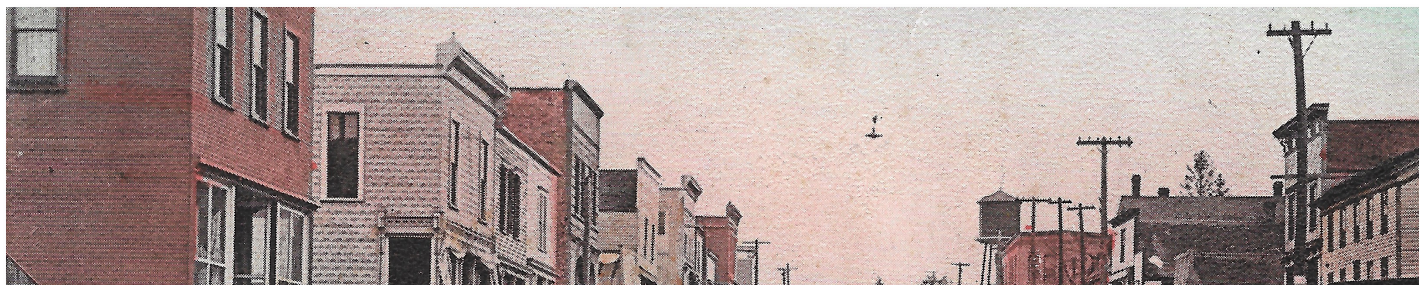


LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM LATER THIS YEAR

The annual meeting and program for the Linden Historical Society was planned for Saturday, May 2. This date was set by the board at our February 4th meeting before the Covid-19 virus became an issue. Many events around that date are now being postponed and the decision has been made to delay our annual meeting until later.

The program, when we can present it, is a powerpoint presentation on the history and evolution of the annual Frolic Days in Linden.

The 2020 Frolic Days will be the 68th annual event. The American Legion started the first one in late July, 1953 and it was called a Carnival. The next year it became known as the August Frolics because it was held the last weekend in August one week before the Iowa County fair. It then was recognized as Frolic Days as few years later but still held in late August.

We are in need of your memories and or photos from any Frolic Days of 1953-2019 to help make the program a success. Please contact Jim Jewell if you can help. Thanking you in advance!

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UPS AND DOWNS OF CENSUS FIGURES IN LINDEN

The census figures, taken every ten years, tell a story of population decline or growth. Census stats for the village of Linden have been compiled since 1880 when it had recently become a separate municipality. Prior to 1880 the village count was included in the figures for Linden township, much like Edmund is today.

There has been a myth that Linden once had a population of 2,000 during the pre WW I mining boom. However, according to official Census the apex of residents in the village was in the year 2000 with a count of 615. The population of Linden township reached a peak of 2,059 just before the village was formed. This is likely where the higher village number is mistakenly taken from.

The photo at the top of this page shows a portion of a very active business community on Main street that included two hotels, hardware store, clothing stores, grocery, a restaurant, bank and doctors office, during the time between the 1910 and 1920 census. *Continued page 2*

CENSUS, CONTINUED

Linden's biggest mining boom took place between the 1910 and 1920 census counts. The Linden commercial club estimated the population of the village was 700-800 in November, 1914 and I believe that figure to be accurate.

The real peak of population in the village of Linden is not reflected in the official census records. Immigrant labor from Poland, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Italy were brought into Linden by several of the local mines between the 1910 and 1920 census, some lived in mine boarding houses and they were all gone when the 1920 count was taken.

A report in the trade journal, *Mining and Scientific Press*, of March 25, 1916 described living quarters for this area, "Scores of miners are living in tents, while barns and attics provide shelter for many unable to secure houses."

When I interviewed locals such as John Harker, Pearl Brown and others, in the 1980's on their experiences growing up in the WW I era they remarked that there

wasn't a spare room in Linden, and that even a chicken coop was fair game for housing.

WW I provided an unusual demand for zinc and lead ore, mine owners and investors responded with an unprecedented output to extract as much as possible, as quickly as possible. Mining over 100 years ago was labor intensive and as mines expanded more job openings and more people came to Linden.

With the end of WW I in 1918 the zinc ore prices fell sharply and local mines either closed or curtailed production drastically. The dawn of 1920 saw an exodus of mining jobs and people and the census that year showed a decline of 90 people from a decade earlier.

