

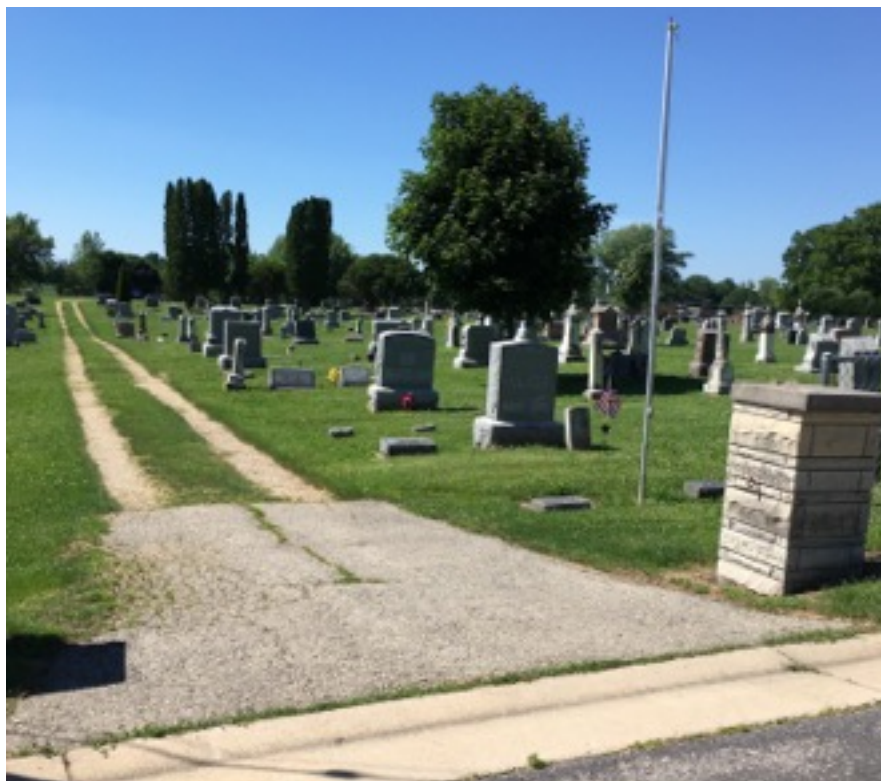
Linden HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LINDEN CEMETERY MAPPING PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

The village of Linden cemetery will be available for online searches later this year. This bodes well for genealogists and those interested in their family history from near and far.

The new technology will make it more efficient for those working with cemetery records to manage them. Local volunteer Jan Schultz has helped with a lot of the data entry on this project. She noted that the previous cemetery records were handwritten in books and even on an old window shade.

Project manager has been Katherine Burk, a planner/specialist at Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in Platteville. She stated that data entry started in October, 2015 and field collection from grave markers is now underway with a projected completion date of September 1, 2016.



The Linden cemetery is an important village landmark and burials will soon be easier to locate online

In February, 2015 SWWRPC completed the East Side Cemetery online map in Dodgeville. That map can be accessed through the city of Dodgeville website.

Will the Linden map be like the Dodgeville cemetery site? Katherine noted, "The Linden online map will be similar with the exception that the online map at this point does not include obituary information and the available information is limited because Linden does not have a lot of record information."

Katherine estimated there are between 1,500 and 1,800 burials in the Linden cemetery. Ms. Burk will be taking another position and this project will be handed off to Chris Colney of SWWRPC. More information will be in our next newsletter on this important project.

**OUR CEMETARY
SHOULD BE THE PRIDE OF EVERY RESIDENT IN THIS VILLAGE
JUNE 22, 1911 LINDEN REPORTER**

Did you ever stop to think that a cemetery such as Linden possesses is indeed a rarity even in towns much larger than Linden.

The Linden cemetery has been brought to its present state of beauty through the untiring efforts of Mr. Ed Brewer who took charge of the grounds about five years ago when the lots were covered with tall grass and different kinds of shrubbery. Mr. Brewer has toiled faithfully about these grounds and as yet has received little for his efforts.

