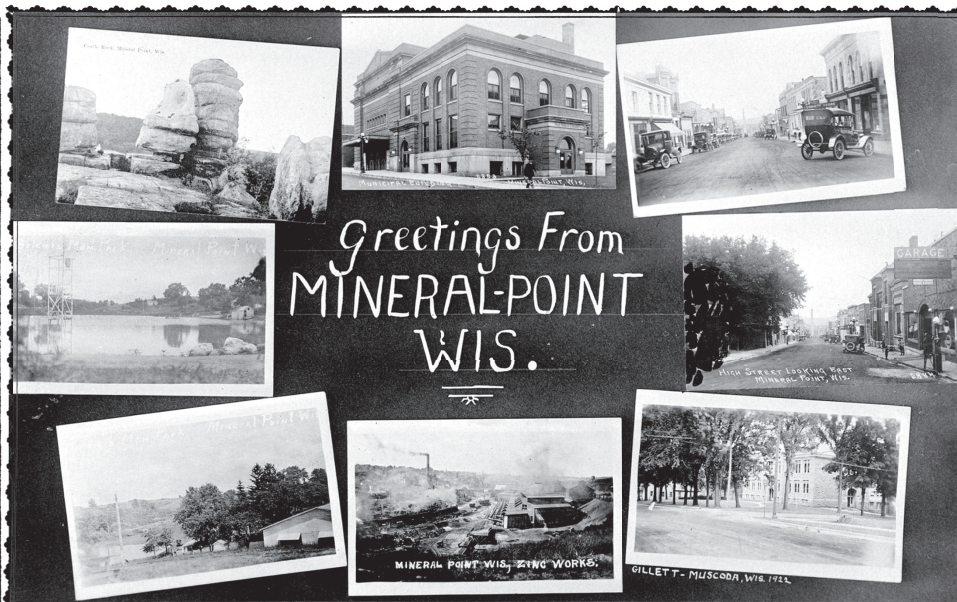
It functions as a timely chronicle of culture and community life.

Step by Step with help

We welcomed early support from MPHS President Jim Strochein, and enjoyed the sage advice of Dean Connors, of Madison, who brightened Foundry bookstore in Mineral Point for many years. It was refreshing to experience the quick positive reaction of those we contacted while gathering copy. I had the feeling that this publication may have come along as "the right thing at the right time."

Mineral Point is steeped in history. Its residents don't get stuffy about it; people who live around here simply cherish the past, the city's old stone buildings and the characters who lived in them, who dug the mines, farmed the land, milked the cows and worked in the quarries, factories and shops of the city. Today, the heritage of the old lead miners is an intriguing mixture of art and agriculture, of tradition and technology.

And did I mention "The Magic"? Ask anyone who has been around for a while. Yes, there is magic in Mineral Point! And one of the jobs of this publication is to show you how to find it, and enjoy it.



Welcome to The Times of Mineral Point

This newspaper is designed to chronicle both "things historic" and "things contemporary" in a beautiful and friendly part of Wisconsin.

The people who settled on this unspoiled land have left a legacy of rich stories that are worth telling and retelling.

The mines are gone, but today this area is home to dairy farmers, savvy businesspeople, and a marvelous mix of artists and artisans.

You clearly see this blending of commerce, agriculture and art on the streets of cities like Mineral Point; and, when the stories are spun out, you sense the role history has played in making this place what it is.

Funded and inspired by the Mineral Point Historical Society, this publication looks back to the past, but also looks at what's happening today, in this truly authentic little corner of the world.

Why Does Mineral Point Matter?

MPHS President
offers a view



I'm often asked the question, "Why did you move to Mineral Point?" My answer is always the same, "because of the landscape and the history."

The "landscape" part is easy to understand. The undulating hills, crooked streams and ancient rock outcroppings speak for themselves with their beautiful repeating patterns and forms, keeping artists busy for a lifetime.

But the "history" part sometimes leads to squints or sideways glances. History doesn't always elicit an emotional response like a sunset or an oriole's song in the spring. It requires a good storyteller or a bit of reading, mixed with a healthy dose of imagination.

Mineral Point and the Lead Region have more surviving evidence of Territorial Wisconsin, 1836-1848, and early statehood than anywhere else. We have the "perfect storm" when it comes to history: fascinating events from the early days that actually happened here on our soil.

Abundant Evidence Survives

We don't have to try and dream up a phony heritage that appeals to tourists. We have abundant surviving evidence in the form of buildings and objects. And we have the stories of so many of the events that shaped early Wisconsin.

CONSIDER THESE LEAD REGION TREASURES:

The Mineral Point Railroad Depot, the oldest surviving depot in the state.

The only surviving Territorial governmental buildings in the United States: the First Capital, Belmont.

The only standing lead furnace in the region: behind Singer Lumber, Dodgeville.

A verified 1827 log cabin that was one of the first settlements in the lead region and included the future first governor of Wisconsin and his freed slaves from Missouri: Dodge Party Cabin, Dodgeville.

And tiny Pendarvis House, the most humble building in this corner of the state but one that ultimately had the greatest impact on the region's character.

Because the Lead Region hasn't yet been bulldozed, paved and vinyl-sided to death, there is still so much to observe and contemplate. There's enough history out there, like the artist painting landscapes, to keep one busy for a lifetime.

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Established 1939

IN THE INTERESTS OF COMMUNITY
EDUCATION AND THE FURTHERANCE
OF HISTORIC UNDERSTANDING

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AND AN INTERESTED GENERAL PUBLIC.

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donation from Dean Connors of Madison, Wisconsin,
bookseller and historian.



Comments, Queries, Contributions?
Wet the nib and write Frank Beaman
at The Times of Mineral Point,
P.O. Box 188, 234 Madison Street,
Mineral Point, Wisconsin 53565

Shake Rag Alley's Outdoor Stage Opens with Storyteller's Festival



Volunteers execute tough landscape and platform plan in Spring showdown

Curtain going up! But without a curtain.
The action on the stage is under the stars,
in the clean, fresh air of Mineral Point.

The Shake Rag Alley Center for the
Living Arts is unveiling the new Alley
Stage on June 28, with a grand opening
weekend of special theatrical events. And,
during the summer season the Stage will
present original first-run plays by
regional authors, as well as entertainment
nights featuring local musicians, story-
tellers and other performers.

Artistic Director Coleman has led a
pioneering effort to transform a natural
amphitheater in an old quarry behind the
Shake Rag Alley Coach House. Local plans
and local labor has shaped a playhouse
from a limestone shelf, and levelled a
seating area for benches that place the
audience in an intimate half-circle only a
few feet from the actors.

The benches are a part of the story. As
an early fundraiser, Aldo Leopold style
wooden benches were crafted by volun-
teers, and then sold to donors who enjoyed
giving each bench a name. Some of the
names are sentimental, some theatrical,
some a bit outrageous.

The early players were not actors

The construction of the Alley Stage
has been a cooperative venture by many
contributors. Allen Schroeder and Bob
Kubicek of the Pendarvis Historic Site
helped with land use and planning, Larry
Terrill's landscaping work got the quarry
ready for the builders, Tim Marr's work
crew. Michael Reed, of Chicago, a
renowned theatrical lighting expert,
donated fixtures and his time to the
project. Coleman, Michael Donovan and
Matt Ostergrant made the two-seat benches.
And Shake Rag Alley management and
staff were on hand every step of the way.

A Playwriting Competition produced a
number of good works, from which Coleman
has chosen upcoming shows.

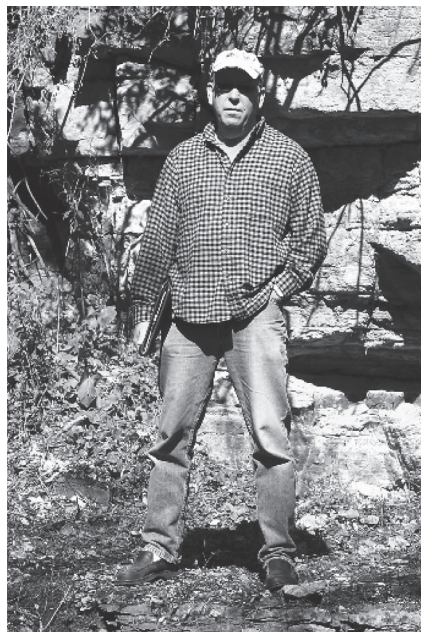
The first production, however, will be
Coleman's own, "Class," a two-act drama
based on a classroom experiment in Iowa
that offered startling lessons about prejudice.
"Class" runs July 5 - 29, with Platteville
artist Doug Mackie in the Director's chair.

The outdoor theatre has rustic roots.
Literally roots. "In the Fall of 2006," said
Coleman, "when Judy Sutcliffe brought
me here, there was a massive mound of
brush in the middle of the space, awaiting
a burn. The 13-foot limestone walls were
so obscured by wild growth that they
couldn't be seen at all, and the ground was
awash from a recent rain because the

drainage was so lousy."

A Volunteer Clean Up Day, and then
another, and another, helped solve the
problems.

"Even then," Coleman said, "it just felt
right. And now that it's in shape, it really
is perfect."



Artistic Director, Coleman

THE ALLEY STAGE SEASON



June 29 and 30
Grand Opening
Alley Stage Storytellers' Festival
7:30 p.m.

July 5 thru 29
"Class: Learning to Hate is Fun"
a play by Coleman
7:30 p.m., Thu, Fri, Sat & 2 p.m. Sun.

August 2 thru 31
"Last Days of a Translator"
a play by Marc Kornblatt,
winner of Playwriting Competition
7:30 p.m. Thu, Fri, Sat & 2 p.m. Sunday

August 10 - "Deep Magic" by Josh Lazoff

August 11
"The Last Laugh"
a comedy by Bill Svanoe, starring
Joan Darling
7:30 p.m. at the Opera House

August 19 - "Cool Cafe Jazz"
with the Stellanovas

Sept. 1 - 2 - "24-Hour Play Festival,"
7:30 on Sat. & 2 p.m. on Sunday

It is impossible to imagine Goethe or
Beethoven being good at billiards or golf.

-H.L. Mencken, writer, editor,
and critic (1880-1956)



TGIF! LET'S GO JAMMIN' ON THE PORCH

By Carole Spelic' & Bill Grover

YES! The "Jammin' on the Porch"
series continues for another summer.

The Blues Duo "Dr. Eric and Billy G"
will open the concert season at Orchard
Lawn on the evening of June 8th.

The popular Friday night concerts have
successfully evolved from a time when folks
would gather on the Gundry House porch
after hours on Friday nights in summer.
MPHS Board Member Lucille May noted, "It
was just the usual thing to do - you'd bring
a bottle and snacks to share, and spend an
hour or two winding down and swapping
tales with friends and neighbors."

Later, Jan and Ken Wheaton added a
musical component, with Ken and friends
setting up their instruments and playing
to the folks on the porch. Soon the crowd
exceeded the capacity of the porch itself
and spilled onto the lawn.



The Mineral Point Historical Society
began supporting the event, appropriately
enough, since the Society operates on the
principle of community-based activities,
promoting the concept that all should
enjoy the Orchard Lawn property as "the
Living Room of Mineral Point."

"Jammin'" is a casual, family-friendly
evening with friends chatting, kids dancing
up front on the drive, people coming and
going, and dogs playing in the side yard.
The event attracts folks from all over the
region, and it has been noted that "if
'Jammin'' were in Madison there would be
a thousand people on the lawn, hanging
out 'til all hours."

Featuring local talent, "Jammin' on the
Porch" happens on the second Friday of
the month from June through September.
The concert's time, 5:30 - 7:30, was
designed to give people the chance to
decompress, catch some music and then go
on with their weekend activities. The
bands contribute their time and talent,
giving back to the Society and the
community at large. Tips are always
welcome, whether cash, snacks or drinks.

The line-up for the Jammin' gets off to
a rollicking start with "Dr. Eric and Billy
G" and all kinds of blues on June 8th.

Dr. Eric, an actual physician, supplies
the vocals and sparkling, swift guitar
work on a broad range of blues and rag-
time tunes. Bill Grover, a recent transplant
to Mineral Point, is a long time blues
harmonica player. He cut his teeth on
Chicago blues and boogie. He's a loose
player and is forever trying new ways to
create a more exciting sound.

"Point Five" will present their eclectic
assortment of acoustic songs on July 13th.
The August 10th date will be rocking out
with the new Dave Hopper quartet, "The
What," and the season will close with
"The Fly Rights" playing jazz standards
and danceable swing favorites on
September 14th.

Everyone is invited to this free
series! Bring your own chairs,
blanket, picnic, and drinks.



Farmer's Market: a Saturday Sensation

The Mineral Point Farmer's Market is open at its summer home in the pavilion and park that lies in the shadow of the city's water tower, on Business Highway 151.

The Market has grown in recent years, and is counted as one of the best sources for natural, local food products in Southwest Wisconsin. Most of the produce and meat products are organic, sold at small booths by the people who raise the vegetables, fruits and animals.



Rink DaVee
and
Jenny Bonde
of Shooting
Star Farms—
Organic
Produce and a
friendly smile

You'll find a good selection of naturally raised beef, pork, chicken and lamb, fresh eggs, baked goods, spices, honeys and syrups, soaps and candles. Take your coffee by the cup or buy the bag. Pick out knitted goods, or a local work of art. And choose from a line up of plants — flowers, vegetables and herbs — to take home to plant in the ground.

The Farmer's Market opens at 8:30 on Saturday mornings through the third weekend in October. It's the "place to be," an informal center for good conversation and fun, until 11:00 a.m., And it's a good idea to get there early to get the best pick of the crops!

Lois Federman heads up the growers association, and invites you to sign up for her weekly email preview of market events by sending a message to federman@charter.net. If you're interested in becoming a vendor, check in at starfarm@mhtc.net

What I stand for is what I stand on.
—Wendell Berry, farmer, author



A bit of history

Mineral Point was founded in the 1820s, when miners discovered they could pick up lead, in chunks, lying on open ground.

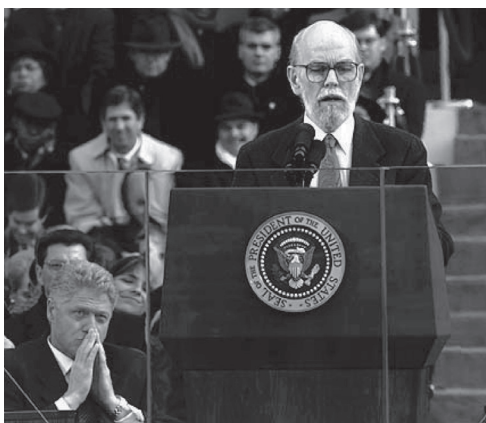
But in the boom-and-bust economy of the city over the years, farming took hold as residents worked to develop a steady and reliable base for their way of life. Dairy cattle became part of the landscape, and the native bluegrass fed to the cattle produced animals that provide excellent beef.

In the days when the Chicago Stock Market was thriving, the stockyards' dealers had a special name for locally-raised beef animals: they called them "Mineral Pointers."

Of History and Hope

POETRY FOR OUR TIMES

The 1997 Clinton inaugural poem
by Arkansas Poet Miller Williams



We have memorized America,
how it was born and who we have been and where.

In ceremonies and silence we say the words,
telling the stories, singing the old songs.

We like the places they take us. Mostly we do.

The great and all the anonymous dead are there.

We know the sound of all the sounds we brought.

The rich taste of it is on our tongues.

But where are we going to be, and why, and who?

The disenfranchised dead want to know.

We mean to be the people we meant to be,

to keep on going where we meant to go.

But how do we fashion the future? Who can say how
except in the minds of those who will call it Now?

The children. The children. And how does our garden grow?

With waving hands -- oh, rarely in a row --

and flowering faces. And brambles, that we can no longer allow.

Who were many people coming together

cannot become one people falling apart.

Who dreamed for every child an even chance

cannot let luck alone turn doorknobs or not.

Whose law was never so much of the hand as the head

cannot let chaos make its way to the heart.

Who have seen learning struggle from teacher to child

cannot let ignorance spread itself like rot.

We know what we have done and what we have said,

and how we have grown, degree by slow degree,

believing ourselves toward all we have tried to become --

just and compassionate, equal, able, and free.

All this in the hands of children, eyes already set

on a land we never can visit -- it isn't there yet --

but looking through their eyes, we can see

what our long gift to them may come to be.

