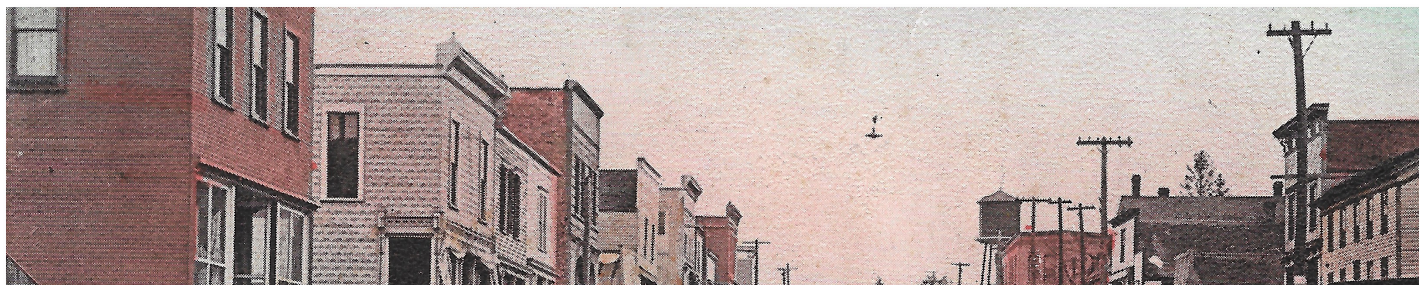


LINDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



McGRANAHAN WAS VILLAGE SMITHY FOR OVER 50 YEARS



Frank and Edith McGranahan were a long time fixture in the Linden business community providing a much needed service in the blacksmith trade, from 1916 to 1966.

Frank earned a reputation early on with his expert skills shoeing horses, and Edith was there by his side to keep the horses calm. In an article written by Linden resident Mrs. Lubin Short for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 20, 1949 she stated, "Mrs. McGranahan has been helping her husband since they've been married, some 37 years now. She shod one horse, but quit after that. For a long time she set metal tires for wagons."

Frank said in the newspaper feature that the best helper he ever had was his wife Edith. He said, "So many helpers forget that their main job is to hold the attention of the horse, and keep him gentle. Edith works at it all the time so that the nag doesn't get around to remembering me and kicking me out of the shop."

There was always danger when working with a large animal and in the same article Edith recalled an incident when a horse knocked Frank to the ground. "I tell you", said Edith, "it's no laughing matter when it's your own that's down. I held him up and kept him from going under the horse, but how I'll never know."

Frank McGranahan, left, uses one of his hammers to get a shoe ready while partner Edith uses tongs to hand over a heated shoe. Pot bellied stove at right provided extra warmth. Photo donated by Julie Olson.

In addition Frank had a horse rack for animals that were too wild or temperamental to shoe or trim the normal way. Dave Caygill remembers seeing that and explained it had two large braces that would pen the horse in and raise it up with a belt under the belly and a strap around the leg to raise it up for working on it.

Tom Faull remembers hanging out in the blacksmith shop as a kid and seeing owners of race horses from Chicago bring their prized animals in trailers for Frank to shoe. Tom recalled watching Frank make and put on different specialized shoes for the front and back on the racehorses. Tom Remembers of Frank, "he was busy all the time."

Frank apprenticed in blacksmithing, starting at the age of 15, under the guidance of his father David who was a blacksmith in the Lafayette County community of Yellowstone. Frank's career as a smithy spanned 65 years.

BLACKSMITH, CONTINUED

Frank and his brother Charles bought the blacksmith shop in Linden from Jonathan Evans a Civil War veteran who opened the business in the late 1860's.

Frank and Charles were partners for 20 years until his brother branched off from blacksmithing into being a full time independent carpenter. Charles lived out his life in Linden and for a time was the President of the Linden school board. He passed away in 1954 and is buried in the Linden cemetery.

For just over half a century the ring of the hammer hitting the anvil and the sight of sparks flying could be heard and seen at the historic shop near the corner of Vine street, Washington Avenue and Pleasant street with Frank taking care of business.

Blacksmithing is a rugged, physical job but Frank wore his toughness lightly. He said that he never swore any stronger than darn. His mother persuaded him and his brother Charles not to swear, smoke or drink. They never did.

On the eve of his retirement in July, 1966 Frank told a reporter for the *Rockford Morning Star*, of his occupation, "It was the hardest kind of trade. You took your life in your hands. I kept my two boys out of it."