There were always high hopes for a larger populace. J. W. Taylor, Editor and publisher of the Southwest Wisconsin newspaper in Linden predicted in 1905, just after the Mineral Point and Northern railroad came to town, that the village would soon grow to 5,000 people. based that on the theory that deep mining would find larger zinc deposits coupled with the railroad transportation boon. Taylor was always an optimist.

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In the LHS archives we have several group shots of unidentified miners photographed during the WW I mining boom. Most of the mines had both a day and night shift. Miners shown here, no doubt, included a number of foreign laborers who left Linden before the 1920 census.

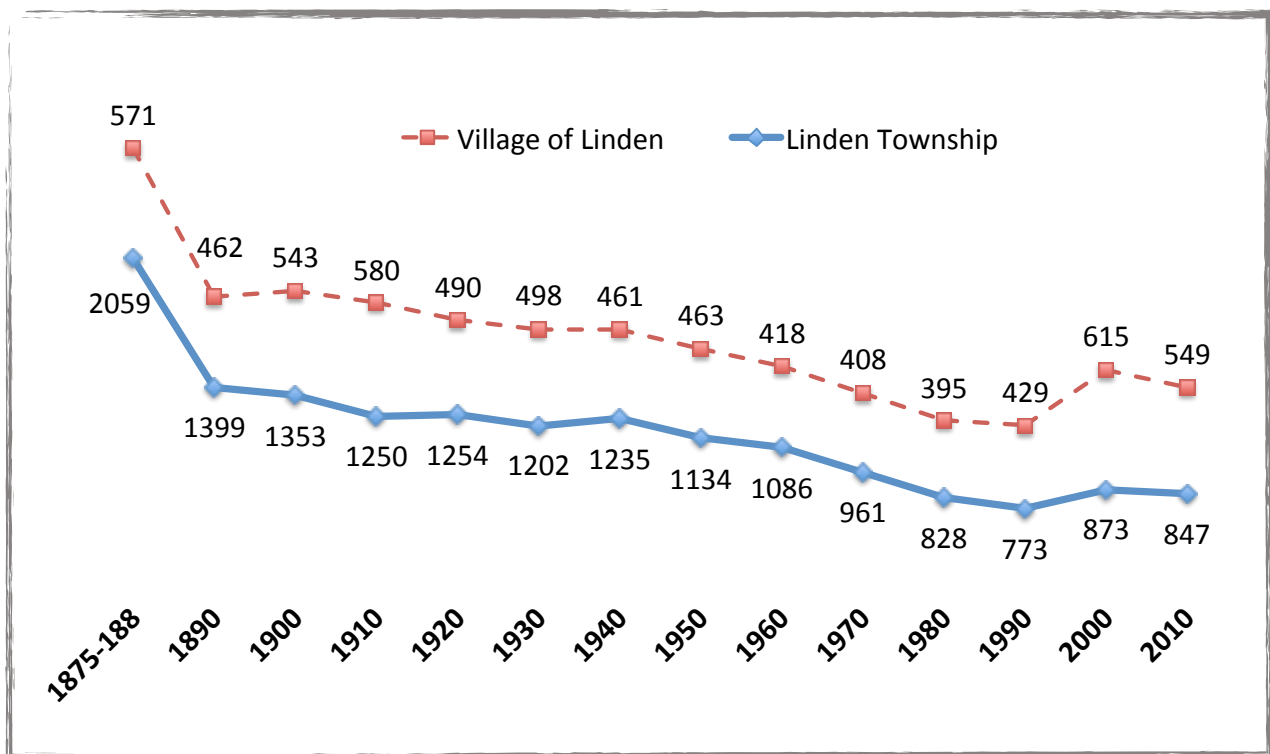
CENSUS, CONTINUED

J. J. Heathcock, town clerk, conducted his own census of both the village and township of Linden in 1885. The township numbered 1,477 and a correspondent to the *Mineral Point Tribune* reported the village count this way, "The population of the village of Linden is 496, all of whom are related."

The low water mark for population in the village was 1980 with 395, a slow but steady decline from the 1950 census.

Not found in any official census is the count of paid up members in the Linden Historical Society, as of April 1, 2020 we have 22 life memberships and 44 annual members for a total of 66. Our membership structure includes immediate family and when that is taken into account we would have a group total of around 100. Every person who is a member is important. Your dues and donations provide for a solid foundation to keep the organization going. We are all volunteers, with no salaries or expense accounts and our contact information is on the back page.

