

# Linden HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## FUSSIN', FUMIN', AND FIGHTIN' PART OF OUR PAST

Linden has always been a peaceable community for the most part. Over the years ever since the first digging for mineral occurred there have been disagreements that ended up in a fight. I can personally remember a few that happened here in the 1970's and I have heard that once in a while yet today push comes to shove and a fight ensues. Disagreements, differences of opinion have sparked just a bit of strife and contention at times.

### Why Fuss or Fight

"There is nothing to this fighting business," declared an old timer the other day. "It's hard on the clothes and doesn't do a feller any particular good." Sure thing. And yet if you had paid cash for something and the man who you paid it to came around and "dunned" you for it in a week or two and you frankly told him you had already paid it, and he should get hot and call you a liar and a few other pet names, you would begin to warm up a little and feel like wading into him, wouldn't you? Well, why not avoid it all by having an account at the bank and paying by check? The cancelled check is all you need. It's easier on the face than fighting.

### The Bank of Linden

STATE BANK

Capital \$20,000.00

John Harker, President      W. B. Kirkpatrick, Cashier  
Wm. M. Smith, Vice Pres.      H. W. Springer, Asst. Cashier  
THE BANK OF PERSONAL SERVICE

*The Linden bank ran this clever ad in the early 1900's to introduce people to the advantages of having a checking account which it is presumed would prevent fighting.*

Joseph F. Goldsworthy, editor of the Linden Department of *The Dodgeville Chronicle*, reported in August, 1893, "Two young men became pugilistic on Saturday, but on Monday the (Linden) Justice of the Peace softened their muscles by a fine and costs in the sum of \$20."

In September, 1883 William Rowe, Linden editor of the *Dodgeville Chronicle*, observed "We had a knock down in town last Monday night, between two of our young men. The fracas occurred over an old grudge that happened between them some time ago. After having one round, two black eyes were plainly visible on the person of the light weight pugilist, and being an intelligent young man he at once quit, and we understand made for the butcher shop at once to purchase beef steak to apply to the afflicted parts. Conduct of this kind does not very often occur on our streets, and consequently it created quite an excitement among lookers on. We hope this will settle the difference of opinion as they are both sober, industrious young men, and friends of ours."

In addition to fights and brawls there were sometimes complaints between local residents that ended up with legal action. In 1888, a Linden man took out a lawsuit in Iowa County court against a local preacher. The man charged the Reverend with criminal libel and asked for \$5,000 in damages.

It was alleged that the pastor had written a letter to the man's wife in which he wrote that her husband was a liar and applied "scandalous epithets to him, such as 'snake in the grass,' 'wolf in sheep's clothing,' and 'devil in human form.'" Story continued on page 2.

## FUSSIN', CONTINUED

This news article appeared on the front page of *The Dodgeville Chronicle*. The editor said at the end of the story, "All the parties are old and respected settlers in the town of Linden, and their friends will much regret the serious turn their differences have taken."

The same year, 1888, a man was observed driving a thin, sickly horse on the road and another man who approached him stopped and stated that he would rather pay \$8 to have the horse put down than to see it suffer. The owner of the horse later had it put down and then proceeded to collect the \$8 from the other man, who refused to pay for his earlier suggestion. The horse owner took the man who made the \$8 offer to court and won the case in our local justice court. The defendant appealed to the Iowa County circuit court but in the end the case was settled out of court before trial.

Life, at times, could be contentious in the village of Linden between neighbors and their pets and animals. This prompted William Rowe to start off his January 13, 1882 Linden Department news in the *Dodgeville Chronicle*: "Quarrel over dogs on Wednesday. A bigger one over hogs on Thursday. Street quarreling belongs to 'gone-by days.'"



*The art of verbal persuasion on the streets of Linden was preferred over physical measures.*

In the same issue, Rowe believed it was necessary to ask parents to rein in the behavior of unruly youth on the streets of Linden. He wrote, "We think it perfectly proper to call the attention of parents, generally, to the fact of the alarming extent to which our boys indulge in smoking cigars and cigarettes, and the use of profane language on the streets. On most any corner of the street in the evening may be found a group of boys from 8 or 10 years up to 15, each with a cigarette, and using language, the dimensions of which is beyond our comprehension. Parents, will you allow this state of affairs to be continued?"

The question of building a new school in 1881 became a controversy in Linden with impassioned arguments on both sides of the issue. The old rock school, no longer extant, was crowded and it was put forth that a new larger updated structure would give students a better education. Those against the proposed new school cited higher property taxes and the attitude to make do with the old building. George Kislingbury, attended the Linden school district annual meeting in July, 1881 and noted the "spirited debate" on the issue and reminded people to express their opinion with a yes or no vote at a fall referendum.

Kislingbury called for calm and what he said 136 years ago could still apply today, "It is not necessary to make a personal fight over the matter, but rather let us meet and talk the matter over, in a friendly spirit, vote on the matter as it may best suit our feelings, and abide by the majority."