Frank was a wiry, thin man who never weighed more than 160 pounds and he noted, "strength is in the way of doing things." He was 80 years old when he closed the doors for good at the blacksmith shop, which was located behind what is today The Store and nearby is the cheese factory.

The blacksmith shop was a two story frame building that had a door you could enter from main street and a large sliding door that opened right up onto Pleasant street, which is the lane going up to the feed mill. After Frank retired the building was in such poor shape, Tom Faull remembers, that it needed to be torn down. Frank's son Vernon, better known as "Mac", completed the demolition.

When Frank and Charles first came to Linden the mining boom was at its high point. Black jack zinc had soared from \$40 per ton to \$105 a ton. Most of the larger mines had their own blacksmith, the smaller ones likely provided the two young men with plenty to do. Horses were still a popular form of travel and still used in farm work. Wagons and carriages needed repairs and were brought to a blacksmith. All kinds of agricultural implements needed sharpening and repairs.



Frank used the right size shoe for every horse. His experience brought him work from near and far. Photo donated by Julie Olson.

Julie Olson, great-granddaughter of Frank McGranahan, donated two notebooks that daily listed the type of job, the customer and the charge for each service. They date from 1954-1964 and provide documentation of the broad type of work Frank was asked to do in the last decade of the business.

The daily log books reveal much more than just shoeing horses. Farmers from all around the area brought in plenty of work which was dropped off and picked up later.

BLACKSMITH, CONTINUED

One entry in the journals that had me baffled occurred in the spring every year and was listed, for example, "Charles Richards, two lays sharpened". Dave Caygill explained that the lay is the bottom of a plow share. Frank would heat up the lay in the forge to get them red hot and using his hammer would do a rapid jack hammer type of motion to pound them out.

Dave also mentioned that the blacksmith shop was a noisy place with motors and belts running. Tom Faull recalls that everything inside seemed black from soot.

Customer	Work	Charge
Elden Rule	Sharpen 3 lays	\$3.00
Pat Stevens	Sharpen 2 lays	\$2.00
Hugh Rickard	Sharpen sickle, one	.85
Norman Rule	Shoeing	\$3.00
E. Rowe	Make sideboards	\$8.50
Fred Caygill	Make hitch	\$2.00
Gordon Liddicoat	Iron and labor	\$7.00
Bill Adams	Sharpen 8 corn shovels	\$1.25
Butch Waslev	Two tongue irons	\$1.50
Arnold Hawke	Sharpen & point lays	\$3.50
John Harker	Make 6 V bolts ½" x 17"	\$2.75
Glen Spurlev	Sharpen 10 corn shovels	\$2.50
Dalen Rickard	Shoeing & trim feet	\$2.50
Clyde Faull	Make gate irons	\$2.50
Bob Alton	Harrow irons	\$2.00
Edith Knellwolf	Shoeing	\$4.00
Bob Masters	sharpen & point 3 plows & repair colter	\$6.50
Fred Jane	Make Two ¾ gate hooks	\$1.00
Clyde Bourette	Make Rod	\$.75
Bill Adams	Repair Work	\$1.00
Clyde Wagner	Shoeing	\$5.00
To Darlington	Shoeing	\$12.00
Thompson	Fix Wagon	\$7.50
Donald Gardner	Sharpen 3 knives	\$1.75
Jack Kenyon	Shoeing	\$2.25
"Mifflin Man"	Sharpen 2 Lays	\$2.00
R. Gruno	Make hitch	\$1.25
C. Hirsch	Sharpen 2 sickles	\$2.60
Ham Mick	Sharpen 8 chisels	\$1.25

Sample entries from notebooks, how many names do you recognize?

