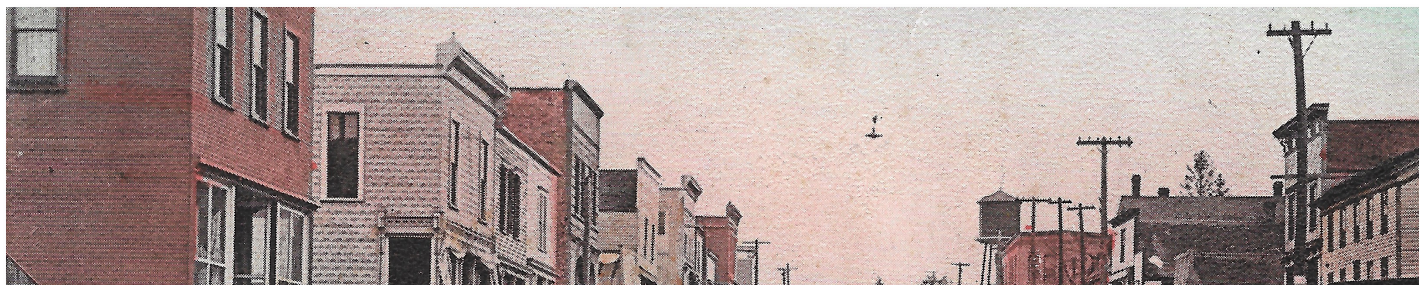


LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



BUR OAK IS THE RODNEY DANGERFIELD OF TREES



This Bur oak is estimated to have first started to grow around 1767, when Wisconsin was under the rule of the English Colonial Territory. The oldest man currently on Sunny Slope Road stands next to this tree only as a comparison of how he fails to measure up to this giant. The old man stated, "This is yet another humbling experience for me."

one to exclaim: Dear my country's native strand, Dear the prairied West.'" (Writer is known only by the initials N. B. M. in letter to July 2, 1862 Grant County Herald newspaper).

Bur oak trees are commonly spelled with one or two R's on the end, either is acceptable, which you will find if doing online research. When it comes to determining the age of this big tree there are several formulas to use, my guess is that to be definitive you would need bore samples examined by a lab.

The late comedian, Rodney Dangerfield used to say, "I don't get no respect." The Burr oak trees in Linden township, if they could talk, might say the same thing.

These full grown massive 60-80 foot tall trees with a rounded top almost as wide as they are tall, with the deep furrowed corky bark, have watched over the area before the first white settlers showed up.

Native Americans burned the prairie in the fall to eliminate weeds and scrub brush, the tough Burr oak trees survived the annual fires. A deep root system makes it tolerant to drought, another factor making it a survivor.

An early traveler to the Linden area wrote down his impressions of the landscape which would have had many more Burr oaks than today. "The country around here is the most beautiful and varied I have ever saw, and well might be called the loveliest spot on God's footstool. It is the high rolling prairie, the wooded groves, which are scattered here and there over the vast expanse of prairie land, and 'lends enchantment to the scene, and leads

One Suggested Formula

Measure around the tree 3' up from ground.

The growth factor varies greatly depending on type of tree and growing conditions. Different growth factor tables can be found online. One site to check out is friendsofthewildflowergarden.com

Formula	Example
Circumference	159 inches
3.14	3.14
↓	↓
Diameter	50.6
X	X
5	5
↓	↓
Age in Years	253 Years

OAK TREE, CONTINUED

Other formulas for determining the age of a Bur oak are in the inset box. The tree pictured here overlooks the village of Linden and measured just over 13 feet around. By any measure it would be over 200 years old.

The oldest documented tree in the state of Wisconsin is on a farm in Waukesha County with a base of 23 feet around. Climatologists from UW-Madison took bore samples in 1998 to study climate change in old trees. From that sample it was discovered the tree dated back to 1711. Fair to say that many of the Bur oaks in our area are over 200 years old. To see more about the Wisconsin Bur oak champion tree go to: www.wpr.org and search for Wisconsin's biggest 300 year old bur oak.

