

THE DEPOT DISPATCH

e-mail: behistoricalsoc@gmail.com



2014-2015 Calendar of Events

Depot Museum is closed (Open by appointment) until Summer 2015.

December 7: Open House and Santa Visit 2:00 to 4:00

2015 Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday Afternoon January 11, 2:00 to 4:00.

THANK YOU!

Executive Officers

President Paul Skalet
Vice President Shirley Danz
Secretary Jan Cowan
Treasurer David Cooper

Board of Directors

Term Expires 2015

Wayne Barsness

Connie Goderstad

Paul Skalet

Term Expires 2016

David Cooper

Shirley Danz

Jan Schroeder

Shirley Williams

Term Expires 2017

LaVonne Clasen

Harold Miller

Steve Webber

Archivist

Ruth Haglund

Annual Dues

Personal	\$10.00
Family	\$20.00
Business/Patron	\$35.00

For those who itemize taxes, the Black Earth Historical Society is a not-for-profit, sec. 501(c) (3) corporation.

President's Message

Greetings members and supporters of the society, and Thank You! I hope you have enjoyed our nice autumn weather.

We had another good turnout for our August 30th brat fry at the Shoe Box. Thanks to all who helped.

Brat Frys are the main fundraisers for us, but our opportunities for them are limited. The Black Earth Historical Society is completely privately funded by gifts, grants, bequests, but importantly by memberships.

We do not receive any direct governmental monetary support. We depend on you to maintain this local organization. The Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization so your contributions are tax deductible. We are now confronted with the need to replace one of the boilers at our headquarters at a cost of approximately \$6,000.00. So, please think of us before 2015, if you can use a charitable deduction before filing your 2014 income taxes.

Also, those of you age 70-1/2 and older have the opportunity to donate up to \$100,000.00 from your IRAs or Roth IRAs to charitable nonprofits without having to treat the withdrawals as taxable income.

Harold Miller and Steve Webber attended a power dam tour at Prairie du Sac to celebrate 100 years of generating power and providing us with Lake Wisconsin.

Because of the sub-zero weather for our annual meeting the Board voted to have our 2015 annual meeting on January 11, 2015 at 2:00, a Sunday afternoon. A presentation on Badger Ordinance is planned with details on page 3, interested?

Many Thanks for your past and continued support.

Paul Skalet, President

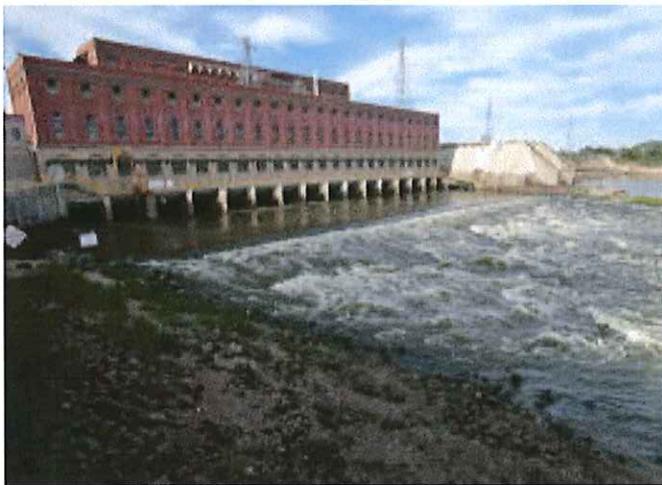
SEPTEMBER 12 DAM TOUR

For the first time in decades the Prairie du Sac power dam was open to public tours. Constructed from 1911 to 1915 after numerous setbacks. First generating 25-cycle power on September 14, 1914. It was sent to Portage and from there to Milwaukee to operate streetcars. The tours were to commemorate 100 years of generating electric power from the Wisconsin River. It was constructed at a time when most work was done using steam or manpower with as many as 400 workers using shovels and other tools to harness the Wisconsin River and create Lake Wisconsin.

The tours were available only from September 12 through the 14th and were limited to 25-30 people/group. They sold out by the end of August but perhaps Alliant will consider doing them again. They had over 200 more orders for the tour than available spaces.

The State Journal published a nice story August 31st, and a video available at:

<http://tinyurl.com/qdh8ztb>



Dam Sight

I took a few photos while on the tour. Others posted photos on YouTube that you can view online. <http://tinyurl.com/k6oooc>

Private investors that just completed the dam that formed Lake Delton at Wisconsin Dells in 1908 constructed the dam.

Because of the sandy bottom of the river 12,000 pine logs were hammered into the riverbed and sealed with cement and gravel to form the footings to construct the dam.