Historical populations of Linden Town & Village



A LINDEN GIRLS DAY OUT

From the Linden Conservative newspaper of May 26, 1910

A party of "bachelor ladies" thought they would take in the beauties of nature and get away from the every day course of events. After many adventures on the way they arrived at the Gilman spring (Just East of Linden) where they commenced preparations for an elaborate luncheon. After partaking of the five courses they told stories and returned to town after much effort.

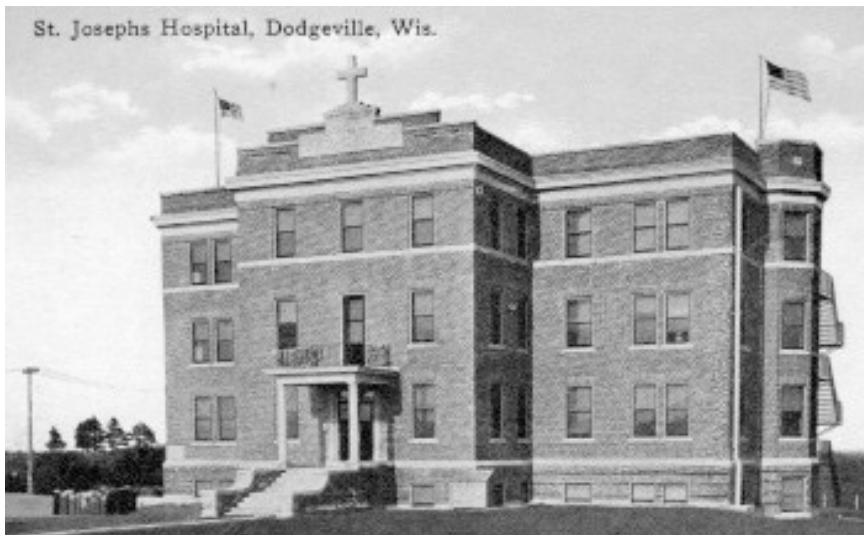
The evening was spent at the Idle Hour, which was enjoyed by all which was enjoyed by all members of the party except one who was completely overcome. The party consisted of the Misses Hillary, Rodgers, Harker, Ralph, Barrett, Faull, Spargo, Holman and Heathcock.

Editors Note: The Idle Hour was a silent movie theatre in the upper floor of the Hancock building on Main Street.

FLU PANDEMIC OF 1918 VISITED LINDEN AND IOWA COUNTY

As this is being written, the Coronavirus pandemic dominates the news coverage, a century ago from 1918-1920 a different pandemic was on the minds of everyone. The deadly flu of 100 years ago killed an estimated 50 to 100 million people worldwide with figures put at 675,000 for the United States.

People who lived in Iowa County a century ago either knew of a friend or family member who had died from this scourge. Just as today there were travel restrictions, gatherings were cancelled, school and churches were closed here and a feeling of anxiety prevailed.



Iowa County's first hospital, St. Joseph's of Dodgeville admitted their first patient in March, 1914. Hospital was equipped for 51 patients. Many in Linden sick with the flu were cared for at home.

People living in the 1918-1920 pandemic did not have the technology, medicines, widespread information and staffing we have now. That made the flu epidemic much worse than today, yet there were similarities between a century ago and today. Then and now, Doctors and medical staff were on the front line.

Here is an excerpt from the November 26, 1918 Dodgeville *Sun Republic*: "What will be known in history as the great influenza epidemic of 1918 is now sweeping over the United States in a second wave and if other places are having an experience like that of Dodgeville, it must be a gigantic one.

In the city and vicinity within the last week hundreds of cases have developed, and the doctors are working all the time there is and wishing for more precious minutes in which

to get their tasks done. Some whole families are afflicted. The Charles Anderson family, just East of Edmund, has seven of its members ill with the disease.

Schools are again closing in various places, the children being forbidden to leave their own premises. No trouble nor precaution is considered too great to be worth while if it may save the lives of children. We hope that nothing will be allowed to interfere with the operation of this policy, in Dodgeville or elsewhere.

It is said that many cases are now of a mild form, yet deaths are being daily reported by the scores, and on Monday in Dodgeville three graves were made in one day. These were all for Dodgeville people who died in other towns, however."