LINDEN HOUSE WAS RETIREMENT SURPRISE

Not many married men would build a home for their wife and then spring it on her as a surprise but a Linden township farmer took that bold move over a century ago.

LHS member David Spargo tells us, "The house was built around 1900 by my great-grandfather Thomas Gardner Jr., for his wife Mary Jane as a retirement surprise. She knew that they were moving to Linden but had no knowledge that a house was being built for them. She had no input whatever but I'm sure she enjoyed the nice surprise when they moved to town. Their farm was on Keough Springs road about three miles South of Linden. The farm was turned over to sons Frank and George Gardner."

David remembers being in the house during the 1940's when his grandparents, Bob and Lena Spargo lived there from 1936 to 1947. He recalls there were four doors into the house. In the front off of the porch, the door straight ahead in the picture went into the dining room. There was also a door on the side of the porch that went into the parlor or living room. This entrance and room was for "good" company only. There was another door on the side of the house from the parlor. The fourth door went to the backyard from the kitchen. There was no running water in the house, so water had to be carried in for cooking, washing clothes, drinking, bathing, etc., from a hydrant on the back street.

One of Dave's memories from visiting his Grandma Spargo was that there were only two electrical outlets in the entire house, one in the dining room and the other in the parlor. There were ceiling lights in each room, except for the "winter bedroom". Grandma Spargo used to take a kerosene lamp to go to bed in that room. His dad, Al, got worried about it,

so he took the lamp and electrified it with a long cord so she could plug in to one of the outlets and take it to the bedroom. She did not have a telephone, and the only electrical appliance she had was a radio, so she could listen to religious broadcasts.

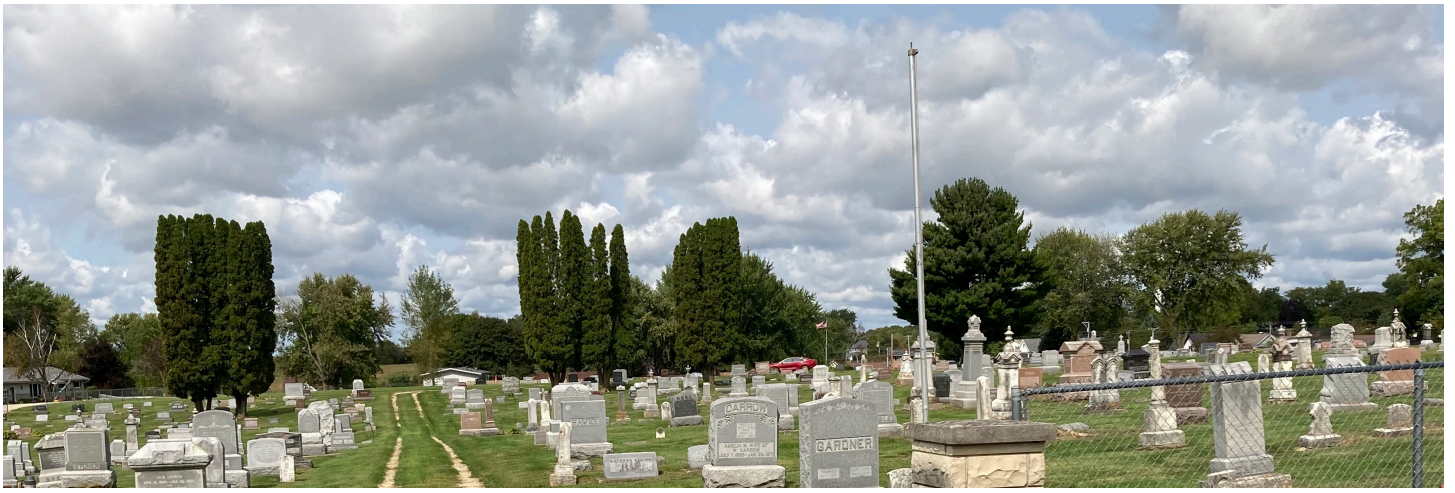
After 1947, the house was sold to Bert and Maude (Richards) Hawke, who was an Uncle to our fellow LHS member Catherine (Hawke) Whitford.