If we can truly remember, they will not forget.

Copyright 1997 The Washington Post Company

Miller Williams once distributed literature for the young politician, Bill Clinton. The poet's inaugural work reflects his years as a civil rights activist. At a luncheon after the inauguration ceremony, Clinton said, "I will take it as an admonition and will keep it close to my heart."

Williams was born in Hoxie, Ark., a little railroad town. He always wanted to write but his college entrance tests showed "I had no verbal aptitude and I should go into the hard sciences." He became a biologist but landed a job teaching English. So he got his wish, after all.

There had been only two inaugural poets before Williams. In 1961, at John F. Kennedy's inauguration, it was Robert Frost. And at Clinton's first, it was Maya Angelou. Williams has written 26 books of poetry, criticism and history and has won many of poetry's most prestigious honors.

His daughter, Lucinda Williams, is perhaps known to a larger audience. A writer and singer of country songs, she was given this accolade by fellow singer Emmylou Harris: "She can sing the chrome right off a trailer hitch."



Old dog, new tricks.

Mineral Point is declared a
National Trust
"Distinguished Destination."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the country's largest private, nonprofit preservation organization, has selected Mineral Point as one of its 2007 Dozen Distinctive Destinations, an annual list of unique and lovingly preserved communities in the United States.

The 12 destinations were among 63 nominees in 27 states. Mineral Point is the smallest city chosen, and only two destinations were located in the Midwest.

On its popular website, NTHP writes of the city this way: "A hidden gem nestled in the rolling hills of southwestern Wisconsin. A walk through the town is to experience a century and a half of design, from Cornish rock houses to Craftsman bungalows, from simple log cabins to neoclassical confections."



Chamber
Director
Joy Gieseke
delivers the
good news.

To date, there are 96 Distinctive Destinations located in 41 states throughout the country. In the language of the National Trust, "In each community, residents have taken forceful action to protect their town's character and sense of place. Whether by enacting a local preservation law to protect historic buildings against demolition, rewriting zoning codes to prevent commercial sprawl, removing regulatory barriers to downtown housing, making downtown areas more walkable, enacting design standards, or taking some other major step that demonstrates a strong commitment to their town, residents have worked hard to preserve the historic and scenic assets of their communities, with rewards that transcend town limits."

And Mineral Point qualifies, as,

"A quintessentially American town with a strong sense of belonging; travelers savor Mineral Point's many charms," said Richard Moe, president of the NTHP. "Thanks to its welcoming attitude and tremendous community pride, Mineral Point has achieved a standard many communities strive to emulate."

The designation, received in January, has already had an impact on "heritage tourism" in the city, as measured by downtown foot traffic and by the number of visitors who use the blog "feedback" feature on the National Trust website to register their excitement in finding Mineral Point "As Good as Advertised."

See related articles on p. 11:
"Heritage Tourism" by J. Lambin

and

"The Economic Power of Art"
by John J. Waelti

Mineral Point Historical Society and “Orchard Lawn”

Chicago Art Institute students pay a visit at the Gundry Home

On a recent weekend in May, twenty students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago visited Mineral Point for behind-the-scenes tours of Orchard Lawn and Pendarvis. Mineral Point Historical Society President Jim Stroschein hosted the group, which included professors Lisa Stone and Jim Zanzi.



Stroschein began the discussion on the porch of Orchard Lawn, covering the origins of the “lead rush” and setting the stage for the arrival of Cornish immigrants Joseph and Sarah Gundry. The Orchard Lawn tour included a discussion of the changes in interior decorative arts throughout the Gundry occupancy and the society’s work in preserving the rare, surviving layers of history in the form of wallpaper scraps, fabric remnants and hand-written graffiti.

Saturday morning, Stroschein gathered the group on Shake Rag Street and, upon entering the front door of tiny Pendarvis House, the students were astounded to learn that the humblest house in the city has had the largest influence on the city’s identity.

The tour continued in the afternoon at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin in Spring Green and returned to the library at Orchard Lawn where student final projects were presented and critiqued.



Prof. Jim Zanzi, at right, a Mineral Point resident, leads the discussion.

FOUNDERS’ DAY FACTS:

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S
SECOND ANNUAL FOUNDERS’
DAY AT ORCHARD LAWN,
234 MADISON STREET

“BACK TO THE FORTIES”
1940s Costumes Optional
But Encouraged

RECEPTION AT 6 DINNER AT 7
MUSIC 6 TO 10 – “40s Tunes” by the
Ken Kilian Quartet & DANCING

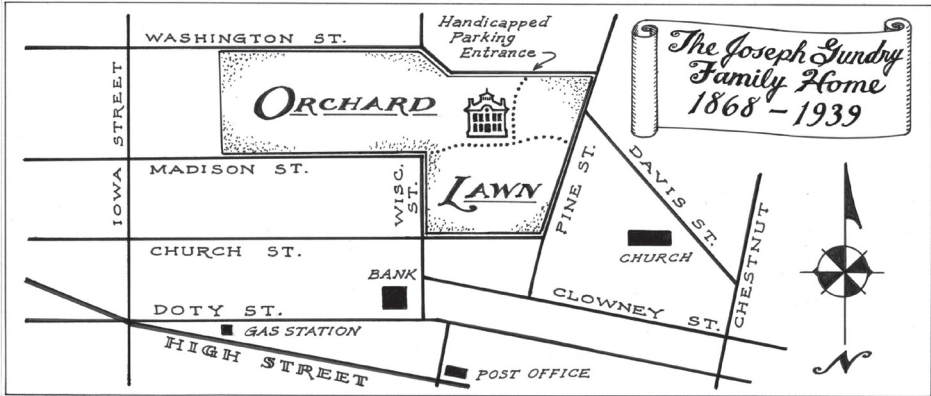
TICKETS \$35
ADVANCE RESERVATIONS ONLY

Visit www.mineralpointhistory.org



The Gundry House Opens Its Doors

The Joseph and Sarah Gundry home, built in 1868, is open for tours:
Friday & Saturday from 1 to 5 and Sunday from 11 to 2
Through Mid-September



Plans for 2nd Annual Founders’ Day announced

TURNAWAY CROWDS EXPECTED FOR “BACK TO THE FORTIES”

The 2nd Annual MPHS Founders’ Day Celebration, an evening of food and fun, takes place on Thursday, July 26, in the broad expanse of grass and gardens at Orchard Lawn, and concludes with dancing under the stars.

The event commemorates the signing of the charter of the Mineral Point Historical Society by 11 townspeople in 1939, an act that averted the destruction of the Gundry home and created the city’s preeminent home museum.

To salute the founders, the Society will, year by year, mark the passage of time in decades. Last year, in the first event of its kind, Founders’ Day focused on the 1930s. This year, the theme is “Back to the Forties,” a decade dominated by World War II, the postwar economic boom and the beginning of the Cold War.

Mineral Pointers Bill and Greta Grover are serving as Event Planners, working with MPHS board members and volunteers to produce an evening of great surprises – in food, drink and entertainment. Planned features include a military “mess tent” dispensing “chow” – actually, an elegant meal – as well as an open bar, a USO Stage Door Canteen production, and the 40’s music of the Ken Kilian Quartet, with a portion of the lawn set aside for the fox trot and jitterbug.

The Society’s educational mission will be observed with an exhibit of topical displays, depicting life in the city during the war years, and an update on progress made by the young historical society

during that period.

Invitations will be mailed to MPHS members and guests, and ticket holders are invited to dress up in costumes of the 40s, military or civilian, realistic or fanciful. Prizes will be awarded for “Best Costumes.”

Last year’s Founders’ Day was an “instant tradition,” as the crowd swelled to more than 135. The event is the largest single gathering sponsored by the historical society; it’s the organization’s “signature celebration.”

This is the place to show that you appreciate the work the Society has done over the past 68 years. Your \$35 ticket supports the organization, and gets you inside our gates for a wonderful outdoor party with good food, good music and great friends.”



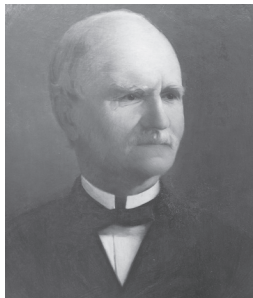
Part of the crowd at the 2006 Founders’ Day celebration at Orchard Lawn

Art is not a thing, it is a way.
– Elbert Hubbard

The Gundry House

Joseph Gundry was born on a small farm in Cornwall, in England, in 1822, and came to America in 1845 with limited funds but unlimited ambition.

He traveled with the band of Cornish miners who settled in Mineral Point, but chose a career in retailing, opening a dry goods store and building the enterprise into a fortune in general merchandise. He also invested in land, and in the city’s foundries.



Joseph Gundry

In 1866, he and his wife Sarah used his wealth to build a home that bespoke of his success: a fine house for a family of ten, in the popular but costly Italianate design,

featuring a belvedere on the roof and a broad front porch, surrounded by 11 acres of formal gardens and lawns, with tennis and croquet courts, elaborate entry gates, and an orchard. Later in life, Gundry displayed his deep interest in trees and plants, planting specimens that stand today. Construction used local lumber and sandstone.

In the home’s double parlor, library, dining room and bedchambers, fine carpets and furnishings were brought in. The work of the home was done by servants.

The Gundry family lived in the house for 68 years, and in the 1930s sought to sell the property, and, that failing, give it away. During the Great Depression the market for mansions was gone, and the Gundry heirs signed a demolition contract. Then 11 Mineral Point residents stepped forward, raised a bit of money, saved the house from the wrecking ball, and formed the Mineral Point Historical Society.

In the years between 1939 and today, volunteers have fashioned the proud old home into a living museum for the Mineral Point community.

No velvet ropes here. No “Do Not Touch” signs.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the exhibits, the performances and the parties that make Orchard Lawn what it is: the city’s beautiful bridge between the past and the present.



New foundations unearthed: Plans redrawn

MPHS Board Members Peter Pfotenhauer and Matt Ostergrant spent a day digging along Washington Street, in search of the remains of the woodshed and ice house that showed up in recently acquired old photos of Orchard Lawn. They found what they looked for. The discovery of the stone foundation, shown above, is the first of many the MPHS hopes to make as part of its plan to locate and preserve remains of the buildings which once comprised the Gundry family’s estate. Besides the house, only one complete structure survived the wrecking ball in 1939. Referred to for decades as the “chicken coop,” turns out that it never housed chickens, but it may have been a gardening shed. Ostergrant, an architect, has prepared blueprints to enable the Society to restore the little building to its 1900 condition. So...“Watch This Space!”

Life in the Diggins'

Excerpted from an account by Henry E. Legler,
The Sentinel Company, Milwaukee, WI - 1898



With the keen scent of birds of prey, gamblers and other adventurers flocked to the lead diggings of southwestern Wisconsin during the great mining excitement that occurred in the early '20's. As was the case later in California, gambling dens and grog shops were constructed in the midst of the cabins of the miners, and the fruit of the prospector's thrift often went into the coffers of the card shark. During the years when the lead mines were being developed, the aggregation of cabins that dotted the region were the typical frontier camps of a mineral country, with their swagger and utter disregard of any law but their own—prototypes of the later gulch towns of the far West.

Their names were characteristic

Some of them yet retain a place on the map of Wisconsin. Among them were Hardscrabble Diggings, Buncome, Snake Hollow, Shake-the-Rag-Under-the-Hill, Rattle Snake Diggings, Big Patch, and other places with more euphonious, if less descriptive, names.

It was about 1822 that the so-called discovery of the lead diggings in southwestern Wisconsin occurred. For nearly two centuries the existence of the ore in that region had been known to white men, but the Indians were unwilling to let them penetrate to the mines. This was especially the case when the pushing Americans began to travel from the southern states to the upper Mississippi in quest of fortune. Before this, Frenchmen had been given permission to work the mines to some extent, for the Indian was ever wont to fraternize with the representatives of this volatile race, but Americans were rigidly excluded. The introduction of firearms among the Indians had taught them the value of the lead as an article of barter. It was stated in a letter written to the secretary of war in 1810 by Nicholas Boilvin, agent at Prairie du Chien, that the quantity of lead exchanged by Indians for goods during the season was about 400,000 pounds.

Doubtless none but Frenchmen had been at the mines previous to the war of 1812, but in 1816 a St. Louis trader named John Shaw succeeded in penetrating to the mines of the Fever river district by passing himself as a Frenchman. He was one of the traders who made periodical trips to Prairie du Chien, propelling the boats by means of poles and sails. It required from two weeks to a month to make the trip up the river, while the return journey occupied from a week to ten days. The boats carried miscellaneous supplies to Prairie du Chien, and their return cargo consisted principally of lead.

Shaw saw about twenty smelting places, the mineral being smelted in the crudest way imaginable. This was Shaw's description of the process: "A hole or cavity was dug in the face of a piece of sloping ground, about two feet in depth and as much in width at the top; this hole was made in the shape of a mill-hopper, which was about eight or nine inches square; other narrow stones were laid across grate-wise; a channel or eye was dug from the sloping side of the ground inwards to the bottom of the hopper. This channel was about a foot in width and in height, and was filled with dry wood and brush. The hopper being filled with the mineral, and the wood ignited, the molten lead fell through the stones at the bottom of the hopper; and this was discharged through the eye, over

the earth, in bowl-shaped masses called plats, each of which weighed about seventy pounds."

The word spreads down the river

Glowing notices of the richness of the lead mines of the upper Mississippi appeared in St. Louis newspapers in 1822, and started a migration thitherward. In order to overawe the Indians, who would not let white men enter the district, the government dispatched detachments of troops from Prairie du Chien and the Rock Island forts. Finding that resistance would be futile, the Indians quietly submitted to the invasion of their mineral territory. Thus began, a few miles south of the present border of the state, what at one time was the leading industry of Wisconsin, as the fur trade had been up to that period. The newcomers were mainly from the southern states and territories, and thus the first seeds of American origin in Wisconsin were the planting of men from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri. They came by boat and in caravans on horseback. Soon the prospector's shovel was upturning the sod on the hillsides of southwestern Wisconsin, the Indian occupants in sullen resentment biding their time for mischief. Galena became the center of the mining region.

Great expectations!

Some of the adventurers who came in the expectation of acquiring sudden wealth were doomed to disappointment. There were some who sought to avoid the rigors of the northern winter by coming in the spring and returning to their genial southern climate when snow began to fly. These tenderfeet were denominated "suckers" by the hardier miners, an appellation that was later transferred to the state of Illinois. Their superficial workings were called "sucker holes."

Despite muttered threats from the Indians, and other disheartening circumstances, population rapidly increased. Red Bird's disturbance caused a temporary exodus, but the frightened miners soon returned. How busily pick and shovel were plied may be gathered from the reports of lead manufactured. It was soon seen that negro labor could be well utilized, and some of the southerners brought slaves to do the work. The population rapidly increased. In 1825 it was estimated that there were two hundred persons; three years later fully ten thousand, one-twentieth being women and about one hundred free blacks. The lead product had increased in the same period from 439,473 pounds to 12,957,100 pounds.

Primitive smelting methods

Most of the miners followed the Indian plan of smelting in a log furnace. It was a crude device with much wasting. Their tools were a hoe made for the Indian trade, an axe, and a crowbar made of an old gun barrel flattened at the breech, which they used for removing the rock. Their mode of blasting was rather tedious, to be sure; they got dry wood and kindled a fire along the rock as far as they wished to break it. After getting the rock hot they poured cold water upon it, which so cracked it that they could pry it up. At the old Buck Lead they removed many hundred tons of rock in that manner, and had raised many thousand pounds of mineral or lead ore.



Familiar Lead Region names

During this period there came to Wisconsin some of the men who became most notable in its territorial history. Among them were Henry Dodge, afterwards governor, who brought with him from Missouri a number of negro slaves; Ebenezer Brigham, pioneer of Blue Mounds; Henry Gratiot and Col. William S. Hamilton. The latter was a son of Alexander Hamilton, who was killed by Aaron Burr, in a duel.

Some of the miners realized what in those days were considered great fortunes. One man sank a shaft near Hazel Green on the site of an old Indian digging. "At four and a half feet he found block mineral extending over all the bottom of his hole," in the language of Dr. Meeker's narrative. "He went to work and cut out steps on the side of the hole, to be ready for the next day's operation. Accordingly, the next day he commenced operations. The result of his day's work was seventeen thousand pounds of mineral upon the bank at night." After raising about a hundred thousand pounds, the diggings was abandoned. Another prospector took possession and secured more than a hundred and fifty thousand pounds.