One Spillway is Open



Original Circuit for 4 of the 8-Turbines

The dam was the largest hydroelectric project west of Niagara Falls at the time. If you are interested in the dam's construction a 30-min video (shortened from the Library presentation) is at: <http://tinyurl.com/qzmxk4w>

The audio is not great but it provides many of the interesting construction details. Let us know if you liked it.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

The Christmas Open House/Santa Sunday will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 2:00 – 4:30 pm at the Blue Mounds Street facility. The afternoon will begin with the Black Earth area Girl Scouts entertaining us with songs of the season at 2:00 pm. Be sure to invite Grandma and Grandpa, neighbors, friends and relatives to see and hear the girls sing. They are working hard to perform for us. We expect Santa to arrive at approximately 2:30 to visit with all the boys and girls to find out what is on their wish list for this year.

The Historical Society members and the Girl Scouts are providing goodies and hot chocolate in the lower level all afternoon for your enjoyment.

Please pay particular attention to all of the charming paper chains throughout the building that were made and put up by the local second grade students. They also have fun hanging ornaments on the trees. We sincerely appreciate their enthusiasm and thank the teachers, aids and students for helping with decorating.

ANNUAL MEETING – Jan. 11, 2015

The annual meeting of the Black Earth Historical Society will be held on SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2015 at 2:00 pm at the Historical Society's Blue Mounds Street facility. Please note the change of day, date and time. We hope that by having the meeting during daylight hours it will be easier for people to attend and we can hope it won't be so incredibly cold, but one never knows about the January weather in Wisconsin. We will have a short business meeting including the election of board members. The following board members' term of office expires in January 2015: Wayne Barsness, Paul Skalet and Connie Goderstad. Connie has decided not to run for another term. We thank her for her many years of service to the historical society.

The following have agreed to run for re-election to the board, Paul Skalet and Wayne Barsness, and Ruth Haglund, our Archivist, has been nominated to also serve on the board.

Nominations may also be made from the floor.

PROGRAM

Verlyn Mueller, archivist of the Museum of Badger Army Ammunition will discuss the progress being made at the 7500-acre property formerly known as the Badger Army Ammunition Plant on Highway 12 in Sauk County and the reclamation of the prairies, woodlands, and preservation of the cemeteries on the property. There is a link to an interview with Mr. Mueller on the current status from WPR on 5/1/14 it is here: <http://tinyurl.com/nrzmb9c>

According to the interview the museum is not currently open due to accessibility requirements. There were as many as 23,000 people in the Sauk, Iowa, Richland and Dane County areas working at the ammo plant during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam wars. Perhaps a relative of yours was one of them.

Please join us for this special event. We will serve coffee and goodies following the program in the lower level so you may enjoy conversation with old friends and perhaps make new ones as well.

THANKSGIVING DAY

During President Lincoln's presidency, Thanksgiving was traditionally the last Thursday of November and remained so until 1939. November 1939 had five Thursdays so Thanksgiving was November 30, however retailers worried that the Christmas shopping season would be shortened by a week and therefore cut into their sales. In August 1939, President Roosevelt decided to move Thanksgiving to the fourth Thursday and it became a federal law.

THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN:

President Harding dedicated the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier November 11, 1921. This memorial originally honored fallen World War I servicemen whose remains had not been identified. Remains of servicemen from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam were interred west of the tomb. The Vietnam unknown was identified and, in 1998, returned to his family.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER

Arne Mikkelson, was born December 7, 1832, Bagn, Sor-Aurdal, Oppland, Norway. On March 18, 1853 he married Ingeborg Monsdatter Olson at Bagn and by March 23, 1853 they were on their way to America. They established their home in Arena Township, Iowa County in 1857 and had seven children before "Andrew Michaelson" enlisted on February 23, 1865 in Madison; Company G, Forty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry. His enlistment indicated he had gray eyes, brown hair, fair complexion, 5'5-1/2". He mustered out November 8, 1865 at Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, reaching Madison on November 10, 1865.

The 49th Wisconsin Infantry was organized at Camp Randall in Madison between December 24, 1864 and March 5, 1865. It left the state for St. Louis, Missouri on March 8, 1865, just a few weeks before the war ended. It moved to Rolla, Missouri on March 13 where its services included garrison and guard duty until August. It then moved to St. Louis, where it mustered out on November 8, 1865. The regiment lost 54 men during service, all from disease. Remember, twice as many Union soldiers died of disease than from battle deaths. Arne was reported as sick June 22-30.

The photo shows Arne with his Civil War musket. A descendant of his, Jerry Johnson, of Arena, preserves the musket. We can only guess at the hardships Ingeborg had to face left with six young children (one had died) and a farm to run while Arne was a soldier. After Arne returned they had four more children. Ingeborg died April 10, 1905. Arne married Caroline Nelson of Vermont Township, Dane County, WI on April 28, 1906. Caroline died in 1912, so Arne outlived both wives and at least four of his children before he died in 1915 at age 83 years. His son, Martin Mickelson married Barbara Belgium, Michael married Beret Mickelson, Inger married Ole Monson, Andrew married Kare Arneson, Sarah married Martin Mickelson, Ole married Laura Hendrickson, Eveline "Lena" married Carl Anderson and Albert married Tillie Odness.

