

THE DEPOT DISPATCH

e-mail: behistoricalsoc@gmail.com



2014 Calendar of Events

Depot Museum is open Sundays 1-4 Through September 28

August 27: Dam Construction DVD with/at Black Earth Library 7:00 PM

August 30: Brat Fries at the Shoe Box--Call 767-2281 to Help!

November 30th Planned: Open House

Holiday Home Tour: Show your Holiday Spirit! Call 767-4616 Please?

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

Ruth Haglund*

Harold Miller

Steve Webber

* Archivist

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.*

Presidents Message

Greetings members and supporters of the society, and Thank You! I hope you are enjoying the nice summer weather.

We had a good turnout for our July 5th brat fry at the Shoe Box. Cool and breezy but we had lots of satisfied customers. Thanks to all that helped. On August 30 we have another one planned so if you would like to help, please call 767-2281.

Make a note that August 27 is the showing of the construction of the Prairie du Sac dam DVD at the Black Earth Library. *(More info on page 4)*

Thank you to the Janssen's formerly of Mazomanie. They gifted us four beautiful display cases from their antique shop. We have already put one to use in the Depot and we will soon be creating displays to use the others. We appreciate the gift.

Do you have time on your hands and a personal computer with Microsoft Word? We have an ongoing project that WHHS students were working on. Unfortunately, they graduate and go to college. We need people to transcribe scanned Deeds of Gift and accession work sheets to help us to computerize our collections. It will be tedious and confusing but it is a big help and you can do it from home—Interested? Contact Steve Webber at our e-mail. behistoricalsoc@gmail.com

Have you signed up with Jan Cowan to include your home on our holiday home tour? Please give her a call at 767-4616 quickly to be one of four homes to be featured December 8, 2014. You do not have to prepare any goodies to serve – we just want to enjoy the traditions your family continues to share during this special season, whether it is ethnic, religious, traditional or whimsical. Each display is unique and special.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Paul Skalet, President

SEE US ON THE WEB!

The Village of Black Earth has allowed us to have a presence on their web site

(www.blackearthwisconsin.com)

If you go there you'll see the spring and summer issues of the Depot Dispatch are available to view and download. Help us save the printing and mailing expense by letting us notify you by e-mail when each issue is available.

I will try to call you some weekend to confirm that you want us to mail your copy. Since we are including color photographs, the file is quite large so downloading issues will not fill your e-mail box. Please e-mail if you have questions or comments. Thanks,

Steve Webber

behistoricalsoc@gmail.com



Reflections of Christmas: The Barber Collection

BARBER CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

We invite you to stop at the Depot Museum before the end of September to view the vast Barber Christmas collection. It is quite unique with pieces acquired from all

over the world. This collection belonged to the Barber sisters who lived on Center Street near the railroad tracks. Many of you recall Leila Barber who was the English teacher at Black Earth. Remember writing descriptions of sunsets and reading many of the classics (oh we certainly loved those, didn't we!)? The display will be removed from the museum at the end of this season and set up in a different configuration at the Blue Mounds Street facility. We will be developing a new exhibit for the space currently occupied by the Barber collection.



School Days

We encourage you to visit the Depot Museum and see our rural school room display, the barber shop, the 1940s kitchen, the WWII display, the Civil War exhibit, the early 1900s kitchen and the 1940s living room and all of the wonderful photos of days gone by. Our Civil War exhibit has interesting artifacts on display in cases and on the wall. We have binders with information about area men that served in the Civil War. We also have a binder containing two soldier's diary's—both perished during and following the 1863 seige of Vicksburg, MS.



Mill Street and Commercial House Corner



Our Civil War Exhibit



The Springfield rifle Charles Stublely carried throughout the Civil War



The other "Barber Collection"—George Olsen's Chair and Barber Pole
 We are very excited by the number of people who stop by, call or e-mail with questions regarding their ancestors and seek our assistance in finding the puzzle pieces missing in their family tree. If we don't have the answers we can often direct them to someone who can help. It is so much fun and satisfying to know that we have helped in some small way for a family to connect with their ancestors and to find that they may still have relatives in the Black Earth area. We are always looking for photos to add to our collection, i.e., businesses, families, churches, schools, farms, homes, etc. If you do not wish to part with the originals, we can scan the photos and return the originals to you unharmed.



Above is picture of a new World War II display that Wayne Barsness put together. Please stop in and take a look, and let Wayne know what you think when you see him. Tell us how we are doing and what we can do better. Your help and suggestions are always appreciated.

VERMONT HISTORY BOOK—1977

Available on CD at the Depot Museum for \$10. Stop in on Sunday afternoon to purchase a copy. Great resource for anyone who has family ties to the early settlers of Vermont Township.