If you have any interest in this cemetery at all don't you think it is fair that he should receive some compensation for his services or are you willing to see the cemetery go back as it was five or six years ago?

2016 ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Linden Historical Society Annual meeting and program was held once again in the Linden village hall on June 5th. Three incumbent board directors were re-elected: Randy Baker, Lissa Springer and Jim Jewell, each for two year terms. It was stated that the society website and book project are on-going and progress is hoped for during the rest of the year.

June has long been a traditional month for weddings and therefore a novel program this year focused on the Womanless Wedding of 1960. Prominent men of the Linden area dressed in drag to raise funds to re-activate the village clock. The comedy drama was presented on September 15 and 16, 1960 at the Linden community building and additional performances were held in Cobb and at Bloomfield Manor.

Two of the original performers in the 1960 play, Everett Thomas and Tom Faull attended the annual meeting and gave eyewitness accounts of their experiences. Everett was a Flower Girl and Tom appeared in the play as a Bride's Maid.

Vice-President Randy Baker assembled a good selection of enlarged photos of many of the character actors. There were some suggestions of a revived Womanless Wedding for the current day made at the meeting. Your editor, two days after the meeting, found a document that the Linden Historical Society in its early days showed a movie of the Womanless Wedding! I don't remember that and we do not have the film in our archives, does anyone know anything about the movie??

Society member Merfy Rule contributed an article from her Mother's column in the Mineral Point Democrat Tribune on another "Drag" production in Linden. This column originally appeared in April, 1939 and was reprinted some time ago in Merfy's Linden News column in the Dodgeville Chronicle. The 1939 production was part of a taxpayer funded Works Progress Administration program that provided jobs in the great depression of the 1930's. Alice Rule's superb reporting preserved that night of long ago.

DRESS REVERSAL

BY ALICE RULE APRIL 20, 1939

Last week some of the men of the village presented "Dress Reversal," an all-male, one-act production, ably directed by Alfred Zipke, the local WPA Recreational leader.

The comedy, which portrayed a rehearsal scene of a play within a play, opened with Nelson Gilman being fitted into a blue ensemble, which, along with a solid looking wig, was meant to transform him into a dignified matron. This shy, young he-violet blossomed into just that, and if he strode about a little too manfully to be matronly, he had the audience roaring every time he simpered to Punkin Grundy, who was the elegant butler. In tails and conventional stance, Punkin was the despair of the harassed coach, Alfred Zipke, who played the same role he had in real life. Pretty soft for him, he read most of his lines from the script, which was a necessary property.

Clarion Faull, in a rust-colored confection which set off his girlish charms, got a laugh every time he raised his voice in a maidenly falsetto. Ernest Carrow was a dapper doctor who did his duty by Nelson Gilman when he was shot.

As the self-assured hypnotist, Laurence McGranahan did very well, defying Wayne Faull, the stuffed shirt who persistently corrected the cast at every line. Wayne got his, when, led by Allen Edwards, the cast ganged up on him when they'd had enough.

Gerald Wiesen was the stern arm-of-the-law, called in to help solve the murder mystery. Following the play, Danny Bentzler and Buddy Faull.

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

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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A VISIT TO DODGEVILLE

The Linden area has always had a strong relationship with the neighboring city of Dodgeville. This photo, recently donated by Jeff Lindner, is part of a panoramic extra wide format photo which was taken about 100 years ago. The image itself is more than three times as wide as it is high. The picture shown here is just one-half of the original photo.

In the above photo, at the corner of Iowa and Merrimac streets are two frame buildings no longer extant, and in their place is the Wells Fargo Bank. Farther down the street are landmark buildings that have stood the test of time.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR RENEWAL TIME

If the date to the right of your name on the envelope your newsletter arrived in reads **6-16**, your membership is due for renewal on June 1st, 2016.

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