



## Victorian Ambience, Entertainment Will Mark Holiday Open House

The candles will be lighted, antique ornaments hung on the tree in the parlor, and the rooms in Nathaniel Dean's 1856 Victorian country home will be decked with greenery for the HBGHS annual holiday open house on December 8.

Docents will guide visitors through the 10 rooms of the house and its changing mini-museum from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. To the tunes of seasonal music, a typical old-fashioned dessert and beverage will be served throughout the afternoon.

Vern Koehler's Victorian Doll House—on display in the living room—will also be decorated, as it keeps its Christmas trees the year around.

On November 10, the Second Sunday Open House will feature activities appropriate for a nineteenth cen-

tury farm harvest.

The Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society welcomes visitors to

its Second Sunday Open Houses from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. each month throughout the year.



Board member Alice Schuller serves visitors at 2001 open house (Dorothy Haines photo).

## Names of Four Raffle Winners Drawn At October 13 Open House

After nearly 700 raffle tickets were purchased over the summer, HBGHS President Gloria Simley drew the names of the winners of four heirloom quality, hand-made items during the Society's open house October 13.

The winner of the "Lone Star" quilt made by Wanda Nelson—one of the oldest of American quilt patterns—was Susan Fox of Monona.

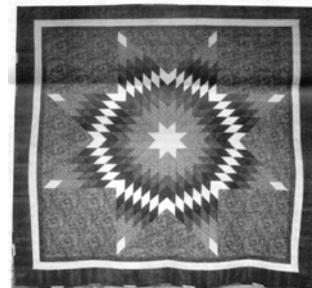
Donna Rider of Winneconne was the winner of the off-white afghan, crocheted by Helen Cattell from a pat-

tern entitled "Serene Wrap."

Alice Schuller of Monona won the Christmas table runner, and Sylvia Reinholdt of Monona the fall table runner, both created by Ruth Kutz.

The proceeds generated by the raffle will be used to maintain and preserve historic Dean House furnishings and artifacts.

The Society extends its congratulations to the winners, appreciation to the the donors of the prizes, and its thanks to everyone who participated.



The "Lone Star" quilt made by Wanda Nelson of Monona and donated for the raffle.

*Newsletter of the*  
**HISTORIC BLOOMING GROVE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Editor, Bob Schuster, 221-1421

**OFFICERS**

*President:* Gloria Simley, 222-3859  
*Vice-President:* Jim Stickels, 221-1324  
*Secretary:* Kathleen Schuster, 221-1421  
*Treasurer:* Don Taylor, 222-9507

*Dean House Mgr:* Robert Bean, 222-5783  
*Curator:* Ann Waidelich, 249-7920  
*Committee Chair:* C. Anne Wellman

**BOARD MEMBERS**

William Brendler	Helen Cattell
Jean Dent	Alice Schuller
Bob Schuster	Judy Taylor
Ann Waidelich	Helen Wentland

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Founded in 1971, the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society preserves and advances the culture and history of the Blooming Grove, Monona and Southeast Madison, Wisconsin, area. To fulfill this purpose the Dean House is used as a center for cultural events and local history study. It is hoped that the Dean House will be a living testimony to the pioneer spirit fostering our American heritage and a representation of that spirit in the historic Township of Blooming Grove.

**MUSEUM**

The Society's Dean House Museum is located at 4718 Monona Drive, Madison, Wisconsin. The Dean House is open from 2 to 4 the second Sunday of every month and by appointment with the building manager or the Society's curator.

**ACQUISITIONS**

The Society accepts the donation of items with ties to historic Blooming Grove township or which are appropriate to a rural Victorian farm home. Contact the building manager or the Society's curator.

**WEBSITE**

<http://www.wlhn.org/daneco/hbg>

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/  
RENEWALS**

*Send to:* Treasurer, Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society, PO Box 6704, Monona, WI 53716-0724

\_\_\_\_ Contribution for Dean House restoration/maintenance  
\_\_\_\_ Membership at \$10/yr individual  
\_\_\_\_ Membership at \$15/yr family  
\_\_\_\_ Sustaining membership at \$25-\$500

*HBGHS is a tax-exempt non-profit organization.*

## Activities at the Dean House Museum

Board member Judy Taylor has developed a master list of people who have volunteered to take charge of cleaning specific rooms and areas of the Dean House. If you would like to help, please contact them to see when they will be doing the cleaning, or sign up for one of the areas not spoken for.