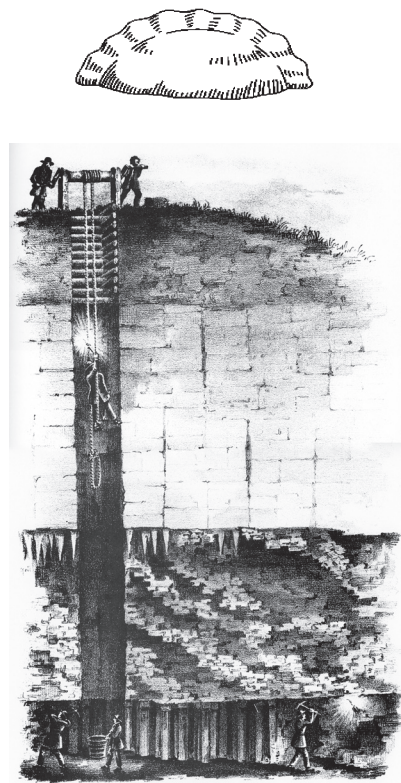
Most of the lead that was smelted went to Galena, to be transported thence to St. Louis and New Orleans. Long caravans of ore wagons, some of them drawn by as many as eight yoke of oxen, wore deep ruts into the primitive road that went by way of Mineral Point and Belmont to this metropolis of the mines. About \$80 a ton was obtained for the ore. About 1830, tariff agitation seems to have caused a great drop in prices. At this period the federal government exacted from the miners what was known as a lead rent. The miners addressed a memorial to the secretary of war, whose department had control of the collection of the mineral rents, complaining of excessive taxation. The claim was made by them in their memorial "that they have paid a greater amount of taxes than any equal number of citizens since the settlement of America!" The smelters were required to pay ten percent of all lead manufactured and had to haul the rent lead a distance of fifty to sixty miles to the United States depot. It was not until 1846 that Congress abandoned the leasing system.

Mineral Point, a model, good & bad

Doubtless the typical mining camp in Wisconsin when the lead excitement was in its heyday was Mineral Point. Its straggling lines of huts were ranged along a deep gorge, and at all hours the sound of revelry could be heard emanating from the saloons and gambling houses. Dancing and singing, with the accompaniment of rude music, and drinking and gambling furnished the entertainment for the wilder spirits. The town bore the appellation of

the Little Shake-Rag, or Shake-Rag-Under-the-Hill. The origin of the peculiar name is explained by an early-day traveler in this wise:

"Females," says this account of sixty years ago, "in consequence of the dangers and privations of the primitive times, were as rare in the diggings as snakes upon the Emerald Isle. Consequently the bachelor miner from necessity performed the domestic duties of cook and washerwoman, and the preparation of meals was indicated by appending a rag to an upright pole, which, fluttering in the breeze, telegraphically conveyed the glad tidings to his hungered brethren upon the hill. Hence this circumstance at a very early date gave this provincial sobriquet of Shake-Rag, or Shake-Rag-Under-the-Hill."



"Life in the Diggins" was reprinted with the kind permission of the Old Lead Region Historical Society, in Fort Atkinson, WI, a group dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history of the U. S. Lead Mines 1822-1836., with additional studies of the Red Bird rising of 1827 and the Black Hawk War of 1832.

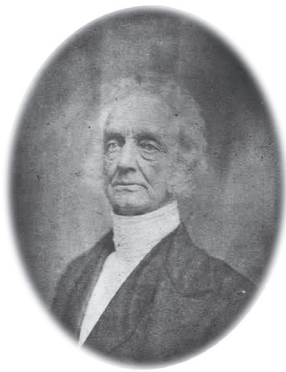
Visit their website at:
www.geocities.com/old_lead

After A Rain

Last week the mounding fields were black, and now a veil of green is cast upon the fields. Serpentine rows of sprouting corn curve 'round the land's unending undulation.

—Judy Sutcliffe





A Man "Forgotten by History"



Born during the reign of King George III, he watched Washington D.C. burn in the War of 1812, moved to the frontier as an agent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, served as District Attorney of Iowa County, and presided over the first Democratic Convention in the Wisconsin Territory. In the 1850s, he resurrected a sickly Wisconsin Historical Society, compiled a History of Wisconsin, and finally retired at age 71 as Attorney General of the state. His grave lies not far from his home in Mineral Point.

The puzzle begins here.

Can you come up with his name?
No? Well, welcome to the club!

Governor Dodge's residence on Hwy Y and his log cabin in Dodgeville are now historic sites. The Moses Strong house still stands in Mineral Point on Fountain Street. We can also point to the Montgomery Cothren and Alexander Wilson homes. Abner Nichols got a street named after him, next to the Livery Antiques.

But William R. Smith, 1787-1868, lawyer, author, politician, soldier, historian, and peacemaker, has no significant monument and is generally overlooked in local history accounts.

A History of his Life

Born in Pennsylvania, he was educated by his grandfather and practiced law for several years, active in state politics as a Jeffersonian Democrat, while serving in the militia. In 1837, Smith and Gov. Dodge of Wisconsin drafted a treaty with the Chippewa Indians, and Smith toured the territory and published a striking diary of his travels. In 1839 he was appointed adjutant general of Wisconsin Territory by Pres. Van Buren, and moved to Mineral Point. He served in various state political positions, and in 1846 was a delegate to the first state constitutional convention. Smith also contributed to Wisconsin history as an organizer of cultural institutions. He was among those who reorganized the dormant historical society in 1849, and was elected first president of the newly chartered State Historical Society in 1854, and was re-elected annually until his resignation in 1861. In 1840 Smith was an incorporator of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Mineral Point, and in 1841 organized the first Masonic Lodge in southern Wisconsin.

Distinguished author & historian

Smith, as state historian, began the compilation of a projected three-volume history of Wisconsin. Although two volumes, a narrative history and a collection of documents, were eventually published in 1854-1855, the third was never completed. After retiring as president of the Historical Society in 1861, Smith spent his remaining years collecting information on Wisconsin history. He died while visiting in Quincy, Ill.

The case for Recognition:

We certainly need to honor him more than we have. He was arguably Mineral Point's first and most important historian. In its masterful pages, the History of

Iowa County, WI, 1881 remembers Smith well:

"The hands of Washington had rested upon his head, he had listened to the reading of the farewell address." And, "He had seen every President, from Washington to Lincoln, and was thus in himself almost a history of the Republic."

Still, we have no marker, no monument. His portrait hangs in a second story room of Polperro, one of the Pendarvis buildings, but only through the efforts of Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum who saved it from the scrap heap. Likewise, his desk survives in a local, private collection.

MPHS Pres. Jim Stroschein addresses the puzzling oversight with this perspective: "Smith's omission from local lore is one of the things that makes history fun. The process of discovering an important historical figure who once walked the same streets you do fires the imagination. If greatness was here once, can it not return?"

Is there another historian, earnest but unheralded, out there?

References:

History of Iowa County, WI 1881

Wisconsin Historical Society, at www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary

The Wisconsin Historical Society has manuscripts related to this topic. See the catalog description of the William Rudolph Smith Papers for details.

A Stage & Screen Workshops Encore

It's an artist's reprise for the Hollywood and Broadway crowd, who stage their popular workshops from Aug. 6-11 at Shake Rag Alley School. Lead by the award-winning team of screenwriter Bill Svanoe and actress Joan Darling, and nine theater professionals, the classes give participants practical-but-exciting know-how for acting, directing, writing for drama, movie-making and Improv.

They'll also present a staged reading to premier the Svanoe comedy, "The Last Laugh" at the Opera House. Tickets for the August 11th play are sold at Berget's Jewelry, or online at www.alleystage.com

DETAILS ON WORKSHOPS

Ring 608.987.3292 or
www.shakeragalley.com

A Gift Shop at Shake Rag Alley

The past Winter's cold snap froze pipes at the Shake Rag Cafe, and the damage led to a discussion with Lois Hall, and the amicable closing of the little restaurant.

In its stead, a new Gift Shop will open, with Harriet Ridnour greeting customers. There will be treats for guests in the Coach House lodging, and coffee and other beverages for visitors on the historic grounds.

And yes, those wonderful outdoor tables, under the umbrellas, will remain.

Additionally, Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts will provide catering for special weekends and educational workshops.

Shake Rag Alley & the Rustic Arts

Log Cabin Workshops



Woodlanders Weekend

There are a number of old log cabins scattered throughout the region, and those who study these primitive structures find their endeavors increasingly interesting.

Now, there's an opportunity to carry those studies ahead a step, with the help of one of the premier preservationists in the country. Alan C. Pape has restored more than 100 pioneer homes, and worked for a time with Al Felly, drafting designs for two structures at Shake Rag Alley, the Cabinet Shop and the Potter's Barn. From Shake Rag Alley, Pape went on to develop Old World Wisconsin.

Pape will conduct two workshops, and will use an 1828 log cabin as his platform. The building was a wreck in 1970, but Felly repaired it and it stood for four decades as a Shake Rag Alley attraction.

Today, the building needs help once more. The workshops will provide it, and workshop participants will learn about these old buildings, their history, the pluses and minuses of log construction, as well as how to judge them, move them, repair them, and live in them.

LOG CABIN WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

JUNE 1-3 LEARNING & TAKE APART
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fri., June 1 - Lecture, remove roof, doors, windows and wall parts

Sat., June 2 - Disassembly - demo on hewing, notching & splicing

Sun., June 3 - Visit local log structures in your car, preparing the site & splicing logs

JUNE 4-21 CONSTRUCTION CREW WORKS

Excavation, foundations & walls, stone work

JUNE 22-24 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fri., June 22 - Lectures, log repair, hewing & notching demonstrations

Sat., June 23 - Raise log walls, rough door & window openings

Sun., June 24 - Local tours. Work on roof

Phone 608-987-3292

or click on

www.ShakeRagAlley.com

One of Mineral Point's "People Magnets" is the annual Woodlanders Gathering in mid-July, a four-day event that draws rustic wannabees from all over the nation to the quaint valley on Shake Rag Street.

More than 50 topics are explored in hands-on workshops and demonstrations, giving participants the opportunity to construct everything from willow furniture to woven hammocks.

"It's all natural, nature-based fun and imagination, a creative adventure with natural materials and what can be made from them."



The gathering features the wit, wisdom and inspiration of Daniel Mack, Rustic Designer & Author, who founded the Woodlanders event.

WOODLANDERS GATHERING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

THURS. JULY 12 "GOIN' GREEN" a day devoted to the pathways to sustainable lives. A great line up of speakers & much more. Get details at www.ShakeRagAlley.com

FRI. JULY 13 "WORKIN' FOR SHAKERAG" a morning tradition for Woodlanders, plus REGISTRATION & WORKSHOPS ALL DAY 6 p.m., WELCOME DINNER & Daniel Mack

SAT. JULY 14 A DAY OF LEARNING & FUN Woodlanders Showcase at Longbranch Gallery

SUN. JULY 15 ARTS, CRAFTS & THEATER A day of workshops, then a play at the new Alley Stage, on the Shake Rag Alley grounds

MON. JULY 16 MORE RUSTIC CREATIVITY until closing time at 4:30 p.m.

Phone 608 987-3292

or click on

www.ShakeRagAlley.com



TWO WAYS TO SAY THE SAME THING:

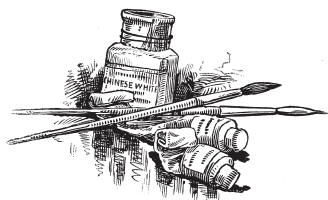
"Many signs point to a growing historical consciousness among the American people. I trust that this is so. It is useful to remember that history is to the nation as memory is to the individual. As persons deprived of memory become disoriented and lost, not knowing where they have been and where they are going, so a nation denied a conception of the past will be disabled in dealing with its present and its future."

Historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr., Essay, "Folly's Antidote"
written two months before his death on Feb. 28, 2007



NON SEQUITUR

Reproduced with permission of Mr. Wiley



Gallery Night stroll... and shop

With summer only a few days away, it's time for the second of Mineral Point's 2007 series of Gallery Nights! On Saturday, June 2nd, the city will welcome old friends and new visitors with at least 16 galleries opening their doors for Gallery Night festivities.

From 5 until 9 p.m., galleries will present special offerings of fine art and hand-made craft objects, which include painting, sculpture, collage, jewelry, basketry, ceramics, weaving, glass, furniture, printmaking, photography, and mixed media.

In addition, many of Mineral Point's other unique, independently-owned shops and restaurants will also be open late. Mineral Point is celebrating its recognition as one of the "Dozen Distinctive Destinations," a well-deserved award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. You can experience the truly "distinctive" flavor of the city by simply walking from place to place on Gallery Night - almost all of the shops and galleries are in the compact downtown business district.

Three Featured Galleries will host special exhibits on Gallery Night:

BREWERY POTTERY STUDIO, at 276 Shake Rag Street - 608-987-3669
"From the Heart" joins SARAH LOCKETT and KAREN FITZSIMONS in a celebration of friendship and love of painting. Karen's thoughts on Sarah: "Sarah's personality comes out in every one of her paintings. They are soft and fresh. Painted with energy and no fear, they are filled with confidence and vision. She is a friend and student that has truly touched my heart." Sarah's thoughts on Karen: "Watching Karen paint is inspirational. She incorporates her love of the natural world in her richly colored textural collages and her evocative, earthy landscapes. As my teacher, she has taught me to feel her love of painting and also that with the support of a true friend anything is possible." Sarah and Karen's painting time together draws to a close as Sarah heads back home to England with her newly found passion for painting. Come join the celebration at Brewery Pottery.

The workshop doors will be open at **HOWDLE STUDIO**, at 225 Commerce Street - 608-987-3590, where BRUCE HOWDLE himself will be working on a large scale bas-relief clay mural - or maybe two. With his "easel" being 12' high and 60' long, he'll be free-sculpting up to 9 tons of clay. Working the surface with general ceramic tools, the entire mural is kept wet until the sculpting is complete. It is then cut up into sections, hollowed out, and dried. Once the joints have been cleaned, color is applied. Next, each section is inventoried - and only then is the work fired. Who knows exactly what project or process Bruce will be in the middle of for Gallery Night? We certainly don't - we only know it will be fascinating!

Featured artist ALAN C. PAPE will show oil paintings best described "cultural landscapes" at **Longbranch Gallery**, at 203 Commerce Street - 608-987-4499. Although Alan's college degree is in landscape architecture, he always wanted to be a professional exhibit diorama painter. The work on display here combines his love for ethnic buildings with interesting cultural themes. In the 1970's, Alan and his wife Marilyn lived in Mineral Point, where they helped Al Felly develop Shake Rag Alley. He has since helped recycle and restore more than 100 historic structures in Wisconsin and is now involved with historic hotel development and heritage tourism. Alan has become "Artist-in-Residence" at Castledale Manor in Ireland, plus several other state parks and historic sites. The Papes now live in a 1910 adaptively restored Finnish log barn/studio in the Northern Kettle Moraine State Forest, near Greenbush, WI.

You can download a map of the participating galleries and supporting restaurants, or get more information by visiting the Mineral Point website: www.mineralpoint.com and clicking on the Living Art button.

THE HOW AND WHAT OF THE MINERAL POINT GALLERIES

Charles Baker - at *In The Bag*, 232 High Street - 608-987-3849
Artworks by this master draftsman executed in a variety of print techniques including etching, engraving, and woodcut. Imagery ranges from portraiture in the realist tradition to imaginative fantasy.

The Bohlin Gallery - 22 High Street - 608-987-5444

An ever-changing assortment of fine American traditional and contemporary arts and crafts, including weaving, pewter, jewelry, ceramics, paper products, and other hand-made objects, all displayed in a restored 1876 building.

Brewery Pottery Studio - 276 Shake Rag Street - 608-987-3669
Special Exhibition: "From The Heart" - paintings by Sarah Lockett and Karen Fitzsimons. Also, a full selection of pottery by Tom and Diana Johnston along with two- and three-dimensional works in many media by more than 60 regional artists.

Chestnut Hill Studio - at *Howdle Studios*, 225 Commerce Street - 608-987-3335
Featuring original watercolor paintings, prints and postcards by Jan Johnson, whose themes revolve around an intimate acquaintance with the world of plants. James Johnson works in acrylics and found material to create colorful abstract expressionist works for the modern taste.