It is certain that he has many descendants, many who live in Iowa and Dane Counties yet.

Thanks to Jean Howe Gladem for sharing this information.



Arne Mikkelson

DUES NOTICE!

Your reminder! Please pay your dues now and indicate with your payment that you want your membership for the Calendar Year or we may start it with the next issue. Please also include your e-mail if you have one.

Some of you may be getting this copy and we don't have a record of your paid membership.

Thank You BEHS

YEARS GONE BY: 1964

Continued from Summer 2014:

July 1964: Black Earth is to get a new Post Office Building

The electric line between Cross Plains and Black Earth is being rebuilt.

July 13, 1894 Labor Day has been added to list of legal holidays.

July 26, 1929 Ralph Karn purchases Standard Oil Station and moves here.

July 27, 1934 John Dillinger, notorious gangster shot to death in Chicago Sunday night.

Old Halfway Prairie School, located at Hwy. 19 and County Hwy. F is to be recognized as a historical site by Dane County Historical Society and State Parks Commission.

The Little League, Babe Ruth League and Home Talent League are very active in Black Earth.

Ad in local paper by telephone company - "For easy living – colorful extension telephones – a wonderful way to save steps and time."

MOVIES PLAYING: Elvis in Kissing Cousins; Battle Beyond the Sun; Disney's Thomasina.

September: Wisconsin Heights High School opens!

Ramy's open for business in Cross Plains
Black Earth's Home Talent team is Western Section Champions; and league second place winners

September 1929 Arvid Eck sells drug store to Walter Frome

September 27th ground broken for new Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

September 1939 – Black Earth to see first 6-man football game Friday when the high school boys play DeForest.

October 1964: Deneen School sold at auction Oct. 15, 1964

The BARDS (Paul Skalet, Bill Brunner and Phil Dybdahl) entertained at Cross Plains Days
Hayrides are popular at Pud's Ranch, rural Black Earth, owned by Philip and Ethel Skalet

Black Earth Super Market burns (former Valley House site – now site of CENEX station/store)

MOVIES PLAYING: Elvis in Viva Las Vegas; Roy Rogers in Don't Fence me In.

Wisconsin Heights school news published regularly in News Sickle Arrow, written by Robert Ames.

December 1964: Tax rate down for village of B.E., due to valuations and additions to village (Turk and Thorson)

Harold Norslien and Joseph Hillebrand awarded bid to construct building to house Post Office between B. E. Meats and Mrs. Cox's house on Mills Street. Post Office will lease space from Norslien.

Roy Sarbacker elected to third term on the board of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

Moon eclipse on December 18, 1964.

"Shop at Home – Your Christmas Dollars do Double Duty with Every Gift you Buy in Hometown Stores"

Also this from October 24, 1922

The Wisconsin State Journal

BLACK EARTH LEGION POST TO CELEBRATE

Armistice day will be observed at Black Earth with an excellent program to be held at the Norwegian Lutheran Church, under the direction of the American Legion. A prominent speaker has been obtained from Madison to give the address of the day.

A. M. Olson is chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements.

A male quartet has been secured, and a banquet in the evening under the supervision of the Women's Auxiliary will complete the day's program.

Glenn Booth is commander of the Black Earth post and Jens Shamoe is post adjutant.

TRANSCRIPTION HELP STILL NEEDED

In the Summer 2014 Paul mentioned our Deed of Gift Transcription Project. If you have children or grandchildren with time on their hands, computer skills, and an interest in history have them e-mail us. Please?

THE DEPOT DISPATCH

The Black Earth Historical Society
P.O. Box 214
Black Earth, WI 53515-0214



**The Depot Museum is closed for the Season. See you Next Summer.
Thanks to all that Visited and for your Support!**

THANK YOU TO OUR MANY DONORS

The following have made donations from photos, documents, artifacts, scrap books, furniture items, music LPs, books, sports uniforms, military uniforma and memorabilia, etc. to further enhance our collections: Wayne Barsness, Tony Schreiner family, Donna Fulton, LaVonne Clason, Ruth Haglund, Shirley Danz, Martha Howery Estate, Paul Skalet, Jan Schroeder, Pat Lutz, Shirley Williams, Joan Turk, Ardis Turk Estate, Turk family, David Cooper, News Publishing, Dave Koenig, Mary and Wayne Janssen, Arden Danz, Steve Webber, Cal Schlick Estate, Harold Miller, Jan Cowan, Virgil Matz (Mazo Historical Society), Gilbert and Jorgen Skalet estates, Bernice Johnson Tollefson estate, Anne Parker Goodsir, Scott Patchin/Heiney's. I apologize if I missed anyone.