Another view and description of this house is on the Wisconsin Historical Society website under Architecture and History Inventory.

Special thanks to my cousins Bob and Dave Spargo for the photo and information on this house.



Mary Jane (Arthur) Gardner on the left and her daughter Minnie pictured in front of the house "surprise".



View of Linden Cemetery from Church street.

LINDEN ARMCHAIR CEMETERY TOUR

EPISODE 1

This is the start of a series on some of the interesting people buried in the Linden village cemetery.

The gray stone marker with a faded patina shows only the surname of Blanchard. This larger than most tombstone in the cemetery represents the larger than life story of Dr. Albert C. Blanchard who was buried here in 1909.

Dr. Blanchard spent his short life in the service of medical care for the Linden area and was loved and respected by all. His personality and bedside manner were partly illustrated at the end of his obituary in the June 24, 1909 *Linden Conservative*:

"His patients shall listen no more for his footsteps, watch no more for the encouraging smile that bespoke hope for the afflicted. His friends miss the cheerful voice, the happy laugh—our physician, our friend."

The *Dodgeville Chronicle* announced Dr. Blanchard's passing with an article on the front page of their June 25, 1909 paper. The article stated in part, "The readers of this county need not be told who Dr. Blanchard was, as he was one of the most popular physicians throughout Iowa County, and was besides a man of unusual talent and great personal charm of manner, which won him many friends."

Tragically Dr. Blanchard was only 36 years old when he died, leaving a wife and a four year old son behind. Dr. Blanchard was born in East Troy, Wisconsin, son of a doctor and graduated from high school there. He then attended the University of Wisconsin and also Rush medical college in Chicago where he graduated near the top of his class.

After graduation Dr. Blanchard first practiced in Mineral Point and just a few months later bought out the practice of Dr. Sayles in Linden where he spent the rest of his life.



This modest grave marker leaves little clue to the life and times of a beloved Linden doctor who was generous with his talent and time.

LINDEN CEMETERY TOUR, CONTINUED



Dr. Blanchard was a skilled surgeon as well as a gifted physician and was often called on for emergency surgery during an era when Iowa County did not have ambulances or a hospital. He was on call 24 hours a day and had one of the first phones in Linden. When the Linden bank building (now Post Office) was constructed in 1905 he was the first doctor to locate in the upstairs office space.

In Linden he met and married a local lady, Bertha Crase, daughter of Simon and Eliza Crase on the 10th of April, 1899. The last decade of Dr. Blanchard's life, and during his marriage, he was troubled with a series of respiratory issues. One of the published tributes to the character of Dr. Blanchard described him as a conscientious and untiring worker despite his health problems. "Among his patients not sparing his own life for the good of theirs. What more be asked but 'that a man lay down his own life' for the good of others."

J. W. Taylor of Linden wrote of Dr. Blanchard, "His disposition for the medical profession was made of two factors, the one intellectual, proceeding from the mind, the other benign, helpful proceeding from the heart. The latter as a motive force gave color, tone, sympathy to a mind of clear, strong analytical force. He was at once the wise, patient and deeply considerate physician. These

qualities led him far even while he was himself weighted by bodily affliction. Had he been well, had long life been given him, he would undoubtedly have attained to great heights and distinguished success as a physician. Then, too, he would have grown out of Linden. Now, he and memories of him are to remain as Linden's own."

The kind words from J. W. Taylor on the remembrance of Dr. Blanchard are profoundly true. He was eminently qualified as both a physician and surgeon and had he lived a full life it is likely he would have been drawn away from Linden. Dr. Blanchard came from a medical family, in addition to his father, his brother Charles and his brother-in-law were doctors. His sister-in-law, Julia Porter, was a dentist who practiced in Linden for five years during Blanchard's stay here. His brother Charles Blanchard was a doctor in residence at the booming mining camp of nearby Mifflin while Albert was in Linden.