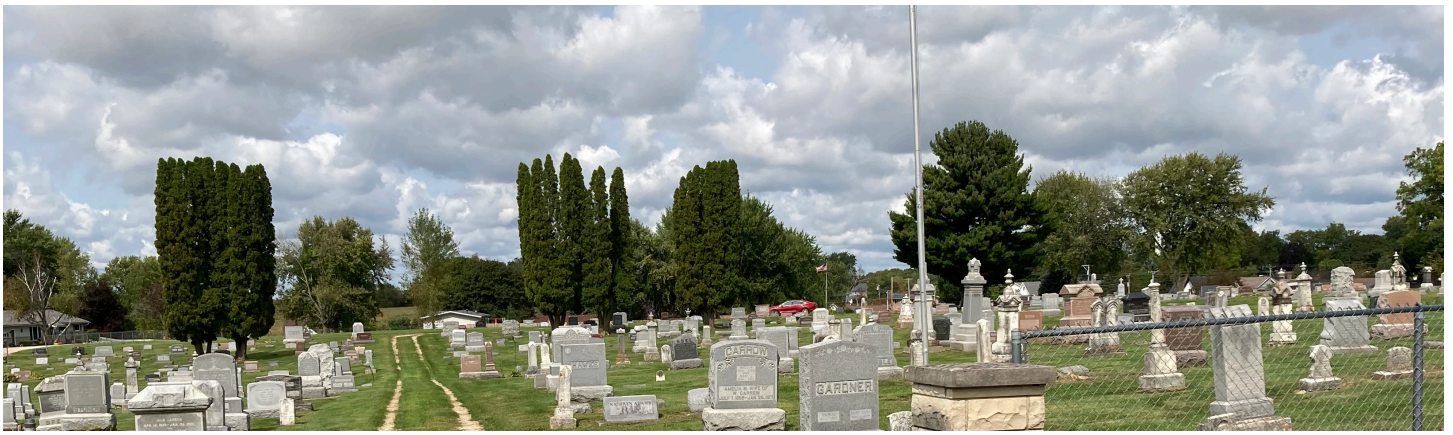
Under the right conditions Frank and Edith would host a class trip for Linden grade school students to come and visit. One such occasion took place in November, 1959 when it was reported in the *Montfort Mail* newspaper, "The 5th and 6th grades visited the McGranahan blacksmith shop. Mr. and Mrs. McGranahan told the children many interesting stories. Mr. McGranahan started the forge and welded a piece of iron together which the boys had cut in half. He also showed them the anvil, trip hammer, horse rack and many different types of horseshoes."

The two daily journal notebooks have pencil entries that are faded and sometimes smudged possibly from soot or dirt, most are readable. Each page listed the name of the customer, work completed and the charge on the right side. On the left side was the name and amount of money owed to the McGranahans. There were a few entries using nicknames such as "Slim Reger, iron work, \$4.00" and "Butch Wasley, sharpen sickle, \$2.00". Two entries were simply, "Stranger", which conjured up images in my mind of an old TV western and a suspicious looking man in a cowboy hat. I suppose it was the job of our town constable to ask him, "how long you planning on staying in town stranger"?

There were a number of service calls to farms or stables where it was impractical to bring all the horses to Linden for shoeing and trimming. Those calls took him to Darlington, Dodgeville, Mineral Point and beyond. The Iowa County farm was one service call for horses that he made several times a year.

He had a service call to the Iowa County fair and charged 12 hours labor at \$1.25 an hour, plus \$2.00 parts. The village of Linden was a frequent customer at the shop ranging from sharpening shovels and picks to making an iron bar for the cemetery. The school, lumber company and cheese factory, all of Linden, found it handy to call on Frank for repairs.

Frank McGranahan died at home on May 23, 1969 at age 85, he was a member of the Methodist Church and a 50 year member of the Linden Masonic Lodge. Edith passed away at age 88 on November 3, 1977. Both are buried in the Linden cemetery. They had two sons, Vernon and Lawrence, granddaughter Mrs. William (Ida Mae) Gilman, grandson Harold and 5 great-grandchildren.



View of Linden Cemetery from Church street.

LINDEN ARMCHAIR CEMETERY TOUR

EPISODE 2

Charles Stephens was that rare person who packed a lifetime of achievements into his short life of just 39 years. The occupation of mining dominated his life from beginning to end.

Born in 1865 to Joseph and Annie Stephens in Ontonogon, Michigan, a mining town in the Upper Peninsula, the Stephens family moved soon after back to Linden. In the book, *From High On the Bluff*, Laura Fitzsimmons wrote of her great uncle, "Charlie Stephens worked in the Linden mines before he was 15 and went to Platteville mining school at night. In 1880, at age 15 he joined grandpa Stephens in the Deadwood (Homestake) gold mines. While there he married and had four boys: Walter, Albert, Cecil and Frank. From South Dakota he went to the Southwest, first to New Mexico and later to Arizona as the superintendent of gold mines. In 1902 he became superintendent of one of the world's largest gold mines."

While there, Laura Fitzsimmons related, "he divorced his first wife and married Aunt Allie. Later Uncle Charlie and Aunt Allie had a daughter, Augusta."

Charles Stephens, according to Laura Fitzsimmons was 6 foot 2 and weighed 225 pounds and was respected by the miners who worked for him. When he left the Cochite mines at Ablemarle, New Mexico, the miners presented him with a diamond ring in appreciation of his service.