Green Lantern Studios - 261 High Street - 608-987-2880
Special Exhibition: "Jeb Prazak - Another Place in Time". Paintings, prints and drawings by the well-known area artist and teacher. The exhibit will remain on view through July 2nd.

High Point Arts - 310 High Street - 608-987-3463

A personal collection, including many types of textiles and ethnic art and artifact that include words and letters. The space, open to the public for Gallery Nights, is always visible from the street through the storefront windows.

High Street Gallery - 33 High Street - 608-987-3701

This cooperative gallery features new work of current members. Returning artists are Helen Klebesadel, Cate Loughran, John Mix, Leslee Nelson, Bobbette Rose, Tom Simmons, and Don Spenser. New to the gallery this year are Pat Ericson, Jayne Reid Jackson, Liese Pfeifer, Aimee Reid-Rice, Judi Werner, and Susan Young.

Howdle Studio - 225 Commerce Street - 608-987-3590

Visit the fascinating workspace of Bruce Howdle as he demonstrates his technique. Loosely representational ceramics range from functional mugs to sculptural creatures such as birds, turtles and pigs to full-wall sized relief murals.

Johnston Gallery - 245 High Street - 608-987-3787

Over 160 regional and nationally known artists create an extensive and carefully chosen selection of ceramics, glass, photography, metal, jewelry, fiber wearables and more.

La Bella Vita Fibre Gallery - 154 High Street - 608-987-2105
An eclectic collection of fibres and accessories for the beginning or avid fibre artist. Special exhibits include works from many Wisconsin artists, including fibre, mixed-media, hand-pulled lithographs, and antique artifacts.

Longbranch Gallery - 203 Commerce Street - 608-987-4499

Special Exhibition: Cultural landscape paintings by Alan C. Pape. This downtown gallery showcases rustic, fine and folk art from over 60 artisans with an emphasis on rustic furniture and work created from natural material.

M. Studio & Gallery - 234 High Street - 608-987-2039

M. Studio displays fine art photography, both traditional and digital, by gallery owner Philip Mrozinski and other regional photographers. Full-scale wall works and postcards are available.

Sirius Sunlight Glass Studio - 218 High Street - 608-987-2716

Glass artists and studio proprietors Jill Engels and Chuck Pound exhibit their work, which ranges from stained glass panels, stepping stones, windows and lamps, to fused glass plates and Chuck's collectible hot sculpted glass marbles.

Smeja's Studio - 30 Doty Street - 608-987-3607

Unusual functional and decorative leather goods, specializing in "wet-formed" sculpted leather masks, wall pieces, and figures. Other arts and crafts, including jewelry that incorporates wire and stone elements are also available.

The Spotted Dog Gallery - 148 High Street - 608-987-2855

Ann Alderson Cabezas makes blown glass vessel forms with sandblasted and hand-painted elements. Luscious mixed wood studio furniture from Tom Cabezas is also always on view, along with works in metal, ceramics, jewelry, painting, and mixed media by dozens of other talented artists and craftspeople including the Cabezas children.

Storey Pottery - 210 Commerce Street - 608-987-2903

Now presenting Audrey Christie's hand-colored woodblock prints as well as her unique cushions that combine serigraph and vintage fabrics. Also available are functional bowls, vases, pitchers, and dinnerware with intriguing glazes by potter-owner Harriet Storey.

Participating Restaurants:

Brewery Creek - 23 Commerce Street - 608-987-3298 In a restored 1850's stone warehouse, this pub and inn serves beers brewed on location, to compliment an ever-changing menu. Open for lunch and dinner.

Gundry & Gray - 215 High Street - 608-987-3636 Within this grand old building you'll find fresh sandwiches, tasty salads, pizza, Tex-Mex entrees, and tempting homemade desserts, served in the midst of antiques and collectables.

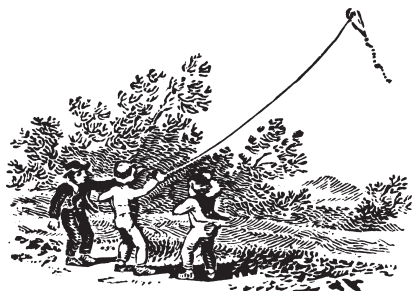
Mineral Spirits Saloon and Cafe - 20 Commerce Street - 608-987-2030

Daily specials, Friday night fish fry, Cornish pasty, pizzas, appetizers and salads, burgers and sandwiches, full service bar featuring wines and locally brewed beers.

The Old Royal Inn - 43 High Street - 608-987-4530 Open all day for espresso, coffee and treats. Lunch and dinner selections include homemade soups, a variety of salads, traditional burgers, and daily specials. One of Mineral Point's coziest bar & lounge areas!

Red Rooster Cafe - 158 High Street - 608-987-9936 Locally famous for homemade Cornish specialties like pasty and figgyhobbin along with a classic American menu that includes sandwiches and homemade pies. The Red Rooster is a favorite low-key spot for residents and visitors alike.





ALL SUMMER LONG

FARMER'S MARKETS:



DARLINGTON Farmer's Market at Darlington Festival Grounds 8 AM to Noon
LANCASTER Farmer's Market Cenex Conv. Store Parking Lot 7 AM to sold out
MINERAL POINT Farmer's Market at Water Tower Park, 8:30–11:00 AM
PLATTEVILLE Farmer's Market at City Park, 6:30–11:30 AM
RICHLAND CENTER at the Courthouse Square 8:00 AM to Sold Out, 608 604 2838

ALLEY STAGE in Mineral Point is open from June 29–Sep 2, located at Historic Shake Rag Alley, in an outdoor setting, Reservations recommended, but call for openings And for schedule of events call 608 987 3292 or www.alleystage.com

AMERICAN PLAYERS THEATER

4 miles from Spring Green, Open from June 9–Oct 7, classical theatre under the stars, www.playinthewoods.org or call 608 588 7000 or 1-800-822-7774

SHAKE RAG ALLEY has year round art & rustic classes for adults and children. Reservations recommended, but call for openings. Call 608 987 3292, or www.shakeragalley.com has the full schedule

JUNE



1 **MT HOREB** Summer Frolic, carnival, beer tent, music, raffle, 10K walk–run, dog show bingo, fireworks, softball tourney www.trollway.com or 608 437 5914 800 765 5929
1-3 **MINERAL POINT** Log Cabin Restoration Workshop with Alan Pape. Fee. Shake Rag Alley, 18 ShakeRag Street 608 987 3292 or www.shakeragalley.com
1-3 **MONTFORT** VFW Chicken BBQ, food and beer all weekend
2 **MINERAL POINT** Iowa County Dairy Breakfast, off Mounds View Road, near Blanchardville, Moyer Dairy Farm 608 987 2478
2 **MINERAL POINT** Gallery Night, 16 Galleries stay open late 5–9 PM. www.mineralpoint.com
2 **SPRING GREEN** Bach Dancing & Dynamite concert, Gard Theatre downtown 608 588 2054
2 **DODGEVILLE** Folklore Village Barn Dance, The Twisted Pair 6:30 PM, potluck at County Rd 3210 & County BB, 608 924 4000 www.folklorevillage.com
2 **BLUE MOUNDS** 14K & 25K trail run, www.trollway.com 608 437 5914 888 765 5929
2 **SHULLSBURG** Annual Antique Days and Maxwell Street Days, downtown, food available www.shullsburgwisconsin.org or call 608 965 1438
3 **SPRING GREEN** 1st Annual Jeanene King Memorial Fitness Trail, K Prediction Run–Walk, North Park, 608 588 2054 www.fleetfeetmadison.com/events.html
6 **SPRING GREEN** "SGAAC Gallery Night Social" 5–8 PM 608 588 2054
7 **DODGEVILLE** Bloomfield Manor Senior Fest, 3151 Co. Rd. CH, food, music, games, parade and more 608–935–3321, Barbara Linscheid
7-10 **DARLINGTON** Canoe Fest, Parade, softball tournaments, stockcar races, 2 & 5 mile road runs, dance, volleyball tournaments, steak fry, fireworks, canoe

races, arts & crafts fair, chicken BBQ, ATV pull, www.discoverwisconsin.com or www.canoeest.com 608 776 3067
8 **MINERAL POINT** "Jammin' on the Porch", Orchard Lawn, 234 Madison St. 6:00–8:30 Bring a picnic & blanket or lawn chairs, Music, Free, 608 987 2381 www.mineralpointhistory.org/orchardlawn
8-10 **MT HOREB** Spring Art Tour www.trollway.com phone 608 437 5914 888 765 5929
8-10 **NEW GLARUS** 6th Annual Roger Bright Memorial Polkafest, a Music and dancing weekend, www.swisstown.com 608 527 2095 or 800–527 6838
8-10 **PLAIN** St. Luke's Parish 3–day Festival, polka bands, run/walk, live music, entertainment, www.stlukecatholicchurchplain.catholic-web.com or phone 608 546 2482
9 **SPRING GREEN** American Players Theatre Opens! Phone 608 588 2361 www.playinthewoods.org
9 **BLANCHARDVILLE** Lafayette County Dairy Breakfast, Rock Hard Dairy, 4641 County Line Rd, 6:30–10:30 10 – Aug. 26 **MINERAL POINT** "Artist's Way Series," 1:30–3:30 each Sunday for 12 weeks at Shake Rag Alley, 18 ShakeRag Street. Fee. 608 987 3292 or www.shakeragalley.com
10 **BOSCOBEL** Antique Club Car & Motorcycle Show & Swap Meet, 10:00 – 4:00, Antique Club Grounds, off Hwy 133. Ctc: Keith Swenson 608 872 2391
10 **DODGEVILLE** Lions Flea Market & Collectibles Show & Sale, Ley Pavilion, Harris Park, 8:30–3:00 PM, \$2. 608 935 3926 for dealer inquires or 608 935 9332
10 **SPRING GREEN** Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society presents "C'mon Baby Light My Fire" 2:30 PM Hillside Theater at Taliesin 608 255 9866 or 608 588 7900
10 **SPRING GREEN** Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society presents "Rebel With A Cause" concert, 7:30 PM, Hillside Theatre at Taliesin, 608 255 9866 or 608 588 7900
12 **BELMONT** Brass & Brats, Belmont High School, Peformances by several area musicians & skydivers, food & refreshments, antique cars, Lyle Foley & "Jokers Wild" 5:30–9:00 PM 608 762 5131 or 608 762 5733
14-17 **MONROE** World Honda & Grand Prix Balloon Rally, flights & competition, "Taste of Monroe" downtown Courthouse square, arts & crafts show www.monroe-chamber.org 608 325 7648
14-17 **PRAIRIE DU CHIEN** Prairie Villa Rendezvous, St. Feriole Island 608 822 9616
15 **MINERAL POINT** Bach Dancing and Dynamite, Opera House, "You Give Me Fever" 39 High St., 7:30 PM www.bachdancinganddynamite.org
Pre–concert chat 6:45 pm 608 987 2381
15-17 **MINERAL POINT** "Mosaic Madness" Fee. Shake Rag Alley School 608 987 3292 or www.shakeragalley.com
16 **MINERAL POINT** Midsummer Pub Night, Pendarvis, 114 Shake Rag St, 608 987 2122 or click on www.wisconsinhistory.org/pendarvis
16 **MT HOREB** 15th Annual Horribly Hilly Hundred Bike Ride www.trollway.com 608 437 5917
16 **HIGHLAND** Wine and Cheese Extravaganza, Spurgeon Vineyards & Winery 608 929–7692
16-17 **MINERAL POINT** "Railroad Museum Days", 608 987 2695 www.mineralpointrailroads.com
17 **MINERAL POINT** Father's Day Fly–in & Drive–in Breakfast, Iowa County Airport, 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM www.jrjairport@mhtc.net 608 987 9931
17 **SPRING GREEN** Bach Dancing &

Dynamite Society presents "You Give Me Fever" concert, Hillside Theater at Taliesin, 2:30 PM 608 255 9866 or 608 588 7900
17 **SPRING GREEN** Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society presents "The Heat is On" concert 7:30 PM, Hillside Theater at Taliesin, 608 255 9866 or 608 588 7900
18 **SPRING GREEN** "Rendezvous with Blackhawk." Music by Blackhawk Rural Musicians Concert at Unity Chapel, 7:30 PM, South of Spring Green at Hwy 23 & Co. Rd. T. 608 588 2054
22-24 **MINERAL POINT** Log Cabin Restoration No. 2 with Alan Pape. Fee. Shake Rag Alley 608 987 3292 or www.shakeragalley.com
22-24 **NEW GLARUS** Heidi Festival & Food, Entertainment & Music. www.swisstown.com 800 527 6838 or 608 527 2095
23 **MINERAL POINT** Rescue Squad "Brat Feed" 907 Ridge St., 4:30 – 7:30 PM Adults \$6 Kids \$4, Auction, raffle, games, play area
23-24 **SPRING GREEN** 38th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, downtown, www.springgreen.com 608 588–2054
23-30 Bike Tour, GRABAAWR 22nd Bike Tour Following the Wisconsin River, 608 843 8412 www.bikewisconsin.org
24 **SPRING GREEN** Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society presents "Dirty Dancing" concert, Hillside Theater at Taliesin, 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM 608 255 9866 or 608 588 7900
25-29 **MINERAL POINT** "African Camp for Children," 1 CU, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag Street, See website for hours & fees 608 987 3292 or www.shakeragalley.com
27-July 1 **DARLINGTON** Lafayette County Fair, Darlington Festival Grounds, 608 776 3067
28 **MINERAL POINT** City Band Concert & Ice Cream Social, Mineral Point Care Center, 109 N. Iowa St 608 987 2381
29-30 **MINERAL POINT** Grand Opening of Alley Stage, "Storytellers' Festival", 7:30 PM at 18 Shake Rag St., at Shake Rag Alley, Mature audiences, Music by Paul Biere, 608 987 3292 www.shakeragalley.com or www.alleystage.com
29 **SPRING GREEN**, GRABAAWR Bike Ride with over–night stop in Spring Green 608 588 2054
29-July 2 **DODGEVILLE/RIDGEWAY** Folklore Village Mid–Summer Scandinavian Festival, a weekend of music, dance, and food www.folklorevillage.org or 608 924 4000
30 **SPRING GREEN** Live music with Point Five at the General Store, 137 S. Albany 5–7 PM, 608 588 7070

JULY



1 **MINERAL POINT** Willie Sterba's "Dancing Dog Radio" Program, for kids of all ages, at Alley Stage 2:00 PM. 18 Shake Rag at Shake Rag Alley www.alleystage.com 608 987 3292
1 **DARLINGTON** See June 27 above, Lafayette County Fair continues
1-2 **DODGEVILLE/RIDGEWAY** See June 29 above, Scandanavian Festival at Folklore Village continues
1-4 **SHULLSBURG** July 4th celebration, carnival, ballgames, arts & crafts, bingo, parade & fireworks, 608 965 1438 or www.shullsburgwisconsin.org
2 **SPRING GREEN** "Go Jambeau! " Lina Palionis & band Jambeau perform folk, blues, jazz & originals, Unity Chapel outside on lawn. Rural Musicians Concert Series, 7:30 PM, south of Spring