It used to be a tradition in Linden that when a new saloon opened, the owner provided free beer all day and night on the day in business. It usually resulted in a good time was had by all. Sometimes, however, there could be unintended consequences such as occurred in July, 1895. Story continued on page 3.

## FUSSIN', CONTINUED

Joseph Goldsworthy recorded, "On Saturday last, Mr. Penberthy opened up a saloon here so the boys had free beer. Some of them got a little boisterous and let their fists fly so they came in contact with each other, but they did not hurt much." Mr. Penberthy was from Mineral Point and he opened his new saloon in the vacant bar room of the old Ingram hotel, no longer extant, on the site of what today is the American Legion building.

In the heat of competition there were several arguments during baseball games held in Linden, but that is a story for another day...or newsletter.

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## LOYALTY TO LINDEN, ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND STRONG WORK ETHIC



*Catherine Whitford has stepped down as Society treasurer but remains busy with other activities.*

Two recent board members, Catherine (Hawke) Whitford and Judy (Rule) Vivian, opted not to seek re-election to the Linden Historical Society. Both "Catie" and Judy were exemplary in their work and input to get our organization on the right path.

Earlier this year Catherine was honored as a charter member of the Linden American Legion Auxiliary, with an amazing 65 years of service. Other charter members 65 years ago were: Marjorie Womack, Geraldine Bentzler, Nell Jewell, Doris Peterson, Yvette Vial, Jewell Hughes, Alice Finley, Eda Dixon, Joyce Finley, Dorothy Wilkinson, Martha Gilman, and Ellen Adams.

Catherine and Judy have both been very active in the Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society for the past 25 plus years, preferring to work behind the scenes for the most part. A hallmark of both ladies, in addition to their loyalty and hard work, is their humble manner as they go about getting the job done. No matter what task Catherine and Judy have had assigned to them, whether it was in the Cornish Society or our Linden Historical Society, they completed it on time and with perfect attention to detail.

Catie said of Judy, "I couldn't have done it without her."

Judy, when asked to talk about Catherine replied, "She is one of a kind. I knew her as a kid when I went to the feed mill/lumber yard. I did not know we were related until I got interested in my Stephens family. She is a typical Cornish lady. Very generous, speaks her mind, a quick temper but also quick to apologize. She is very proud of her Cornish heritage and was very deserving in becoming a Bard. She is more than a cousin. She is one of my special friends."

Catherine was made a Bard of Cornwall in 2012 when she made her seventh trip to the homeland, at the age of 83, to be inducted. She still operates the Collection Of Shops on High Street and every day, except Tuesday, you are likely to be welcomed by her with a hearty greeting and smile when you enter.

Story continued on page 4.



## LOYALTY, CONTINUED

Catherine has been instrumental in keeping the Hawke reunion alive, this year will be the 92nd gathering on July 16 in the dining room of the Linden Methodist Church. Four Hawke family members came to Linden: Robert, James, William and their sister Jane (Hawke) Sleeman. Her research on the Hawke family is very extensive, well documented, and Catie can quickly recite any Hawke family facts or stories.



*Past Secretary, Judy Vivian traveled to Cornwall with a group of area residents some years past. Here she is being interviewed on BBC Radio Cornwall.*

Catherine has many stories to tell of her growing up and attending school in Linden. One of my favorite accounts is a more recent one. In 1996 she agreed to host a family of four from Cornwall who were a part of that year's Cornish Festival. Catherine welcomed the Derek Treloar family and within a few minutes Derek asked her, "My dad tells me that his parents are buried in a place called Linden, do you know where that is?"

Derek's question prompted Catherine to place her family history book on the table to prove that not only did she know where Linden was but that she was related to Derek! Judy has done considerable work on her ancestry including the prolific Rule families of Linden, her comments and input at board meetings were much appreciated. Judy has preferred to work behind the scenes and never sought to be in the spotlight.

Thanks Judy and Catherine for your service to the LHS ! We welcome Robin Linder to our board as Treasurer and we are still seeking another board member to be secretary.

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## YOUR STORIES MATTER

Almost everyone who is a member of the Linden Historical Society has either a photo or story to tell of Linden. Your contributions to our next newsletter would be most appreciated.

Next newsletter is due out October, 1st. Sorry for the delay in getting this issue out.



## WHEN RUNNING AN ERRAND TO STORE WAS MORE DIFFICULT

When you make a trip to the grocery or hardware store you always take the car keys with you so that no one can steal your vehicle and you may lock it as well. In the days before cars, you couldn't do that with a horse and wagon. You had to rely on community trust and values which worked out well most of the time.

A news report in the November 22, 1889 *Mineral Point Tribune*, told the story of a Mr. Holmes from Linden who stopped into the Jeuck's Brothers grocery store on Commerce street at the bottom of High Street. He tied up his horse and cart outside, made his purchases but when he went back outside he discovered his horse and cart gone.