The Vermont Lutheran Church has a new tab within its website, which has a listing of all burials in the cemetery.

www.vermontlutheranchurch.com

DAM INTERESTING NEWS

In the Spring Depot Dispatch we mentioned the DVD of the 1911-1915 construction of the Prairie du Sac Power Dam we showed at the Annual Meeting in January—we're teaming with the Black Earth Public Library to show it next month in the Village Hall's Meeting Room at 7:00 pm August 27—a Wednesday. Please plan to attend.

Alliant Energy and the Sauk Prairie Historical Society are offering tours of the powerhouse at the dam on September 12-14 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first

power generated. Tickets are available from the Historical Society or online at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/736081>

DUES NOTICE!

Traditionally we have had our dues based on a calendar year. We find that leads to confusion so please look for a reminder to pay your dues in the Fall and Winter issues. Please indicate with your payment you want your membership for the Calendar Year or we may start it with the next issue. Some of you may be getting this copy and we don't have a record of your paid membership.

We may have photos of your relatives in our archives and we would be happy to make a copy for you for a small fee.

Before you donate items from your elders to St. Vincent's or Goodwill, please contact us to see if you have something that would be a wonderful addition to our collections.

YEARS GONE BY: 1964

January: Sabin oral polio vaccine to be given Sunday, January 12, 11-5pm at high school gymnasium

Black Earth Fire Dept. receives International V.F.196 chassis with 2500-gallon tanker & accessories.

Irving Williams Appliance Co. sold appliance franchise to Patron's Mercantile.

Ken's Corner, column by Bugs Lee in News Sickle.

Diane Borgon and Bill Donaldson are Senior Ball king and queen. Theme "Under the Magnolia"

\$171 collected for March of Dimes in Black Earth

5,070 area residents (from small babies to the elderly received oral polio vaccine on Jan. 12, 1964. Local nurses, Mrs. George Webber and Mrs. Carl Radtke; local doctors, Turk, Wirth and Lappley. and many local women assisted with this project.

WHHS basketball loses 95 to 55 to Johnson Creek.

MOVIES PLAYING: Hootenanny; Drums of Africa; 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea

March 1964: City Garage, owned by Marlin Schlick and Harvey Padrutts closes, having been in operation since 1949 when it was purchased from Dwight Sandley. It was located where the present Village Hall sits. Mr. Sandley moved to a new site on Hwy. 14 (now the BP station).

Grocery prices: Oranges 45 cents/dozen; bananas 10 cents/lb; pork roast 35 cents/lb; pork & beans 16oz – 10 for \$1; ground chuck 3 lbs for \$1.59.

Dane County News/Mazo Sickle \$1 for 3 mos.

MOVIES PLAYING: The Incredible Journey, A Dog's Best Friend; Oklahoma; Annie; King Kong vs. Godzilla

April 1964: Patron's Mercantile total sales \$896,000. Profits, \$58,450; patronage refunds in cash \$12,690.

April 1894 – The Post Office and Express Office at Black Earth was Robbed on Tuesday Night. Three of the Thieves Were Captured at Mc Gregor, Iowa.

Ronald Schlick leased the long vacated Skelly station at corner of Hwy. 14 and Center Street
George Olsen, Sr., long time barber dies of heart attack.

Faculty for new high school named.

May 1964: Black Earth Locker Plant business and building sold by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bullis to James Strang.

Dane Co. celebrates 125th anniversary – dedicates three new county parks.

46th anniversary of ownership by Arthur and Alice Pickering of Dane Co. News/Mazo Sickle. Dane Co. News founded in 1868 and Sickle founded 1873.

May 1924 Fesenfeld & Barber Employees Drove 5 New Chevrolets From Janesville To Black Earth.

Zip Code – The U.S. Post Office urges patrons to use zip number to expedite mail. Mail is increasing at rate of 2.5 billion pieces per year.

B.E. Alumni holds 73rd annual meeting on June 13 with 106 members attending.

Ken "Bugs" Lee starting 35th year with Dane County News as linotype operator.

New playground equipment installed at Village Park.

WHHS – approx.. 75% of exterior walls completed, bricks on site; 65 men working at school site

MOVIES PLAYING: Mutiny on the Bounty; The Prize

June 1964: Warning issued by Officer Obrecht regarding a man selling home extinguishers who recently stole money from elderly Black Earth women. People should demand to see credentials before allowing a stranger into home.

June 1929 – Old livery barn at New Valley Hall torn down.

Otto Festge announced candidacy for re-election as Dane County Clerk.

MOVIES PLAYING: Lassies Great Adventures (50 cent admission)

Continued Fall 2014

Newsletter of the Black Earth Historical Society

THE DEPOT DISPATCH

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



**The Depot Museum open 1-4 Sundays Memorial Day – September
Admission is Free**

TRAILS BOOKS

The owners of the Trails Media donated some books published by them, titles from fish fries in Wisconsin, fishing, traveling in Wisconsin, Packer's history, etc. We are selling these at the depot for \$5 each (original prices ranging from \$10 to \$40).