As stated, Dr. A. C. Blanchard was troubled with his own health problems and three times he persuaded another doctor to assist him in his practice. He formed a partnership with his brother-in-law Dr. D. C. Scott who also became well respected by patients in the Linden area. Dr. Scott moved to Springfield, Missouri to be near family and unfortunately while in the line of duty contracted typhoid fever and died at the age of 47.

Another doctor to locate here to assist Dr. Blanchard was no doubt a result of Albert's connections with Rush Medical in Chicago. The June 22, 1904 *Southwest Wisconsin* reported, "Dr. Blanchard's new man is an alert young native of Japan, he coming here direct from California. He is a bright, genteel looking young fellow. He ought to feel at home here, as we are all pro-Japanese."

A Linden native, Dr. Charles Treglown was another partner briefly to back up Albert's practice. Brother Charles Blanchard was also known to provide aid from his home in Mifflin. It is clear that the help was brought on board because Dr. A. C. Blanchard could see his physical shortcomings and did not want to leave the patients of the Linden area without medical attention.

Dr. Blanchard was likely a generous man during his stay in Linden, it is documented that he made donations of books and teaching materials to the Local high school and he also paid for Christmas trees for both churches here.

LAURA FAULL FIRST WOMAN TO VOTE IN LINDEN



Pictured is Roy Treloar, William Faull and Laura Faull.

One hundred years ago in September, 1920 women gained the hard fought right to vote. Thanks to Harley Hicks who wrote in the September 17, 1920 issue of the *Linden Enterprise* we know who was the first one in the village of Linden.

“Mrs. W. T. Faull bears the distinction of being the first woman to vote in the village of Linden, she being the first one to appear before the election board, and hers the first name to be entered on the poll list.”

Laura (Treloar) Faull was a mother to daughter Eunice and her nephew Roy Treloar. Roy’s mother, Sarah Treloar, died when he was 10 months old when the Faull’s took him in as their own. Her husband William Tobias Faull was a blacksmith at several Linden mines.

Tragically William T. Faull and Roy Treloar both lost their lives in a car accident in January, 1935 while on their way to witness the inauguration of Governor Philip La Follette at Madison.



LINDEN HOSTED LARGE VETERAN CELEBRATION IN 1887

The George H. Legate Post of the G. A. R. held a picnic, parade and gala fete for Civil War veterans from the area. The Legate Post was similar in function to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization today and was headquartered in Mineral Point.

It was estimated that 2,000 people were present in the convention that lasted overnight on a late August day and reported by the September 2, 1887 *Dodgeville Chronicle*. Food was served by “the patriotic ladies of Linden.” The Linden band and the Legate drum corps furnished martial music.

Speeches were given by several dignitaries which included two Methodist ministers after an afternoon lunch.

After music and sing-a-longs to old civil war songs the *Chronicle* stated in part, “the old veterans formed in procession and paraded the streets under command of Captain George Jeuck, of Mineral Point, headed by the Brass band and drum corps, making a very imposing display.”

The newspaper continued, “In the evening two monster camp-fires were held, the principal address being made by comrade J. Harker, of Mifflin, formerly of the old 5th Wisconsin Infantry. Singing old army songs and a general good time was indulged in until a late hour. It was estimated that fully 2,000 people were present, and all united in pronouncing the occasion the ideal reunion which ought to be of more frequent recurrence among the old veterans in the county.”

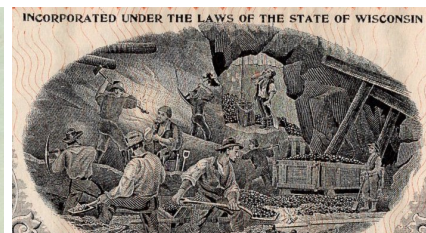
PRAIRIE MINING CO DOCUMENTS DONATED TO LHS

The Prairie mining company was located two miles North of Linden and operated under that name for about a decade. The ore body of lead and zinc was also worked by three other companies: Wheal Rust, Singer mining and the Rule or Badger mine.