Green at Hwy 23 & Co. Rd T, now air–conditioned 608 588 2042
4 **MINERAL POINT** 4th of July Celebration, "Getting the Lead Out" 2 & 5 mile run, Parade, Chicken BBQ, music, games, ice cream social, and fireworks www.mineralpoint.com 608 987 2381
4 **BOSCOBEL** 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM Fireman's Festival, Parade, Carnival, Firecracker Run & Softball Tournament at Kronshage Park, Ctc Mike Brindley 608 574 5009
5-29 **MINERAL POINT** First Run Play "Class – Learning to Hate is Fun" by Coleman at Alley Stage, Thurs, Fri, Sat, 7:30 PM, Most Sundays at 2:00 PM. 608 987 3292 www.alleystage.com
5-8 **DODGEVILLE** "The Festival of the Parks 2007" Family night July 5, midway rides, July 6 Music by "Fly Rights" & "Free Fall", beer, concessions, midway, July 7– Midway, beer, Kids from Wisconsin, Fireworks, at Harris Park 608 935 2703 or www.dodgeville.com
7 **DODGEVILLE** Harris Park Fireworks 608 935 9200 www.dodgeville.com
7 **NEW GLARUS** "Pedal for Paws" 7:30 am. For biking routes 608 938 2155 or www.greencountyhumane.org/pedal
7-8 **PRAIRIE DU CHIEN** 26th Year "Town & Country Jamboree" St. Feriole Island, 14 local & regional bands, tractor pull, food Music starts at noon, 608 326 6724 www.prairieduchien.org
8 **DODGEVILLE** Farmer's Appreciation Day & Parade, 11:30 AM downtown Dodgeville to Harris Park, 12–5 PM, music, food, tractor pull 608 935 2703 or 608 935 3035
8 **PLATTEVILLE** Fly–in/Drive–in Breakfast, Platteville Airport 7:00 – Noon Ctc: Jim Hughes 608 348 3582
11-14 **DODGEVILLE** 10–11 Year Old Babe Ruth State Baseball Tournament, Harris or Wilson Park, 608 935 9200 for information
11-14 **DODGEVILLE** 16–18 Year Old Babe Ruth State Basement Tournament See above.
13 **MINERAL POINT** "Jammin' on the Porch" with Point Five at Orchard Lawn, 6:00–8:30 PM, Bring a picnic & a blanket or lawn chairs, 234 Madison St. 608 987 2884 or www.mineralpointhistory.org/orchardlawn
13-15 **NEW GLARUS** Old Fashioned Maxwell Street Days, www.swisstown.com 608 527 2095
13-16 **MINERAL POINT** "Woodlander's Gathering" Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag St. Enroll at www.shakeragalley.com or call 608 987 3292
14 **DODGEVILLE & RIDGEWAY** Folklore Village Homemade Ice Cream Social, 6:30 PM, Potluck www.folklorevillage.org 608 924 4000
14-15 **PRAIRIE DU CHIEN** The War of 1812 in Wisconsin: The Battle of Prairie du Chien, St. Feriole Island, 521 N Villa Louis Rd, historic encampment & battle re–enactment on lawn of Villa Louis, 9:30 – 5:00 PM 608 326–2721
16 **SPRING GREEN** "Class Acts", Rural Musicians Concert Series with French Horn, Flute, and a vocal quartet, Hwy 23 & County Rd T, 7:30 PM 608 588–2042
18-20 **MINERAL POINT** "Expressive Art Camp for Teachers," 1 CU, Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag St., See website for hours and fees. 608 987 3292
19-22 **DODGEVILLE & RIDGEWAY** Folklore Village Hardanger Fiddle Association of America Annual Workshop www.folklorevillage.org 608 924 4000
19-24 **DODGEVILLE** 16–18 Year Old Babe Ruth State Baseball Tournament, Harris or Wilson park 608 935 9200
20-28 **WOODFORD** Midwest National

UPLANDS, WHERE WISCONSIN BEGAN

the events...and then, enjoy them!

Rendezvous, Black Hawk Memorial Park, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, \$3, www.nrlhf.org or call 920 233 1569

21 REWEY Rewey Fireworks, at dusk, beer & food 608 943 1135 or 608 935 9200

21 DODGEVILLE 8th Annual Blues Fest, family event. 608 935 9200 or www.dodgevillebluesfest.com

21 DODGEVILLE Maxwell Street Day, Downtown, Iowa St., 8:00 AM– 5:00 PM 608 935 9200

21-22 MT. HOREB 36th Annual Art Fair, www.trollway.com 608 457 5914 or 888 765 5929

26 MINERAL POINT Founders' Day Celebration, "Back to the '40s", on the lawn at Orchard Lawn, 234 Madison St, Reservations Required \$35 per person, Ticket includes 1940's and WW II Entertainment, Dinner, drinks, music & dancing. 608 987 2884 www.mineral-pointhistory.org/orchardlawn

27-28 PRAIRIE DU CHIEN Prairie Dog Blues Festival, St. Feriole Island, 521 N Villa Louis Rd, 2 stages, international, national & regional blues bands. Camping onsite. Event shuttle, ski-team performance, food & beverages. 608 326 0085. www.prairiedog-blues.com. ticket hotline 888 567 1567

27-29 PLAIN 3-Day Celebration, Live Music, parade, chicken BBQ & more 608 546 5244

29-Aug 3 SAGBRAW Schramm's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Wisconsin 608 843 8412

30 SPRING GREEN Janna & Friends perform a diverse concert from country to classical, show tunes to originals, Rural Musicians Concert Series, Unity Chapel 7:30 See July 2 entry for directions

31 MINERAL POINT Holman Climax Choir, from Cornwall, England, at Mineral Point Opera House. Info 608 987 9930

August



2-31 MINERAL POINT Play "Last Days of a Translator" by Marc Kornblatt, Alley Stage, 18 Shake Rag Alley, Thurs, Fri, Sats 7:30 PM, Sun 2:00 PM, 608 987 3292 www.alleystage.com or www.shakeragalley.com

2 MINERAL POINT Community Hog Roast, Mineral Point Care Facility, 109 N Iowa St, 5:00 p.m. Bring a dish to share. 608-987-3201 or 608 987 2381

2-6 DODGEVILLE Lands' End Warehouse Sale, Harris Park, Aug. 2-4 Open to public 7 AM – 8 PM Aug. 5 – Open 10 AM – 4 PM Aug. 6 – Open 9:00 AM – 4 PM

2-4 SPRING GREEN St. John's Funfest at North Park, Music, food, beer, kid's games, men's slow pitch tournament CALL 608 588 2054

3 MINERAL POINT City Band Concert, Library Park, High St www.mineralpoint.com 608 987 3201

3-4 MT HOREB Trollway Daze Sidewalk Sale, www.trollway.com 608 437 5914 OR 888 765 5929

3-5 BOSCOBEL 15th Annual Musket & Memories Civil War Reenactment & GAR Heritage Encampment, Kronshage Park, Ctc: Marie Leifheit 608 872 2274, 1000 participants

4 MINERAL POINT Gallery Night, Galleries open late 5:00 – 9:00 PM, downtown Mineral Point, 608 987 3201 or click on www.mineralpoint.com

4 MT HOREB National Mustard Day music and food celebration, www.trollway.com 608 437 6914

4-5 BOSCOBEL Tenth Regiment Black Powder Shooting Team Event & Living

History, 608 375 5501 or 888-710-5206

4-5 BLUE MOUNDS Discovery Tour Weekend, Cave of the Mounds, flashlight tours, free actiities, cave explorations & more, www.caveofthemounds.com or 608 437 3038

5 NEW GLARUS Swiss Volksfest & Swiss Entertainment, Wilhelm Tell Shooting Park www.swisstown.com 608 527 2095

6-11 MINERAL POINT Stage & Screen Workshops, 18 Shake Rag St, Shake Rag Alley Reserve classes at 987 3292 or on line, www.shakeragalley.com

10 MINERAL POINT "Deep Magic" by Josh Lazoff, Alley Stage, 18 Shake Rag at Shake Rag Alley, 608 987 3292 or www.alleystage.com

10 MINERAL POINT "Jammin' on the Porch", Orchard Lawn, 234 Madison St, 6:00-8:30 PM. Bring a picnic, & a blanket or lawn chairs 608 987 2884 or www.mineralpointhistory.org/orchardlawn

10-12 BOSCOBEL Lower Wisconsin Thresheree , Historic Steam & Agricultural Demonstrations. Food, music, games, Antique Club Grounds off Hwy 133, Ctc: Harvey Zabel 608 326 2236

11 MINERAL POINT "The Last Laugh" a new comedy by Bill Svanoe, starring Joan Darling, 7:30 pm, 608 987 3292, Opera House, High St, www.alleystage.com or www.shakeragalley.com

11 DODGEVILLE Wisconsin Dairyland Dare Biking. \$60-\$80, 100K, 200K, 26K & 300K Very hilly. Start at Ley Pavilion, Harris Park, www.dairylanddare.com or 608 935 5993

11-12 COBB "Corn Festival", Fireman's Park 608 623-2777

11-12 MINERAL POINT State H.S. Regional Rodeo, Iowa County Fair Grounds, Sat 1:00 & 7:30 PM, Sun. 1:00 PM. Call 608 987 2664 or 608 987 3490 www.iowacountyfair.org

12 BARNEVELD Botham Vineyards & Winery hosts the "11th Annual Celebration of Vintage & Rare automobiles & fine wines, on their grounds. Take Hwy K south of Barneveld to 8180 Langberry Rd, Call 888-478-9463 or 608 924 1412 www.bothamvineyards.com

13 SPRING GREEN "Talesin at Talesin", Music by the Talesin Fellowship, Talesin Chorus & Special guests. Concert at Talesin Theater 7:30 PM 608 588 2054

13-17 MINERAL POINT "Spanish Camp for Teachers" 1 CU, Shake Rag Alley, 18 ShakeRag St., See www.shakeragalley.com for hours & fees. 608 987 3292

18 REEDSBURG "Wings & Wheels Blues Festival", 4:00 -11:30 pm, Reedsburg Municipal Airport, Ctc: Jan Wirth reedsburg@rucls.net or 608 524 2850

18-19 MINERAL POINT "Embossed Leather Handbag Weekend," at Shake Rag Alley, 18 ShakeRag St., 608 987 3292 or www.shakeragalley.com Call or check website for times and fees

19 MINERAL POINT "Cool Cafe Jazz" with the Stellanovas, Alley Stage, 7:30 p.m. Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag St., www.alleystage.com, 608 987 3292 or www.shakeragalley.com

20 SPRING GREEN "Birthday Bash" with Rhythm Four, Jodie Amble & her Chicago jazz entourage. Celebrate 22 years of Rural Musicians, 7:30 PM, Unity Chapel. See July 2 entry for directions.

20-26 MINERAL POINT "Get to the Point-Novel Writing Work Weekend" taught by author Dean Bakopoulos, 9 AM – 5 PM at Shake Rag Alley, 18 ShakeRag 608 987 3292 www.shakeragalley.com

25 SPRING GREEN Annual Car Show, Jefferson St. Downtown Spring Green will be lined with Classic cars, Hot Rods & Antique Automobiles, Music, truck rides,

www.springgreen.com or 608 588 2054

26 DODGEVILLE Lions Flea Market, Harris Park 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM 608 935 3926 or 9332

26 BOSCOBEL Country Music Jamboree 11:45 AM – 9:00 PM Boscobel Bowl & Banquet,featuring 6 country bands, door prizes & more. Sue Gebhard 608 375 4698

26-27 BLANCHARDVILLE Pecatonica River Art Confluence, Paint along 15 miles of Pecatonica River www.blanchardville.com or Contact Lyric Ozburn 608 523 4326

31-Sep 2 NEW GLARUS 69th Annual Wilhelm Tell Festival 608 527 2095 or www.wihelmtell.org

30-Sep 3 MINERAL POINT Iowa County Fair, Fair Street 608 987 3490 www.iowacountyfair.org

September



1-2 MINERAL POINT "24-Hour Play Festival", Alley Stage at Shake Rag Alley, 18 Shake Rag, Sep 1 at 7:30 PM & Sep 2 at 2 PM 608 987 3292 or www.alleystage.com or www.shakeragalley.com

1-2 NEW GLARUS William Tell Festival continues (See Aug 31-Sept 2 above)

1-3 MINERAL POINT Iowa County Fair continues, Fair Street 608 987 3490 See Aug 30-Sept 3 listing.

1-3 SPRING GREEN "Sesquicentennial Celebration" 150 years. Activities for all ages. www.springgreen.com 608-588-2054

1-4 RIDGEWAY "Celebrate with the Ghost", Main Street, fireworks, DJ, parade, bands, poker, kids games 608 924 3263 or 608 924 1549 www.madison.com/communities/ridgeway

3-4 NEW GLARUS Schuetzen Fest 800 527 6838 or 608 527 2095

4 RIDGEWAY 37th Annual Labor Day Celebration. 608 924 9696

7-8 SPRING GREEN "2007 Literary Festival" at Hillside Theater on Talesin estate of Frank Lloyd Wright. Celebrating 10 years of learning through literature 608 588-2054

8-9 DARLINGTON Pecatonica Valley Antiques Days at Lafayette County Fairgrounds, 608 776 3067

8-9 PRAIRIE DU CHIEN Villa Louis Carriage Classic, Villa Louis Historic Site, St. Feriole Island, 521 N Villa Louis Rd, Midwest's most elegant & lavishly appointed equine sport driving event, some of area's finest horses & over 100 new & restored carriages compete, www.carriageclassic.com 608 326 2721

14 MINERAL POINT "Jammin' on the Porch", Live music by the "Fly Rights" at Orchard Lawn, 6:00-8:30 PM, 234 Madison St. Bring a picnic & a blanket or lawn chairs 608 987 2884 See July 13 entry.

14-16 MARQUETTE, IA. "A.Q.H.A. Charity Trail Ride" at the Natural Gait near Marquette, All breeds and disciplines welcome, Advance Registration required. Live cowboy music, potluck supper on Friday, Five delicious meals, Karaoke, drawings & prizes Call Lori Mennenga at 641 358 6166 www.iowa-quarterhorse.com

15-16 PRAIRIE DU CHIEN "Crawford County Art Festival", arts & artisans in the driftless area, Beauford T. Anderson Memorial Park, Soldiers Grove, Hwy 131 County C, 866 452 7967

15-16 MT HOREB Festival of the Mounds www.trollway.com 888-765 5929 or 608 437 5914

22 MT HOREB 5th Annual Thirsty Troll Brew Fest www.trollway.com or 888 765 5929 or 608 437 5914

22-23 PRAIRIE DU CHIEN "Breakfast in a Victorian Kitchen" at Villa Louis Historic site, St. Feriole Island, 521 N Villa Louis Rd, A culinary tour of the late 19th century through preparation of a Victorian breakfast – using foods, utensils & technology of the time, 8:30 AM – 12:30 pm, family style breakfast then tour of the estate, Reservations required. Call 608 326 2721

28-30 MINERAL POINT Sept. 28-30 Mineral Point 15th annual Cornish Festival. Entertainment daily for all ages. Tour Kiddleywink Pub Night, Taste of Mineral Point at Library Park, an Evening with Angela at the Opera House, Bagpipe Parade down High Street to Pendarvis, Sunday High Tea, Euchre Call 608 762-5718 or www.cornishfest.com

28 MT HOREB Thirsty Troll Brewfest, beer sampling features 35 craft brewers serving 100 different brews, live music by "The Kissers", an Irish rock band, food Noon – 5 PM

30 BOSCOBEL Annual Fly-in & Drive In Breakfast, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Boscobel Municipal Airport. Arlie Harris 608 375 5001

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR FALL ART TOUR FANS:



THE 14TH ANNUAL FALL ART TOUR IS OCT. 19- OCT. 21ST FOR INFO, Go to www.fallarttour.com

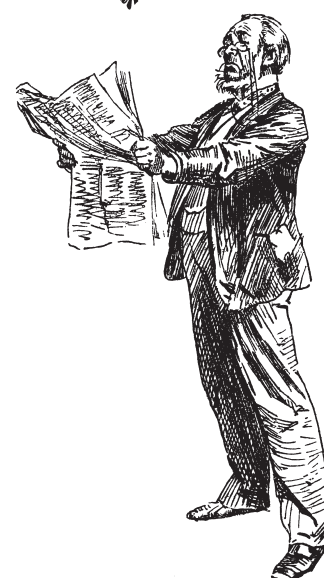


"EDGAR ALLAN POE & FRIENDS" RETURNS FOR A 7TH YEAR AT THE GUNDRY HOUSE, "ORCHARD LAWN"

POE GALA DINNER & SHOW THURS., OCT. 25TH

"POE & FRIENDS" IN THE DOUBLE PARLOR FOLLOWED BY A HALLOWEEN RECEPTION FRI. & SAT., OCT. 26, 27

MATINEE PERFORMANCE SUN., OCT. 28





Wisconsin's Oldest Depot Celebrates 150-year Anniversary of First Train

by Ed Spitzbarth

Located at the bottom of Commerce Street, the Mineral Point Railroad Museum will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first train to Mineral Point on Saturday, June 16th. The museum, in Wisconsin's oldest surviving railroad depot, will be open at 10:00 am and is free to the public, offering a number of free activities during the day including the following presentations:

11:00 am: Luther "The Jet" Gette will talk on the history and life of the hobo.

1:00 pm: Bob Storozuk, president of the Milwaukee Road Historical Association, will talk about the Milwaukee Road and its history with Mineral Point.