The Gold Roads mine was located at Kingman, Arizona and while Stephens was there it had reached the 400 foot level and had a vein of gold almost 14 feet wide, with some silver.

Laura Fitzsimmons wrote, "Later Charlie became critically ill. The illness was probably caused by handling poisonous materials in the mines. After his treatment in Los Angeles and Texas, Allie brought him back to Wisconsin by train, because he wanted to die at home in Linden. But he never made it. He died enroute at Wichita, Kansas. After his death his life and achievements were portrayed in a book, 'Great Men of the Southwest.'"

In online research I was not able to find a copy of that book. His obituary in three area newspapers told that his body arrived at the Mineral Point depot at 9:30 on Christmas Eve and remained at the home of his sister there, Mrs. Will Fitzsimmons until Christmas Day when the body of Mr. Stephens arrived at the Linden depot.

The Iowa County Democrat, reported, "the funeral took place from the home of his mother, Mrs. Annie Stephens, with services at the Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Shepard officiating."



Stephens grave marker in Linden cemetery.

BREAKING NEWS FROM 82 YEARS AGO

LINDEN'S CONTESTED ELECTION OF 1939

The spring election of 1939 resulted in a tie for village of Linden president between the incumbent John E. Stevens and the challenger Gilmore Liddicoat. The village was abuzz with interest, a recount was ordered.

No charges of either candidate having stolen the election were made, probably because the final vote was deadlocked at 109 votes each.

Liddicoat's attorney, Frank Hamilton of Dodgeville, spoke to the media and said that John Stevens had conceded defeat following a recount in which the marking of one ballot, previously counted for Stevens, was held to be invalid.

In that same election the vote for village trustees was: E. J. Rolling 167; Frank McGranahan 135; Wm. Brown 135 and Frank Rule 101.

Village officers were: Clerk, Leonard Trudgeon; Treasurer Ocea Alton; Assessor, Nelson Hillary; Justice, Gerald Wiesen; Constable, Matt Reger and Supervisor, Joseph Poad.

In Linden township Monroe Willis won easily for the chairman position by defeating N. H. May 201-152. Officers were: Clerk, Leland Pellow; Treasurer Ben Rhinerson; Assessor Gordon Anderson; Justice J. E. Davies; Constable, Stephen Powell.

The big question for township voters was a referendum on beer and alcohol sales. The debate for beer lost at 160 for and 168 against. Intoxicating liquor seemed to be a harder sell, it went down with a vote of 211 against and 110 for.



ROSS MINE PROGRAM ON WEBSITE NOW

By the time you receive this newsletter a virtual program on the Ross brothers mine will be on our website. The Ross mine, east of Linden, provided steady employment from 1904-1918 and yielded a treasure of zinc sulfide, Sphalerite, commonly called black jack by local miners.

Hopefully in 2021 we will once again be able to meet in person for our annual program and meeting. Won't that be fun!

If you have an idea for a future newsletter article or program topic please contact any of our board members listed on page 8.

Happy New Year to everyone, your support of the Linden Historical Society is very much appreciated. Jim.

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ACQUISITIONS RECEIVED

The Linden Historical Society recently received a treasure trove of photos, documents and items from Julie Olson, daughter of Linden natives Bill and Ida Mae Gilman. These donations will help us better document and relate the history of Linden.

Photos: Frank & Edith McGranahan in blacksmith shop (3); blacksmith shop, possibly Evans shop; LHS 1933 class photo; LHS cheerleaders, 1954; Easter Star photo; picture postcard of M. E. Church.

Documents: Linden public school diploma, Bill Gilman, 1949; Linden M.E. Church Messenger booklet, 1951; LHS diploma, Ida Mae Gilman, 1955; Methodist Church centennial bulletin, 1951; LHS commencement programs (2), 1955; LHS announcement card, Ida Mae McGranahan, 1955; Linden news clippings; LHS commencement invitation, Bill Gilman, 1953; Masonic Lodge card, Frank McGranahan, 1932; LHS diploma, Bill Gilman, 1953; Cornish Miner yearbook, 1954; LHS commencement invitation, 1955; clippings on Vince Thompson; McGranahan blacksmith account books (2); LHS 1925 commencement program; LHS Senior play program, 1936; business card, Gene & Mary's bar.

Clothing: LHS cheerleader tops (2); LHS sweater; Linden grade school cheerleader top.