The *Tribune* reported, "Inquiries in that vicinity threw no light on its whereabouts. Search was next instituted, but to no purpose, and it was concluded that somebody had driven it off, which proved to be the case, as on the afternoon of the following day the horse was found at the farm of W. H. Phillips, between (Mineral Point) and Dodgeville. It got to Mr. Phillips' in this strange manner: On Monday evening they heard some whistling outside, as if signaling. Some of them went out, but saw no one, and returned to the house. In a few minutes the whistling was repeated. They went out again, this time as far as the gate, where the horse and cart were found and a fellow running off, but it was too dark to see who he was or what he looked like. No arrest has been made. A violin belonging to Mr. Holmes was in the cart and that was found on the road smashed."

Just one year before the Holmes incident, a popular Methodist minister, Rev. George Merrifield, had his horse and cart stolen from his small horse barn next to the parsonage in Linden. In early December, 1888 at night, burglars had broken into Treloar's hardware store and J. W. Taylor's bank in Linden but were unable to steal either money or valuables in either attempt. Under the cover of darkness Rev. Merrifields' six year old mare and cart were seen heading out of town towards Mineral Point, but with no description of the driver.




*There wasn't a way to lock your horse and wagon when shopping before cars became available.*

## **HORSE THIEVES, CONTINUED**

Iowa County offered a \$50 reward for information leading to the arrest of the horse thieves. The next day the mare and cart were found abandoned near Muscoda. The horse was in a field and the cart was hidden in a wooded area nearby. It was presumed the criminals took the train at Muscoda for a clean escape. (*Dodgeville Chronicle*, issues of 12-7-1888 and 12-14-1888.)

In August, 1891 two young men from Linden had hitched their horse and buggy on the fair grounds at the Iowa County fair in Dodgeville, where the high school is now located. Near their transport was another similar horse and buggy owned by a lady from Dodgeville.

The *Dodgeville Chronicle* stated, "The lady met a lady friend who wanted to go home down in the city, and told her to take her horse and buggy, which she thought she did, and tied the animal to the fence when she got home. But when the Linden young men went to get their horse they found it was gone. They notified the sheriff at once and proceeded with the usual precautions to capture the horse thieves, and after a great deal of bustle and anxiety found their horse and buggy downtown tied to the fence where the lady had left it who took it by mistake."



## **ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM WELL ATTENDED**

Our Annual meeting, held May 20, was successful with a short business meeting, election of a new board member, Robin Lindner, and an interesting program presented by Tom Mueller on Freemasonry. We had a good attendance and Mr. Mueller informed and entertained our group. A good question and answer session on his talk concluded his presentation. Tom graciously donated to our archives a copy of the book, *Forward Freemasonry*, by Allan E. Iding, editor. The book is a history of Freemasonry in Wisconsin which includes mention of the Linden Lodge, No. 206.

## **CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR RENEWAL TIME**

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Check the date next to your name on the mailing label, it shows when your membership is due for renewal. Your support is greatly appreciated.

New or renewal memberships to the Linden Historical Society are \$10 per year for either individual or family. We now offer a lifetime membership for \$100. Make check payable to Linden Historical Society and send to Jim Jewell, 2073 Sunny Slope Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565

## TOWN OF MIFFLIN RESIDENTS HAD ROAD BONANZA

There was a time in our area mining history when the zinc ores did not have a market and as a result of that it was cast aside with the other waste rock. In the Mifflin area a new road was constructed which required a great deal of filling across a stretch of bottom land. Thousands of wagon loads of zinc and waste rock were hauled to make the roadbed.

Years later the Zinc ore market opened up and the cast-off mineral now had value. During nightly raids, locals dug up the zinc ore roadbed and tried to replace the new made cavities with common dirt. The road became a mess, and finally the Mifflin board of supervisors voted to give the zinc rock material in the road to the people of the town. It was first come, first served, provided they would reconstruct the road in a substantial manner. The offer was quickly accepted by township residents and over a two month period it was estimated they made a profit of \$6,000 out of the gift. (article in September, 1889 Galena Gazette)



In the January newsletter, I had a short article on the Optimo #3 Mill removal. I just recently was able to purchase this photo, now a part of our archives, which I believe shows what the structure looked like.

To the far right is the 53 foot tall, three story mill that was moved in 1923 from the Smith Rule farm to the Jerry Rule farm. It took three days to move the top heavy mill the one-quarter mile distance. The other buildings were dismantled and reassembled at this site. This photo was taken in 1941 a number of years after the mine had closed.



**\*\*\*PHOTO AND DOCUMENT DONATIONS ALWAYS APPRECIATED\*\*\***

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If you have any photos or documents on Linden area history we would love to make a copy for our archives. Photos and documents can be scanned and returned to you if desired. Contact either the President or Vice-President listed below, who just happen to be next door neighbors in "East Linden".

### **HOW TO CONTACT US**

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*Linden* **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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