2:00 pm: Jeff Kehoe, author of three books on Milwaukee Road cabooses, will give a presentation and slide show on these unique pieces of rolling stock. His books will also be available for purchase.

3:30 pm: John Gruber, founder and editor for the Center for Railroad Photography and Art, will give a talk and slide presentation on railroading in southern and southwestern Wisconsin. His organization has also provided photos of local railroaders that will be on display during the weekend, part of their "Faces of Railroading" exhibit.

We will also have authors available during the day who will be selling and signing their books, including Tom Burg, author of the Milwaukee Road Steam Locomotive book amongst others, and Dennis Boyer, author of railroad, folklore and ghost story collections.

The Mineral Point Depot's last full-time agent, Cletus Hying, will be present to offer a personal account of Mineral Point's railroading past.



Cletus Hying

The museum will also be free and open to the public on Sunday, June 17th.

Schedules and activities could change without notice. For up-to-date information, check <http://mineralpointrailroads.com> or call 608-987-2695.

Too often I would hear men boast of the miles covered that day, rarely of what they had seen. -Louis L'Amour, novelist (1908-1988)

History Rolls On At Famed Depot

Built by Cornish stonemasons in 1856 of locally quarried limestone, the stately vernacular-style Mineral Point Railroad Depot is one of the few surviving pre-Civil War depots in the United States. It's the oldest depot in Wisconsin and the oldest surviving structure of the Milwaukee Road, and it holds the distinction of being the only depot in Wisconsin constructed of stone.

After an extensive six-year restoration, completed in 2004, the Mineral Point Depot is again serving the community, this time as an award-winning historical site. Through detailed, story-driven exhibits, the Mineral Point Railroad Museum honors the depot's rich railroad heritage and serves as home to the Mineral Point Railroad, the Mineral Point & Northern Railway, and the Mineral Point Zinc Company.

The Mineral Point Railroad Company (MPRR) was incorporated on April 17, 1852, under the general laws of the state of Wisconsin, Chapter 415. The charter authorized the issue of capital stock to the amount of \$500,000, divided into 5,000 shares of \$100 each.

In October 1852, the line was surveyed and proposals for its construction were invited through the press. The tenders for the work were opened on February 15, 1853, revealing 27 bids, including some from New York and one from Connecticut. Three months later, the first sod on the line was turned before a crowd of 800 townspeople. Starting at Warren, Illinois, a connection point with the Illinois Central Railroad, the rails were laid northward until, after 35 miles, the last rail was laid in Mineral Point. There were 43 culverts and 8 wooden bridges. No train was permitted to run faster than 16 miles per hour.



On June 17, 1857, the first train made its way up the Pecatonica Valley to Mineral Point. An enthusiastic crowd congregated at the depot for the event.

At the end of June 1857 the Mineral Point Tribune reported, "The business of the Mineral Point Railroad exceeds the expectations of most of our citizens. We were at the depot on Friday last about the time the train was leaving and saw it start out with seven freight cars well filled, three loaded with wheat, three with lead, and one with sundries." In 1860 a need was recognized for a railroad from Platteville to Calamine, a village on the Mineral Point Railroad. A survey was made that year, but the project was hindered by the Civil War.



An Old-Fashioned Fourth of July

It's a star-spangled day in one of America's favorite small towns! Early risers will do a few stretches in Soldier's Memorial Park, then take flight in the annual "Get the Lead Out" 2-5 K run-walk through the city's curving, hilly streets. The Independence Day parade steps off at 11:00 a.m., and features the city's volunteer firefighters in the flag-raising ceremony shown above. The traditional Chicken Barbeque, a Taste of Mineral Point, follows in Library Park.

Holiday music wafts downtown and back at Soldier's Park, where the City Band plays an evening concert until dusk, when it's time for fireworks. And, along the way, look for ball games, an ice cream social and friendly socializing on every corner of the town.



Built in 1914, the Mineral Point Opera House began in 1915 as a vaudeville and performing arts house.

Dedicated as a "Theatre for All the People," the Opera House saw its first stage performance February 9, 1915. The play, "The Misleading Lady," with the same cast that appeared in Mineral Point, had run nightly for nearly a year at the Fulton Theatre in New York City.

For many years the Opera House played a pivotal role in southwest Wisconsin, attracting some of the country's outstanding artists and productions. Live drama, grand opera and symphonic music were all very popular in this area. Performers played to full houses three or more times a week. Old news accounts show that passenger train schedules were often changed to allow patrons to see famous artists of the day. During this time local drama groups also began to use the auditorium facilities.

Claud and Stark of Madison, Wisconsin designed the building and upon completion rivaled New York and Chicago theatres in beauty and practicality. The original seating accommodated 700 people on the main floor, in the balcony and two boxes.

Extensive use was made of ornate moldings. A major portion of the auditorium was painted in a neutral shade; but, in order to highlight the floral leaf and grape design, the proscenium arch, box and balcony seats were worked in golden hues and pastels. The original tieback



Cornish Fest

A special September Celebration

The Cornish settled in Mineral Point in the early 1830s, when lead could be found in chunks on the ground. Their legacy, in food, music, art and hard work is celebrated with a special weekend on Sept. 28, 29.

Cornish Festival and Celtic Celebration features bagpipers, a parade, storytelling and — of course — food.

Friday night sees the opening of the quaint little Kiddleywink Pub, nestled beneath the Cornish rowhousing on Spruce Street in the Pendarvis complex. A cash bar, live music and wonderful old pub games make it an unforgettable night.

Celebrations Continue.

Taste of Mineral Point



On Saturday, September 26, the city's restaurants serve Cornish cuisine and other specialties at the annual Taste of Mineral Point. Young and old alike, everyone will find something for their taste buds at this midday event. Visit the food booths in Library Park, and experiment with the Cornish menu items — pasties, figgyhobbin. www.cornishfest.com

Mineral Point Opera House

A Theatre for all People

stage curtain was of pumpkin-colored velvet. Both boxes and the orchestra pit had wine-colored draperies.

The Opera House was part of an integrated Wisconsin circuit which included other exceptional theatres: the Pabst in Milwaukee; the Grand Opera House in Oshkosh; the Al Ringling in Baraboo; the Mabel Theatre in Menomonie; the Concordia Opera House in Watertown; and the Bijou in Racine.

During the late 1920s silent movies became popular and interest in stage productions began to fade. By the time the "talkies" arrived in the 1930s, the Opera House had already become primarily a movie theatre.

Today the Opera House continues to provide Mineral Point and surrounding areas with regular movie presentations, live performances by the Shake Rag Players a local theatre group, and the Mineral Point Film Society; a group of film lovers devoted to bringing significant world cinema to Mineral Point with monthly screenings. Additionally, the Mineral Point Film Society is currently working with the Mineral Point Library to produce mini film festivals free to the public.

The Mineral Point Opera House is located on High Street. For more theatre information ring Phil Mrozinski at 608-987-2039 or www.emstudio.com/operahouse.html



The Economic Power of Art

BY JOHN J. WAELTI

Cut-and-paste projects in grade school -- how I dreaded them! I was happier doing arithmetic problems or studying geography than fiddling with colors, scissors and paste. That was my dismal introduction to what passed for art, and it wasn't for me.

But ability and appreciation are different things. A tastefully decorated room in a Victorian house, rich oak woodwork with soft lighting and books on the shelf, a quaint small town main street that reflects a community's history and culture, good music -- those of us who lack artistic talent can appreciate these artistic touches.

Art has a powerful effect on our emotions. But it wasn't until well into my career as an economist that I thought much about the economic power of art.

Art helps build cities

Why do some towns grow and others languish? We can cite purely economic reasons -- changing structure of agriculture with fewer but larger farms, location and its implications for access to raw materials and markets, access to transportation corridors. Or critical mass regarding a particular technology such as electronics or medicine. Apart from purely economic reasons, however, some places simply are more desirable places to live.

Why do college towns consistently rate as top places in which to live? Probably because they are rich artistic communities with access to culture and education that translates into real economic power.

Art, alone, can't make a community grow, or save it from decline. But it can definitely give a community an edge. Let's see why this is so.

No community is economically self-contained. While some goods and services are purchased locally, others are necessarily purchased from outside the community or region. Goods purchased outside the region result in leakage or outflow of dollars. The greater the degree to which dollars are circulated locally, the less is the leakage from the region. For a community to exist, there must be an inflow of dollars from outside the region. These regional "exports" or inflows of dollars from outside constitute a region's "economic base."

Much of the Wisconsin economic base includes sale of raw agricultural products including milk, corn and soybeans, and processed agricultural products such as meats, our famed cheeses and fermented malt beverages. Retail sales and a manufacturing component bring in dollars, and income from tourists purchasing goods and services from shops, restaurants and motels adds

to the economic base.

Further, residents who are commuting to other cities bring their paychecks here. And as population ages, retirement income from Social Security and private pension plans will be an increasing component.

Where does art fit in?

The simple answer is that "the more residents who live around here, the more dollars are spent here." And residents are more likely to live here if there are excellent school and library facilities, access to culture and the arts, and if downtown streets and buildings are attractive and well maintained.

Thus art, broadly defined to include historic and cultural elements, fine arts, attractive landscaping and general ambience, strongly influences where people live, thereby affecting the community's economic base. It also attracts tourists.

The point is clear. Artistic surroundings make us feel better and improve our state of mind. And artists are nice to have around. But it's more than that -- art and artists generate real economic power.

Reprinted from the Monroe Times

About the Author

John J. Waelti is a native of Monroe Township. He is former professor of applied economics, University of Minnesota; and professor emeritus, New Mexico State University. He can be reached at jjwaelti@tds.net.

A still life isn't about fruit
but about time. --Anne Michaels



Mineral Point artist-author LOIS HOLLAND celebrates her 100th birthday at a gathering of friends in a local church. Here she speaks with her friend and colleague, Frank Polizzi, ceramic artist-teacher at Mulberry Pottery. Writing with Katherine Martin, she recently completed a memoir, I Remember.

"Heritage Tourism"

...in dollars
& sense

by Jeanne Lambin



Photo by Scott Dedrick

The identity of the first tourist to Mineral Point is unknown. What is known is that, almost since its inception, tourists and travelers have been making their way to Mineral Point.

Initially, many early travelers had a less than favorable impression of the "humble and unpretending village" emerging from the rolling prairie. As time passed, handsome commercial buildings and charming cottages of native stone rose up along High Street and beyond. Attractive houses, executed in an array of architectural styles, soon populated the picturesque city streets.

Then, after a century of progress, things took a turn for the worse, Mineral Point was hit hard by the Great Depression. People left in search of jobs and once cherished buildings were left to decay.

Recognizing the charm of this once "unpretending village," Bob Neal and Edgar Hellum, by buying and restoring forgotten buildings and in doing so, helped transform this once "humble village" to a tourist attraction. At a time when the country was in the midst the Depression, Neal and Hellum managed to create the Pendarvis House, a restaurant and tourist attraction that drew travelers from throughout the state and eventually, the nation. Artists and others soon followed. They brought much needed vitality to Mineral Point and laid the foundation for heritage tourism.

The Numbers are Impressive

Tourism has remained an important part of our local economy. Tourism is big business, not just for Mineral Point but the state of Wisconsin. In 2006, the travel and tourism industry contributed almost \$13 billion -- yes billion -- dollars to state economy, making tourism one of Wisconsin's top three industries along with manufacturing and agriculture. Tourists spent over \$55 million dollars in Iowa County. All that spending generated the equivalent of 327,759 full-time jobs for the state and 1422 of those jobs were in Iowa County

Source: the Economic Impact of Expenditures by Traveler 2006.

History as a Magnet

Many of these travelers are heritage travelers. Indeed, by some estimates, heritage tourists represent 81 percent of the traveling public. Heritage tourists are people seeking to experience the places and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. In an era of increased sameness, they are seeking the unique and different--irreplaceable historic, cultural and natural resources.

With its scenic beauty and amazing architecture, Mineral Point is well poised to cultivate heritage tourists.

The city's new designation, as one of the Dozen Distinctive Destinations chosen

by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, offers an opportunity to do that.

Doing so could be quite profitable. According to the 2003 "The Historic Cultural Traveler" study by the Travel Industry Association and Smithsonian Magazine, visitors to historic sites and cultural attractions stay longer and spend more money than other kinds of tourists. Cultural and heritage visitors spend, on average, \$623 per trip compared to \$457 for all U.S. travelers excluding the cost of transportation.

Source: 2003 The Historic/Cultural Traveler, TIA.

Historic preservation is Economic development.

The interest in heritage tourism reveals that economic development is progress and historic preservation is economic development. Preservation and protection of our past, is an investment in our future.

About the Author:

Mineral Point resident Jeanne Lambin is Program Officer in the Wisconsin Field Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She was instrumental in securing the Trust's "Dozen Distinguished Destinations" recognition for the city, earlier this year.

See the story on the DDD
on Page 3



"Remuddling"

It's the bane of historic preservation, and a blight on beautiful old neighborhoods.

Slapping up stucco, or vinyl, and then nailing on a few Phony Tudor planks? Nope, that's not Restoration, or Historic Preservation.

It may be Americana.

It's probably best called "kitch."

But it ain't Preservation.

If you are thinking of remodeling an historic building, get good advice from someone who cares about restoring or preserving the real thing.

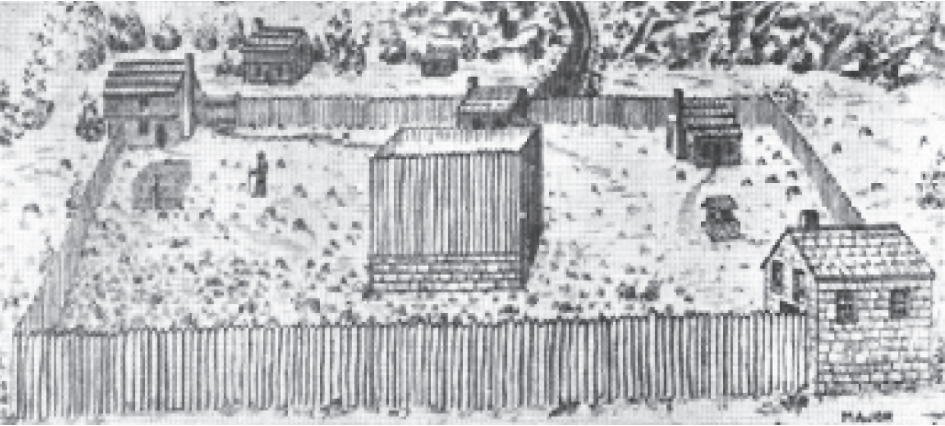
And don't "remuddle."



FORT JACKSON, MICHIGAN TERRITORY

THE ROLE OF MINERAL POINT IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR

By Clifford Krainik



On April 9, 1832 a dissident band of approximately 1,500 Sauk and Fox Indians under the leadership of Black Hawk crossed the Mississippi from Iowa to Illinois near present day Oquawka. This group, consisting of mounted warriors, women, children and the elderly, was returning to their ancestral homeland near Rock Island, Illinois after being expelled by the United States government the previous autumn under the terms of the Treaty of 1804. Though not a hereditary chief, the wiry sixty-five-year-old Black Hawk had attained a position of undisputed leadership by virtue of his skills as a warrior. Those who returned to Illinois with him rejected the validity of the government's claim to their land and believed they still might be able to relocate and plant their corn in regions not occupied by White settlers. In this regard they were tragically mistaken.



Black Hawk

The alarming news of the Indian excursion quickly spread across the Illinois frontier and set in motion irreconcilable events culminating in bloody warfare. Black Hawk was deceived into believing that neighboring tribes – the Winnebago, Kickapoo and Potawatomi – would materially assist his band and, if necessary, rush to join him in a military resistance. Black Hawk was also told by a confidant that the British government would provide munitions to help the Sauk and Fox in their struggle. In reality, none of the Indian tribes or the English had any intention to assist Black Hawk. While ascending the Rock River, Black Hawk's band was pursued by Federal troops under General Henry Atkinson and a force of Illinois militia led by Governor John Reynolds whose purpose was to compel the Sauk and Fox to return to the western side of the Mississippi.