Anyone of any age could contract what was called the "Spanish" flu many survived while others did not. Reviewing Linden obituaries from a century ago reveal that quite often the flu would expand into pneumonia and that complication had no treatment then, resulting in death. It is impossible to know exactly how many people in the Linden area died from the influenza. Local obituaries of 1918-1920 did not always expressly state that a death was caused by the flu, sometimes it was written that a person died from pneumonia which could and often was a complication of the flu. Some obituaries stated no cause of death. There was, however, an above average number of obituaries during the 1918-1920 span.

Continued page 5

FLU PANDEMIC, CONTINUED

Mrs. Dorothea Weigel of Linden was a victim when she passed away at the family home of Louis Weigel on Christmas eve, 1918 at the age of 37. Her obituary stated, "she was afflicted with the prevailing epidemic of influenza and confined to her bed. About three days later her little daughter developed symptoms of croup and her mother got up to care for her. Mrs. Weigel, as a result, suffered a relapse that soon developed into pneumonia."

In his senior year at Linden High School, Lyle E. Griffin dropped out to join the army during WW I. While attending the Air Mechanics Training school at St. Paul, Minnesota he was taken ill with the flu. He improved but then suffered a relapse which developed into pneumonia and resulted in his death.

Elmer Rule died in 1918 as a result of the flu epidemic. He enlisted in the army and was in training as an artillery officer at Camp Taylor, Kentucky when taken ill. Elmer was known as a baseball star locally and some felt he had potential to make the major leagues. He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. John Rule and is buried in the Linden cemetery

In December, 1919, twenty year old Phyllis Stevens died from the flu. After she graduated from Linden High School she went to Chicago where she took eight months training in nursing. While there she contracted the flu, came home to Linden for two months and passed away at the home of her parents, John and Mabel Stevens.

Mrs. Ina (Wearing) Hawke married Joseph R. Hawke on January 28, 1920. From her obituary, "Life with all its bright prospects seemed to be blossoming before her. She had made great plans for its enjoyment. She made a brave fight for life, but the dreadful influenza had so weakened her constitution that she was unable to throw off its effects. She departed this life July 25, 1920, aged 31 years.

It took almost two years for the flu epidemic to run its course in the Linden area, the Linden correspondents in area newspapers told of many closings in addition to schools and the local churches. From October 15, 1918, "On account of Spanish influenza in neighboring towns the dances to be given on Friday and Tuesday nights at the auditorium have been postponed—dates will be announced later.

The Linden band called off their twice a week practices in October and then resumed them in December of 1918. From the Linden columns it is evident that people were traveling often both within the county and out of state while the flu was raging.

In October, 1918 a benefit baseball game for the Red Cross was played in Linden. Linden defeated Mineral Point by a score of 8-2. In our current climate this game would not be allowed.

LINDEN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL NOTES

In small towns like Linden people love to tease and in a good natured sense make fun of friends. Here is a report of a regular column called High School Notes in the March 16, 1902 Linden newspaper of the first baseball game of the season.

"Our baseball boys were defeated last Saturday by the Mineral Point team. A gallant defeat, however, is sometimes better than a victory. A good game was played by both sides, despite the disagreeable weather, and that it was the first game of the season for both sides.

The Linden boys were treated in a manly way by the Point team who seemed to worry only because they thought they could not treat our team well enough. We hope to be able to return the compliment in the near future. The score was 15 to 5.

Will someone present our right fielder with a clothes basket with which he can stop grounders that come over third.

A horse attached to a buggy in which sat two young ladies watching the ball game, became disgusted at the many errors and started for home. The young ladies were unwilling to leave so soon and alighted in a hasty manner. The horse took pity on them and left the buggy at the gate, that they might have that to ride home in, anyway, no one injured."

A DODGEVILLE SHOP WITH LINDEN CONNECTIONS

An interesting shop at 121 N. Iowa street in downtown Dodgeville recently had their grand opening and hopefully soon will be able to reopen after Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Farmyard Primitives And Antiques debuted with a diverse mix of antiques, handmade items, farmhouse galvanized gifts, interior decor, and popcorn are some of the offerings available.

The owner, Robin Lindner, pictured right, wears many hats in addition to store owner. She is the treasurer of the Linden Historical Society, is a Realtor, answers the phone for Collins & Hying among other duties. She grew up in Linden and now lives with her husband Chris near Edmund.