Linden High School accessories: graduation tassel, 1950's; athletic letters, (5); button and ribbon 1951-52; Salutatorian pin, 1955; cheerleader bracelet 1953-55; embroidered patch.

Trade token, Lovelace Brothers store.

IN MEMORIAM

DONALD "RED" VIAL, age 94, passed away Nov. 1, 2020. He was born June 6, 1926 in Linden, son of Ortis and Yvette (Holmes) Vial. He graduated from Linden High School in 1944 and served as a Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. He married Eleanor Holtz in Madison and they had three sons, Gregg, Steve and Grant. Entombment in Roselawn Memorial Park. Don was a long time member of the Linden Historical Society. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

DAVID JOHN CLAUER, age 53, passed away peacefully on November 19, 2020, after a minor heart attack. David was preceded in death by his girlfriend Dawn Schultz in May, 2020. Burial in the Linden cemetery.

MARY ELLEN JEWELL, age 101, died at Upland Hills nursing home on December 2, 2020. She was a member of the Linden Historical Society, she graduated from Mineral Point High School in 1937. She is survived by four children. Gloria Kirkland, Richard Jewell, Jim Jewell and Ann Ripp. A public celebration of her life will be held June 26, 2021 at a time and location to be determined.

CAROL JOY SKALA, age 64, of Dodgeville died on December 8, 2020 at her home after a courageous four year battle with cancer. She was born to the late Wendell and Virginia (Harker) Brown. Carol is survived by her husband Ron; her daughter Jody; her siblings Nancy Womack, Ed Brown, Beverly Englund and Wendy Kopp. A public celebration of life will be held at a later date.

CLARENCE "JIM" WASLEY, age 82, passed away December 18, 2020. He was born September 2, 1938 to Homer and Evelyn (Reger) Wasley in Linden. He served in the U.S. Army. Jim was a 1957 graduate of Linden High School. He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter Nancy, brother, Emery; three sisters, Joyce Finley, Betty Long and Carol Wasley. A private graveside service was held at Roselawn Memorial Park.

LINDEN MINES BANKED ON LEAD, ZINC AND TAILINGS

Mine tailings in our area were the gravel sized rock that came from the milling process and were treated somewhat as waste in the earlier years of mining but realized a hidden value by the early 1900's.

As early as 1877 Thomas Allen of the Centerville mining camp between Montfort and Highland re-processed tailing piles to recover lead and zinc ore that the inefficient original mill missed. (*Dodgeville Chronicle*, July 6, 1877)

The idea of mine tailings having value started to take hold here with not just the idea of re-processing them but for their use in roadwork and construction. The Linden newspaper, *Southwest Wisconsin*, reported in their August 16, 1905 issue that big piles of tailings were on Linden streets to be used in new concrete sidewalks.

People routinely used tailings or other waste rock from local mines as noted by the local Linden newspaper in June, 1907 when Nelson Holman hauled rock from the Dark Horse mine for his new house.

If you include the Coker mine near Livingston, millions of tons of tailings were hauled away for either road paving or railroad ballast. It is hard to put a figure on the tonnage of tailings just from Linden because they were often transported away while a mine was still operating.



John Trace has created a scene of an old Ford truck and a loader at a former area of mountains of mine tailings now long gone.

In May, 1905 the Linden correspondent for the *Dodgeville Chronicle* stated, "Many of our citizens went to see the steam shovel loading mill tailings on the (rail) cars at the Mifflin-Linden Mining Co's mill last week. It is a great sight, the machine working like a charm. The tailings make good ballasting material for the railroad."

When demand for tailings increased they became a commodity similar to zinc and lead, although bringing in less per ton, the added income added to the bottom line for mining companies.

Tailings and waste rock were now specified in mining leases as to the ownership right.

A very large amount of mine tailings were sold and trucked off site in the 1930's from Linden. The *Wisconsin State Journal* in 1936 had several articles on tailing removal projects. What we know today as Highway 39 from Edmund to Mineral Point was paved that year with tailings from the Smith mine. Normally three coatings of tailings were applied.

In September, 1936 it was told that Fred Zweifel of Linden was lowest bidder to a contract to haul 14,250 cubic yards of mine tailings to surface roads. In a separate contract 15 trucks were kept busy hauling tailings from the Ross mine for the highway between Mineral Point and Dodgeville.

Today, mine tailings are no longer in favor environmentally, the EPA has claimed that a huge tailing pile and mine site near Galena has elevated levels of lead, arsenic and other metals. The cleanup of that 34 acre mine site is expected to cost \$21.37 million.

*******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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