The slaughter in Stillman's Valley

The Indians advanced as far as Stillman's Creel-then called Old Man's Creek-half way between present day Dixon and

Rockford, Illinois, near the town of Stillman Valley. At this juncture, Black Hawk finally realized that he had been duped, that no alliance could be reached with any of the Illinois tribes. He knew that the only option was to surrender his people. On May 14th Black Hawk sent a small envoy bearing a white flag to the camp of the pursuing army. In a perverse twist of fate, the untrained, many say intoxicated, Illinois militia fired upon the peace group killing three Sauk and Fox Indians. The abortive surrender quickly evolved from a melee into a full battle. The undisciplined Illinois militia acting independently from the Federal army gave way to the enraged Indians.

The militia's defeat was the first clash in a series of frontier engagements known as the Black Hawk War. The conflict would last for eighteen weeks and extend over the vast area of northwest Illinois and the lead region of southwest Wisconsin.

Even before the debacle at Stillman's Valley, Colonel Henry Dodge, commander of the Michigan Militia, was mindful that an Indian war in Illinois could quickly spread to the mining district of southwest Wisconsin. On May 8th, 1832 Dodge wrote to Illinois Governor Reynolds asking to be apprised of the Indian situation and suggested that "Could you detach a part of your command across the Rock River, you would afford our settlement immediate protection, and we would promptly unite with you with such a mounted force as we could bring into the field." ff1]

News of the defeat of the Illinois army reached Mineral Point within days. At the insistence of Colonel Henry Dodge that the distinct possibility of an Indian attack existed, the lead mining town like so many other small communities that dotted the Wisconsin landscape, began frantically erecting wooden stockade defenses – a process the settlers called "forting up." Small but massy structures sprang up all over the lead region. "Fifteen block-houses were built. They were named and located at the following exposed points: Fort Jackson, at Mineral Point; Fort Union, at Dodge's private residence, south of Dodgeville; Fort Napoleon, at Diamond Grove, in the town of Linden; Fort Jones, in the Blue River District (town of Highland), and a block-house at Helena, in Iowa County; Fort Hamilton, (in town of Wiota); Fort Defiance, in the town of Willow Springs; Fort Gratiot, at Gratiot's Grove; fort at Shullsburg; Fort de Seelhorst, in Elk Grove and White Oak Springs; fort in La Fayette County; Parish's Fort, at Wingville; fort at Cassville, and fort at Platteville, in Grant County; Mound Fort, near the Little Blue Mound, in Dane County." ff2]

Building "Chop, Chop"

Compiled three decades after the tumultuous events of the Black Hawk War, The History of Iowa County by C.W. Butterfield gives the best detailed account of the creation of Fort Jackson –

Fort Jackson was situated on the land now occupied by a livery stable, on Commerce Street, in the vicinity of the Mineral Point depot, and faced in an easterly direction. The east front extended from the south corner of James harness shop to what was then Jerusalem Street, since changed to Fountain Street. From that point, the outer walls extended sufficiently far north and west to form a perfect square. Work was commenced by digging a deep trench, or ditch, around the outlined area; then the men were dispatched into the surrounding woods to cut down and prepare appropriate timber for the outer defenses.

Logs were taken from contiguous cabins, and, being sharpened on one end, were planted in the ditch; the soil was then filled in, firmly imbedding the posts three feet deep. Inside the walls, slabs or puncheons were spiked over spots wherever an opening or aperture presented itself. In the southeast angle, was a blockhouse and sentry box, projecting above the tops of the palisades, and a similar structure occupied the northwest corner. Two openings furnished means of exit and entrance; one, a gateway in the southeast corner, was composed massive timbers; a smaller entrance similarly constructed was located in the northwest angle. Centrally situated, were several cabins to shelter the garrison and their families. Col. Moore was the commandant. ff3]

And not a shot was fired

Unlike the Apple River Fort in Elizabeth, Illinois, Fort Jackson was never attacked during the hostilities. Named in honor of President Andrew Jackson, the design and capacity of the fort clearly defined its purpose: to protect the citizens against Indian attack and to hold materials of war.

There were no barracks or drilling grounds. Essentially, the wooden garrison served as a depot and a distribution center to furnish food, arms and equipment to the Michigan Militia.

The Quartermaster's List

The extensive listing of supplies shipped to Fort Jackson by military contractors from Prairie du Chien, Galena and Diamond Grove, were published in three issues of the Wisconsin Tribune, later the Mineral Point Tribune, in March and April 1849. The record shows, for example, that on May 30th, 1832, thirty-six United States muskets and accouterments were sent to John Moore, Captain at Fort Jackson, and on June 6th, twenty guns, on June 12th, sixteen U.S. muskets in addition. On June 9th, three kegs of gun powder, 150 stands of arms, muskets, two swivels, 1,000 ball cartridges, 150 boxes and belts (very much worn), 150 flints, 20 lbs. cannon balls, 2 lbs. slow matches, 1 old saddle, 3 kegs powder, and sundries for mounted miners. ff4]

The supply activities at Fort Jackson seemed to have been the busiest during May and throughout June of 1832, directly corresponding to the Indian attacks in Illinois and Wisconsin. By July the theater of War had shifted further east and the Michigan Militia received their supplies directly from the United States army based at Fort Atkinson. In time the critical services provided by Fort Jackson were no longer required. After the defeat of Black Hawk and his followers at the Battle of Bad Axe in Vernon County on August 2nd, Fort Jackson simply reverted to a ready supply of recyclable logs and over the course of time the massive timber

structure completely disappeared.

Even the site where the fort once stood was substantially altered. An 1881 account tells of "seven or eight feet of land... excavated from the side of the hill, completely changing the conformation of the surface and destroying all relics of the old stockades." ff5]

For Mineral Point and the Michigan Territory the construction of Fort Jackson was important for several reasons. Primarily, the Fort provided a base from which the mounted militia could obtain replacement horses, and supplies for reconnaissance and a staging point to wage an offensive campaign against the Indians. The fort was a safe zone for the defense of the miners and settlers who justly feared attacks. Equally important, the fort represented a symbol of the pioneer spirit – the ability of men and women living on the frontier, working together to defend their homes and their very lives. Though ephemeral in nature, Fort Jackson deserves to be remembered as the bastion of defense in a time of great uncertainty.

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About the Author:

Cliff Krainik and his wife Michele live in Warrenton, Virginia, where they are independent historians, appraisers and dealers in antique photos, prints, books and documents.

His extensive research into the Black Hawk War brought him to Mineral Point in 1984, when he walked the hidden property lines of Fort Jackson at the corner of Commerce and Fountain Streets. He later returned to erect a permanent marker at the site of the fort, and has delivered lectures on the role of Wisconsin's lead region in the Black Hawk War.

The Krainiks presented the premier exhibit, "The Legacy of the Black Hawk War," at the opening of the Gundry House in 2002.

As part of the current commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the War, MPHS asked Krainik to contribute to our publications. He cheerfully obliged; and, for this special edition wrote this piece, filing his manuscript via e-mail.

Cliff and Michele Krainik are writing the biographies of Mineral Point artists Max and Eva Fernekes. They are also guest curators for an exhibition of their collection, "The Transformation of Black Hawk: Frontier Terrorist to Advertising Icon, Sainthood and Beyond." See it at the Apple River Fort Historic Site in Elizabeth, IL, running through the autumn season. For more information, dial 815 858-2028

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATION:

Black Hawk: The original image is a hand-colored, stone lithograph from a painting by Charles Bird King, published 1838. This likeness was painted in Washington, D.C. in 1837 just one year prior to his death.

Illustrations are from the Black Hawk War Collection of Cliff & Michelle Krainick, Warrenton, Virginia

FOOTNOTES:

1. Ellen M. Whitney, ed. The Black Hawk War: 1831-1832, Vol. II, Part I, Springfield, IL: State Historical Library, 1973, pp. 357-358.
2. C.W. Butterfield. The History of Iowa County, Wisc. Chicago: Western Historical Co., 1881, p. 480.
3. Ibid
4. Ibid, p. 481.
5. Ibid, p. 480.
6. William F. Stark. Along the Black Hawk Trail. Sheboygan, WI: Zimmerman Press, 1984, p. 183.

The older I grow, the more I listen to people who don't talk much.
-Germain G. Glien





Home Furnishings Exhibit at Pendarvis Historic Site

Historic exhibits often focus on the architecture of a period, the homes of noteworthy patrons and their offices and other buildings.

But at the Pendarvis Historic Site in Mineral Point, a new exhibit explores a more intimate measure of historic tastes and values — the furniture of common homes. And the exhibit makes the claim that locally-made furnishings were, literally, a good fit for those who used them.

"Equal to Any in the Market: The Furniture Trade in Mineral Point, Wisconsin," a joint project of the Chipstone Foundation and the Wisconsin Historical Society, is open at Pendarvis until October 31, 2007.

The state-run Pendarvis site and the Mineral Point Historical Society cooperated with recent studies of home furnishings made here, and in the formation of a data base on furnishings maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

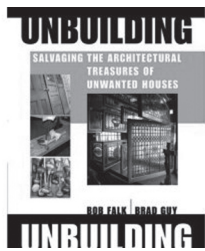
Mineral Point furniture-makers was also the topic of a March lyceum, featuring the coordinator of the studies, Emily Pfotenhauer.

Furnishings from the collections of both the Gundry home and Pendarvis were used in the project.

In a promotional statement about the

Days are longer at the tops of trees.
—J.J. Dougherty

BOOKS: "Unbuilding"



by
Bob Falk
&
Brad Guy

Much of America's architectural heritage is ending up in landfills.

Bob Falk and Brad Guy want to change that. They've written "Unbuilding: Salvaging the Architectural Treasures of Unwanted Houses." The book is a guide to "unbuilding," the process of dismantling buildings that otherwise would be razed. The purpose is to save reusable elements such as building materials, fixtures and architectural details. Falk and Guy say deconstruction preserves the past, reduces costs, benefits the environment and has the potential to create jobs in urban areas, where they're needed most.

"Unbuilding" covers the many aspects of deconstruction, including site preparation, safety issues, tools, techniques and resale ideas. Interviews with successful salvagers are included, along with resources for those interest in deconstruction.

The book is published by the Taunton Press, and sells for \$30 in hardcover.

exhibit, the Pendarvis sponsors made these points:

"The presence of furniture in our homes, offices, and schools is so much an accepted part of life that we seldom stop to consider what it means to us or what it tells other people about us. In the new exhibit at Pendarvis Historic Site, we invite our visitors to stop and consider furniture from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries — both humble and elegant — and to learn to look for the deeper meanings it contains.

The close examination of furniture made or used in a community illuminates broader issues of manufacturing and trade, of economic status, of style, and of change through time. During the early years of settlement, Mineral Point craftsmen built basic forms such as cupboards and chairs to meet the needs of the hundreds of new settlers pouring into the community. As the city flourished, skilled cabinetmakers followed national trends in order to make furniture that appealed to wealthy and sophisticated area residents. Although the sale of manufactured furniture dominated the marketplace by the end of the nineteenth century, the craft of furniture-making in Mineral Point did not disappear, and local artisans continue to produce furniture into the twenty-first century."



"EQUAL TO ANY IN THE MARKET"

10:00 am to 5:00 pm, daily.
Admission to the exhibit is included with the price of a tour ticket, or can be purchased separately for \$2.00.

For further information, contact:

Pendarvis Historic Site
114 Shake Rag Street, PO Box 270,
Mineral Point, WI 53565
608-987-2122
pendarvis@wisconsinhistory.org

<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/pendarvis/>

Study closely the small quiet things.

—Dave Etter

Meet the Musicians of "Point Five"

The Inside Story BY CAROLE SPELIC'

Mineral Point has a population that seems to be over-represented in the creative artists category. The large number of visual artists is relatively well known, as so many of the painters, sculptors, and craftspeople have gallery or working studio storefronts that give them an obvious presence in the community.

However, there is also a rich vein of musical talent buried a layer or two below the surface. On parade days, the middle and high school marching bands reveal the sheer number, as well as the capabilities, of student-aged musicians. In summer, the City Band shows off diverse talents of the entire community. Special events like last summer's fundraiser for Fair Wisconsin bring together family acts, like Mike Mitchell and daughters, and rock groups like Dave Hopper's quartet, "The What." And on any given weekend, local live music in an assortment of "flavors" might be happening in a number of area establishments.

And speaking of "eclectic"...

Like the city itself, the local music group known as Point Five is an interesting example of the meshing of various backgrounds. Based in Mineral Point, and with five members — get it? Point Five? — their individual histories are diverse, yet a common interest in playing ensemble acoustic music drew them together.

Rhythm guitarist Aaron Dunn has been a musician since he was very young. Early on, his parents enrolled him in Suzuki Method piano lessons. In middle school, he acquired an acoustic guitar and joined his parents in singing liturgical music. By high school, his potential band buddies wanted to rock loudly, but Aaron never got an electric guitar, so he was never able to really join in. During college, Aaron began writing songs and recorded ten of them with his brother, which he notes gave them "semi-celebrity" status on campus.

When he met Monica Thorson at college, she was a voice major but not into the kind of folk music that he was playing — she was involved in the "vocal operatic elitist genre," according to Aaron. She originally began studying voice in the eighth grade and says she "has never looked back." In college Monica discovered a love for music theory and graduated with a degree in vocal performance. She then worked editing music and singing with various ensembles in Chicago and Madison.

Wedding Bells

Aaron and Monica married and came to Mineral Point in 2005. Two weeks after they moved in to their house, they played at the very first open mike session at Shake Rag Alley, where host Willie Sterba immediately solicited them to form a folk-oriented group called Cat Tail Creek with himself and novice bass player Carole Spelic'. They had one rehearsal, on the grassy slope of the Farmer's Market, and played their first gig a week later on the Fourth of July, to an attentive audience of folks waiting in line for their chicken luncheons.

Some time later, when Sterba left the band to pursue his ascendent solo career, the Dunns suggested working with an amazing guitarist they'd met — Dave Irwin.



Dave Irwin, Monica Dunn, Paul Biere, Aaron Dunn, Carole Spelic'

Dave had a long career as a professional musician, having played in a funk band for many years, but more recently he'd come to finger-style guitar picking. Aaron, wowed with Dave's sheer talent, boldly asked him to sit in with the band — and thankfully, everyone enjoyed the session. Dave was in the band.

So then they put a name on it.

The group realized that their collective musical direction was trending toward alternative country and contemporary American songs. So additional instrumental licks were needed. And fortunately, Paul Biere was aware of the band and expressed an interest in contributing.

Paul's own musical history started in an adolescent rebellion. The proximity of a guitar and the first check he ever wrote got him into trouble, but, instrument in hand, he persisted in playing bluegrass through high school and college. Around campfires, he added fiddle and banjo to his arsenal.

When Point Five began courting Paul, communication was not difficult as Aaron and Paul work together in the same medical practice, and Carole and Paul were already playing together in another band. Short story — they all got together and jammed — and loved it. So now, there were five.

But who brought the diapers?

Okay, make it "six." With the arrival of Libby Dunn, now a charming one-year-old who more silently participated in the band's activities before she was born, but now sometimes insists on a more active vocal role. Libby also plays percussion from time to time.

We live, we learn, we love it!

Point Five has been playing together in their current incarnation since late 2005, and their set list has evolved to include moody versions of music from The Greencards and Kate Campbell, covers of American primitive songs by Gillian Welch, narrative tunes by John Hiatt and Vance Gilbert, as well as a rollicking jam-based covers of Gomez, Nickel Creek, and Alison Kraus and Union Station.

You can hear Point Five perform at several venues this summer, including Pub Night at the Pendarvis State Historic Site, 114 Shake Rag Street, 987-2122...on June 16th, at a special event at the Spring Green General Store, 135 South Albany Street, Spring Green, 588-7070...on Friday June 29th from 5 - 7 pm, and at the Mineral Point Historical Society's July "Jammin' on the Porch" event - Friday, July 13th, from 5:30 to 7:30 at Orchard Lawn, 234 Madison Street, 987-2884. Watch for additional future dates!



The Wrecking of the First National Bank, Mineral Point, 1909

A Re-creation of a News Account ✦ BY NANCY PFOTENHAUER

Had one of the encompassing hills rose up and toppled over, the residents of Mineral Point could not have been more surprised than they were by the wrecking of the First National bank in 1909, said a contemporary source. Indeed, a hill falling on the town might have done less damage and affected fewer people.

Organized in 1884 by William A. Jones, with a Board of Directors consisting of prominent citizens of Mineral Point, situated in a grand new building on the corner of High and Chestnut, and examined regularly by federal officials, the bank was widely regarded as a "financial Gibraltar" and the town's faith in it was firm.