Wheal Rust, mainly took out lead starting in 1870 for an undetermined number of years. The Prairie mine worked this deposit from 1907 to about 1919, John Adams a longtime Linden miner was named Superintendent. Test drilling revealed new deposits of lead and zinc below what had been worked out before. Adams ordered new stronger pumps to deal with the inflow of water.

The Prairie mine was founded by William T. Coad, originally of Mineral Point but also a visitor to Linden over the years. Brothers Thomas and Herbert Weber have graciously donated a group of five items connected with this mine.

These include a Capital stock register with unissued stock certificates; a Prairie Mining Co., \$500 mortgage gold bond; fifteen Prairie Mining Co., bond coupons; a certificate of incorporation for Prairie Mining and a property deed.



IN MEMORIAM

EDWIN, "EDDIE" MARTIN, age 83, of Madison, died June 30, 2020. He was born in Dodgeville on July 23, 1936 to Frank and Josephine Martin. He was raised on farms in the Linden and Highland area and graduated from Linden High School. In 1954 he enlisted in the Air Force and spent his working life in Madison. He was buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Dodgeville.

DUWAYNE "CHUCK" PETE, age 68, of Linden, died on July 26, 2020 due to complications of a heart attack. He was born in Dodgeville on October 29, 1951 to Stanley and Amelia (Brennum) Pete. Chuck worked as a heavy equipment operator for Rule Construction for 32 years before retiring in 2009. Graveside services held on July 29 at East Side cemetery in Dodgeville.

SANDRA LAVON HEINE, age 72, of Monroe passed away on August 26. She was born on November 1, 1947 to Trafford and Marieta (Jewell) Trevor. She grew up in the Bloomfield community of Linden township. Funeral services were held at the Lulloff-Peterson-Houck Funeral home in Dodgeville with burial in Graceland cemetery in Mineral Point.



ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM 2020

What a year this has been, we were forced to cancel our annual meeting and program this past May and now look forward to meeting together again in 2021.

A wrap-up of our financial year so far shows deposits of \$1,722.61 from memberships and donations, and \$51.99 interest. Our expenses totaled \$1,186.73. The expenses were recurring bills for printing and mailing the newsletter plus \$200 for bonding insurance and \$135 for website fees to keep us on the internet. The largest purchase was \$652.73 for a power point projector. We had an ending balance on September 16 of \$27,315.51.

The President and Vice President were the two offices to be voted on at our 2020 meeting and those two officers have agreed to serve out 2020 and will seek re-election at the 2021 meeting for the remainder of their terms. The other three board positions will also be up for voting on next year.

PROGRAM: Your President will be working on a presentation to be available on our website on January 1st. It will feature the Ross mine which was located just east of Linden. This lead and zinc mine operated non-stop from 1905 to 1919 and was then taken over by David Mackay. Will Ross was one of three brothers who shared in the profits, but it was Will who ran the mine every day. Will Ross drove his horse and buggy round trip from Mineral Point every day the mine operated. He was a shrewd businessman, a tough negotiator with ore buyers, and he offered steady employment to his workers. Above all mining was his passion.

This presentation will be a virtual replacement for our annual program and you can view it from the comfort of your home.

www.lindenhistoricalsociety.com

*******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.

How To Contact Us

LINDENHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

President & Newsletter editor:

Jim Jewell, 2073 Sunny Slope Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565. Phone: (608) 623-2772

Email: minerjim7@gmail.com

Vice-President:

Randy Baker, 2212 Sunny Slope Road, Mineral Point, WI 53565, Phone: (608) 574-4067

Treasurer:

Robin Lindner, 3465 Sinbad Road, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Secretary:

Florence Wasley, 415 W. Chapel St. Dodgeville, WI 53533

Board member:

Lisa Springer, 2776 Wearne Rd., Mineral Point, WI 53565, Phone: (608) 341-8686

LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2073 Sunny Slope Road

Mineral Point, WI 53565