Vendors make up a good share of the inventory and two of them are Linden residents. Rejona Rickard has unique cards for sale made of small antique bits, buttons, wallpaper creatively put together for all occasions. Jennifer Stevens and Robin Lindner have signs in various styles and Robin can personalize and make a sign for you.

Visitors to the shop will be greeted by a smile and the outgoing personality of Robin, the hours are: Wed-Friday, 10 am-5pm; Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 11-3. The business also has a Facebook page you can check out.



LINDEN BED AND BREAKFAST HOST SWINDLED

From the Linden newspaper of 1906: “ A young fellow who has been here some time, and boarding at Mrs. Mary Rule’s house, got up in the middle of the night a few night’s ago, packed his kit, and ‘lit’ out, beating Mrs. Rule, a widow, out of eleven or twelve dollars board. His name is Turner.”

CLYDE HIRSCH WON OPENING DAY STOCK CAR RACE IN 1952

Clyde Hirsch, of Linden, opened the 1952 stock car racing season with a victory at Verona in early May of that year. It was an exciting photo-finish type of race and the Wisconsin State Journal sports writer, reported that Hirsch came, “roaring home only four inches ahead of Dick Durest, Mt. Horeb, who lost a rear wheel as he crossed the finish line.” On Sunday, May 11 the opening day of the racing season and a rain-soaked track caused finish times to be slightly slower than usual.

TIME AT HOME?

Now is a good time to go through what has been stored away in a spare closet or storage area, donate what you can, discard some things and if you have anything related to the Linden area please don’t forget the Linden Historical Society. We can copy or scan photos and documents and give them back to you, or you can forward by email attachment. Thank You !

LINDEN CATTLE DRIVE



All farmers have had that sinking feeling when someone leaves a gate open, or a fence fails and the cattle get out. In this picture escaped livestock temporarily took over downtown Linden. Photo was taken from the second floor apartment of what was then Faull's store in the late 1960s. Thanks to Janeen Faull for picture.

In earlier days it was not uncommon for villagers to keep a cow for milk or a couple of hogs, or chickens. Others tried to plant and harvest from their own gardens and unfenced livestock led the village to enact an ordinance preventing livestock running at large and ruining gardens and flowers.

Joseph F. Goldsworthy reminded village fathers in March, 1893, "The laws of our village prohibit the running at large of stock, and we are being bothered with some person's cattle. Where is the pound master? If we don't find out soon we will find the town constable. It is garden time now and we are not compelled to fence against cattle and hogs."

IN MEMORIAM

LOIS BUCKINGHAM, age 92, of Mineral Point, died January 30, 2020, at Upland Hills Health Hospital in Dodgeville. She was born on June 26, 1927, to Lawrence R. and Elsie M. (Jewell) Whitford at the home of her maternal grandparents in rural Edmund. Lois married William L. Buckingham of Mineral Point on April 19, 1947, at the First United Methodist Church in Mineral Point and they were married for over 72 years. Lois worked as a beautician earlier in her life and then served over 20 years as a tour guide at Pendarvis in Mineral Point.

DONNA MARILYN CAYGILL, age 88 of rural Linden passed away peacefully at home on March 6, 2020, surrounded by her loving family. She was born August 13, 1931 on a small farm in rural Livingston to Albert and Iola (Neff) Sandeman. She graduated Valedictorian of her class from Linden High School in 1949, attended Madison Business College, and then went on to work at the Veterans Administration in Milwaukee followed by the Badger Army Ammunition's plant near Sauk City. She married Jack Caygill on November 24, 1951, she and Jack farmed the Fred Caygill farm until 1989. Donna was employed as the village clerk in Linden and oversaw the Linden cemetery for many years. Donna is survived by her husband Jack Caygill of 68 years, Linden; daughters, Theresa Caygill (Ted Campbell) of Madison; Kathy (Don) Lindner of Linden and Jackie Caygill (Ralph Mumm) of Livingston, five grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren; ten great-great grand children and two brothers.

Donna was an active member of the Linden Methodist Church where she taught Sunday School for many years. She was also a member of the United Methodist Women's Group, Iowa County Historical Society and a charter member/founder of the Linden Historical Society and for many years was the archivist.

*******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. Membership in the Linden Historical Society is \$10 per year, lifetime membership \$100. Make check payable to Linden Historical Society and send to Treasurer Robin Lindner.

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