But then National Bank Examiner Richard W. Goodhart came to town. Alerted by the previous examiner that discrepancies he found were not adequately explained by bank Vice President Phillip Allen, Jr., Goodhart spent a week combing through the bank's records. Then he called a meeting of the Directors and Allen.

Irregularities, Forgeries, and Defalcations Exposed

"Mr Allen, you are a forger and defaulter," Examiner Goodhart stated. Silence reigned for a moment, then Allen spoke. "It's not true, it's a lie."

"Here are the proofs," said Mr. Goodhart, showing two notes from two different persons, the signatures being in the same handwriting. Confronted, Allen admitted the forgeries.

The Directors received the disclosure with difficulty, but the amount of the two notes, \$8,000, was made good by three of them. Later in the day another forged note for \$7,000 was brought to light. This, too, was made good. But before the day was over, forgeries to the amount of \$50,000 were uncovered and the directors could not make good this large amount.

Efforts To Save Bank Fails

In an effort to cover the shortages, the Directors forced Allen to turn over his personal assets, including his home. There was also a last ditch attempt to raise money for the bank by selling the Kennedy Mine in Hazel Green, which was owned by Allen, bank President Calvert Spensley, and others. But all attempts were for nought and Goodhart posted a notice on the door of the bank stating that it was closed.

Widows and Orphans Hit Hard

Worthless notes poured into the bank the next day. Widows and orphans were hard hit, as Mr. Allen acted as administrator of many estates. He was a pillar of the church, a Sunday school superintendent, sometimes occupied the pulpit, and was implicitly trusted.

Sequestered At Home

A U.S. Marshal came to town to arrest Allen, but Allen was confined to his home, due to nervous prostration. His wife and daughter kept the reporters at bay

Cashier Shoots Himself At Parents' Graves

Ever since the closing of the bank, Cashier Frank Hanscom plainly showed that he was laboring under a depression of spirits and on the Sunday evening following the closure, came the climax. Shortly after the shades of night had set in, Mr. Hanscom put on his overcoat and went out for a walk and fresh air. Not returning as soon



as his wife anticipated, and because of his silent, dejected manner during the day, she went to the home of her mother, Mrs. John Gray, Sr. with anxiety in her expression, and asked if Frank had been there. The aged parent, sorrowing over the misfortune that had overtaken the family because of the bank disaster, became alarmed and soon collapsed.

Meanwhile, neighbors formed searching parties and in Graceland cemetery, about twenty feet distant from the graves of his father and mother, they found the lifeless form. When the shocking news was made known at the home, it was learned that Mrs. Gray's life had just previously reached its end.

Mr. Hanscom committed suicide by swallowing carboic acid and then shooting himself. There was a bullet hole in his temple and a revolver clutched in his right hand while near-by was found a wine glass which gave ample proof that from it he had drunk the poisonous acid.

Allen Arraigned and Jailed

The following week, Allen was taken to Madison and arraigned before United States Court Commissioner Chauncey E. Blake.

The forging of notes to the amount of tens of thousands of dollars; the issuing of duplicate certificates of deposit; the misapplying of the savings of widows and orphans, were among the offences with which Allen was charged.

Indicted By Grand Jury

Allen was kept in the Dane County jail until Nov 6, when he was taken to La Crosse and arraigned before Federal Judge Sanborn on 26 counts, which included almost every variety of violation of the banking laws known to the comptroller's office.

Pleads to Four Counts

At first, Allen claimed he was not guilty of the charges, but on Nov. 26, he appeared in United States District court in Madison and pleaded guilty to four of seven counts and was sentenced to ten years in the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kas.

Taken To La Crosse

Later that morning, accompanied by a deputy United States marshal, Allen left for La Crosse to testify before a grand jury. When he left the jail at Madison he received from the turnkey \$5.10 which had been taken from him at the time of his arrest.

Reasoning that he would soon have little need of money, he desired to be a game sport to the last and invited a party of four to dine with him. The check was \$4.50 which Allen paid with a \$5 bill and he grandly handed to the astonished waiter a 50-cent tip and when on the train he gave his last dime for a magazine which he read at intervals on the way to La Crosse.

Conspiracy Alleged - Allen Blames Spensley

The convicted banker testified before the grand jury that the first wrong was committed by Calvert Spensley, President of the bank, 20 years previously when he misapplied \$35,000 of the bank's funds. Some time after that, Allen stated to the jury, he made the first forgeries to cover up the wrongs.

Methods Revealed

Allen's testimony also revealed that he was a marvel at figures and kept detailed records of all of his transactions, both honest and criminal, which enabled him to handle the muddled affairs of the bank and blind the bank customers. These diaries were indexed and he could, at a moment's notice, turn back and refresh his memory with the exact particulars of a forgery or other fraudulent transaction he had perpetrated a dozen years before.

Spensley Indicted By Federal Grand Jury

Calvert Spensley, erstwhile state senator and president of the Wisconsin fish commission, was indicted by the federal grand

jury at La Crosse on evidence adduced during the examination of Philip Allen, Jr.

The warrant charged Mr. Spensley with misapplication of the bank's funds and with aiding and abetting Allen in the misapplication of funds and in making false reports to the comptroller of the currency.

News of Spensley's Arrest Spread Like Wildfire

The report that Mr. Spensley was arrested or surrendered himself to the United States marshal spread like wildfire. Telegrams came pouring in from newspapers in the state and from cities outside of Wisconsin.

Sensational reports in the daily papers implied that Spensley tried to evade the Marshal and his deputies. The Mineral Point papers, however, were adamant that those rumors were wholly without foundation, that Spensley had legal business to attend to at Hazel Green for the Mineral Point Zinc company in regard to the purchase of a mine.

Allen's Relatives Charged With Conspiracy

In an effort to recover some of the bank's lost assets, Allen was declared an involuntary bankrupt on Nov. 26. During the bankruptcy proceedings it was charged that while Allen was supposedly suffering from threatened nervous prostration, he was arranging with his sister-in-law for the transfer of his property to his wife, in an effort to prevent his creditors from getting his estate. The sister-in-law, the wife, and their brother-in-law were all arrested on conspiracy charges, following their testimony in the hearing.

Bank Directors Charged With Neglect

Two years later, the Receiver of the bank filed a suit against the bank's Directors, charging them with neglect of their duties. The Directors were eventually exonerated, although the case against them dragged on for five years.

How Much Did He Get Away With?

Contemporary accounts seem to have eventually settled on \$700,000 as the amount embezzled by Phil Allen, Jr., although they also give the impression that at some point, the officials stopped counting. According to MeasuringWorth.com, in today's money, this would be the equivalent of \$16 million.

This account compiled with the help of newspaper articles available at the Mineral Point Archive.





Phase II restoration: not a “weekend makeover”

The careful restoration of a classic Italianate home is nothing like the “quickie makeovers” so popular on the House & Garden channels on television.

A house museum has a special obligation to its visitors and its donors – to restore, rather than remodel. That means using old photos and surviving fragments of paint and wallpaper to accurately re-create a space, instead of simply making a guess at what Victorians did.

That’s why the Mineral Point Historical Society is exercising such great care as it moves into the construction work of Phase II of the planned restoration of Orchard Lawn.

Using Funds Wisely

That’s our major responsibility, because our supporters expect it, in return for their generosity in the fund-raising effort that raised \$155,000 for the second phase of the Gundry restoration.

Phase I accomplished a number of necessary repairs and improvements to the 1868 home. Phase II is designed to bring the home to its former Victorian glory, as the “show-place home on the hill,” the family estate of merchant Joseph Gundry.

The Wisconsin-based Jeffris Family Foundation matched the \$155,000 total contributions from supporters of the restoration, providing a \$310,000 construction fund for the work ahead.

Here are some of the ways we’ll use those dollars, to strengthen and brighten Orchard Lawn and fulfil its purpose as “the Living Room of Mineral Point”:

Landscaping & Grounds

Re-establish the formal lawn and garden areas, the tree and shrub specimens, and create the orchard that gave the property its name. Tie the greenery together with a pathway, and provide a guide for plant-watchers. Improve parking areas, lighting and signage.

Recently-acquired photographs have provided invaluable help in planning the grounds restoration and raise the possibility of reconstructing outbuildings.

Exterior Restoration

Repairs to porch roofing, and restoration of the front porch railing.

Interior Restoration

Wallpaper and paint research will lead to the recreation of color schemes and authentic home decor. Restoration of wood flooring is planned, as is work to restore carpeting, lighting, shutters and curtains.

Work on the plaster cornices in the home’s double parlors will be carried out.

The ceiling in the dining room will get special care.

And a variety of other projects will be funded by Phase II dollars, including improvements in the exhibit areas, conservation in the belvedere and basement, and the purchase of chairs and a new sound system.

Here, landscape architect Dennis Buettner digs in, to check the location of outdoor architectural elements that would shed light on the grounds plan designed by Joseph Gundry. Buettner has been hired to draft a master plan for the exterior restoration of the house. And with supervision from MPHS Grounds Chairman Peter Pfotenbauer, the landscaper has identified a variety of sites and has made



recommendations to the Board of Directors. Those suggestions are under study now.

Meanwhile, inside the home, MPHS President Jim Stroschein leads a team of experts and volunteers in the careful study of structural and decorative elements that will play a role in the restoration of Orchard Lawn.

It’s a plus for those who take “Hard Hat Tours” this year – they’ll see changes happen!



*Thank You
for reading
The Times
of Mineral
Point*

Tales From The MPHS Website

BY NANCY PFOTENHAUER
She, who rides herd on the Internet

We’ve had some interesting queries through the website.

A fellow in New Richmond writing a book about major league baseball players born in Wisconsin asks if we have any information about Mineral Pointers Jack Enzenroth or Ernie Ovitz. Yes, indeed. Both were born in Mineral Point in 1885; Enzenroth played for the St. Louis Browns and Ovitz for the Chicago Cubs.

A woman writing a book about Wisconsin railroads asks if we might have a picture of a railroad pickle car. According to Wikipedia, a pickle car is a specialized type of tank car designed to carry pickles. It has four visible wooden tanks and is roofed. Pickles preserved in salt brine are loaded through hatches in the roof.

Another fellow asks if we have information about the “orphan trains” in Wisconsin. His grandfather may have been one of the orphans who came to Highland in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. The WI Historical Society printed a good article about the orphan trains in 2003. See it on line at http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wmh/pdf/winter_03_kidder.pdf

We answered these queries as best we could and passed the requests along to others who might be able to help. If you know anything about any of them, please let us know and we will forward the information.

If you haven’t visited our website yet, you might want to take a look. Go to www.mineralpointhistory.org.

Nancy Pfotenbauer spent countless hours fashioning the historical society’s new website, from scratch. Then, as all webmasters know, she became involved in the sophisticated art - or is it science -- of linkage to other internet sites. Fortunately, she maintains a healthy love and respect for “things of the past.”



WEDDING?

Imagine how beautiful the ceremony would be, if wedding bells rang in the lovely formal gardens at Orchard Lawn.



Did You Hear?!

Mineral Point, Wisconsin is a 2007 Dozen Distinctive Destination, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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The Society relies upon its growing numbers of contributors and volunteers, to continue the work started when the MPHS was founded in 1939. As the house restoration project nears completion, we are grateful for the time and money expended by our generous supporters.

If you would like to make a gift to the Society, or become a volunteer in a variety of necessary tasks, please contact

MPHS:

Telephone 608 987 2884 or
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.mineralpointhistory.org

Mineral Point Historical Society Membership Form

January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

All members receive the newsletter
and free tours of Orchard Lawn.

Please check one:

- ☐ Individual (\$15.00)
☐ Family (\$25.00)
☐ Business (\$50.00)

Additional Contribution \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

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Make checks payable to the
Mineral Point Historical Society
and return this form to:

Mineral Point Historical Society
P.O. Box 188
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Thank you again for your support!



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DOZEN DISTINCTIVE
DESTINATIONS 2007



Courtesy of the Mineral Point Room

Reunion June 1886.

A Grand Old Time in Mineral Point

from
The Daily Northwestern of Oshkosh
June 10, 1886

Mineral Point, Wis., June 10 – The reunion being held here by the Southwestern Wisconsin Veteran's association is one of the grandest events in the history of Mineral Point. About 600 veterans had registered at headquarters yesterday and many more are expected to-day. The crowd yesterday was estimated at 10,000.

A reunion of members of Company I, Second Wisconsin volunteers, which

was organized at Mineral Point in 1861, under Capt. T. S. Allen, was held yesterday afternoon. Twenty of the 101 original members were in attendance and marched up the street behind a flag presented to them in 1861, by the ladies of Mineral Point.

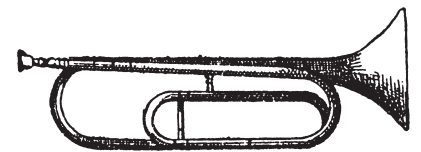
C. G. Heath, of Walldwick, Wis., is the only survivor of the war of 1812 present. He was an artilleryman and is very old. At sunrise this morning the

national salute was fired, and breakfast was taken at 7 o'clock.

The Soldiers Enjoyed Mineral Point

The grand parade was held between 9:30 and 10:30 this morning and was reviewed by the commander in chief and staff and distinguished officers. Arriving at the grand stand an

address of welcome was delivered by the mayor, Hon. Chas. Gillmann. Other addresses were made, and at 3 P.M. the business meeting of the association was held in the Opera House.



STRIKE UP THE BAND!

by Frank Beaman

Everyone loves a parade, or so it seems. Mineral Point is known for its parades: Homecoming, Fourth of July, the Cornish Festival Bagpipers, Memorial Day, Halloween. Even a Christmas parade with Santa in a horse-drawn carriage rumbling down High Street.

Some sort of parade occurs every day, in some part of the world, for some sort of occasion. Most of them are staged in a spirit of joy, celebrating a holiday or a positive turn of history. In some, the paraders are also protesters.

A few parades step off under a dark cloud. The annual May Day Parade in Moscow comes to mind; it was, simply, obviously, a flexing of Russian military muscle. And nowadays, in a score of the world's dictatorships, the populace is commanded to turn out on the curb, to applaud the strongman as he passes by.

But in Paris, the Bastille Day parade commemorates a milestone in the fight for freedom -- the liberation of the French citizenry from an oppressive monarchy that had kept the commoners in ignorance, poverty and fear for too long.

The French Revolution's twin was born in the New World, as the young United States demanded its separation from the British and began to draft its first-of-a-kind Constitution, a set of rules for life in a democracy.

Democracy was a novel idea in those times, the late 18th Century. The worldly wise believed it would not, could not, work. But today, in spite of some wear and tear, democracy is alive and, mostly, well.

We have Independence Day parades to remind us of our franchise as the world's most successful republic.

No place better illustrates the meaning of the ideal, "Of, by and for the People," than a parade. No single event yields as much visual variety. And thus no place is a finer setting for a photographer who enjoys snapping pictures of "The People." When the crowd unfolds those canvas seats, and the bands play, and groups march in costumes that tell their story, and flatbeds are decorated as floating dioramas, and the kids clamor for thrown candy, and the dogs, horses, cars and trucks all jerk along at start and stop speed --



this is real Americana. Not made-for-TV, over-produced Americana, but the real thing.

Human emotions, usually hidden or disguised, are not disguised at a parade.

If parade-goers like what they see, they shout out. If they don't like what they see, they shout out, too.

So, in a democracy, a parade is a way of voting. And the turnout is usually better than on formal election days.

For those of us who are lucky enough to live with flags, fireworks and freedom, an American parade is much more than a day in the sun. It's living history, and it's reliving history, and occasionally it's even rewriting history.

It's thinking-- as you stand there -- about what was, what is, and what could be. It's counting the blessings. It's an exercise of patriotism, of course, but also of pride in your community; it's realizing the value and importance of friends and neighbors, as you stand there with them, laughing at the rolling panorama.

It's the gradual awareness that you belong to something big: a brotherhood of parade-goers, intent on an hour's worth of fun, but sensing that, after you get home, the good feelings will last much longer than that.

Following the Pipers to Pendarvis

It's a Mineral Point tradition. As a part of the annual Cornish Festival, a midday bagpipe procession moves down High Street, and then the men in tartans strike out on foot for the Cornish settlement along Shake Rag Street.

Townpeople fall in line behind the pipers on the march. It's a sort of solidarity gesture, this tagalong with the Celtic musicians, to show our affection for the old miners of the 1830's.