The goal is for each area to be cleaned once a month.

**DEAN HOUSE CLEANING SIGNUPS**

Formal Parlor -----	<i>still available</i>
Music Room -----	<i>Alice Schuller</i>
Dining Room -----	<i>still available</i>
Kitchen -----	<i>Judy Taylor</i>
Pantry -----	<i>Judy Dent</i>
Bathrooms -----	<i>still available</i>
Master Bedroom -----	<i>Helen Wentland</i>
Hiestand-McKenna Bedroom -----	<i>still available</i>
Children's Bedroom -----	<i>Gloria Simley</i>
Staircases -----	<i>Anne Wellman</i>
Museum Room -----	<i>still available</i>
Back Staircase -----	<i>Don Taylor</i>
Front Porch -----	<i>Jim Stickels</i>

### Museum Room Exhibits

Over the summer months the exhibit case in the Dean House Museum Room was filled with a display of picture postcards of restaurants in the Blooming Grove area, including the Cat 'N Fiddle, The Dutch Mill, Irv's Stortsmen's Bar, Nob Hill, Regan's Colonial Inn, The Samovar, and Jack Simon's Log Cabin Tavern.

Also included was a postcard of the Club Hollywood after it became the Age Haven nursing home. Hope you had a chance to see them.

The Dean House is always on the lookout for others. If you have photos or picture postcards of businesses and houses in the historic Blooming Grove area and would like to donate them or lend them for copying, please contact Bob Bean.

The current exhibit is a display of yardsticks and rulers advertising Madison businesses. If you have additional ones to donate or lend for the exhibit,

please bring them by on a Monday morning, or call Ann Waidelich or Bob Bean to make other arrangements.

### Recent Acquisitions

A new Civil War era cupboard now graces the Dean House Dining Room thanks to Helen Wentland and Alice Schuller, who found the cupboard in a Montello antique store. The HBGHS Board approved the use of funds from the museum's furnishings account for the purchase.

Helen Cattell has given the Dean House three fully-clothed dolls. One, almost life size, is sleeping in the cradle in the Master Bedroom with a second, smaller doll. The third doll is sharing space in one of the doll strollers in the Children's Bedroom.

Marie Rider recently donated 26 antique items, including a rake with wooden tines, a self-heating, cast iron "Dalli" box iron with hinged top, three canes, a car horn mounted on a wooden block, and a grain cradle.

### Dean House Needs

The Dean House is in need of additional life-size baby or children's dolls that can be used to exhibit some of the wonderful children's clothing that the Dean House owns.

Also needed is a replacement for the wood box in the Kitchen, one with a more appropriate look for the museum.

Other needs include an armoire for the Master Bedroom or Hiestand/McKenna Bedroom. The latter has a closet, unusual for a home the age of the Dean House. An armoire would have served as a closet during the Victorian era and would be more customary.

We are also looking for a cane/umbrella stand to hold the canes recently donated by Marie Rider. It could also hold the two sun umbrellas now resting in the corner of the Hiestand/McKenna Bedroom.

## The 1874 Estes House - Gone But Not Forgotten

The Italianate-style Estes House, constructed of cream brick held together with a sea shell mortar, stood at 5902 Cottage Grove Road for 125 years until it was torn down this summer to make way for Don Simon's new Grand View Commons residential and commercial development project.

It could have been saved. Mr. Simon was willing to sell the house for \$1 to any buyer who would agree to move the building, but he didn't receive any offers.

Simon earlier had tried to have the house placed on the National Register of Historic Places in order to receive tax credits to fix it up, but it didn't meet the National Register requirements. The building was judged not to have enough association with a famous person. Structurally, the front of the home had been altered with the addition of a bay window and the re-

location of the front door. A large frame addition also had been added to the back.

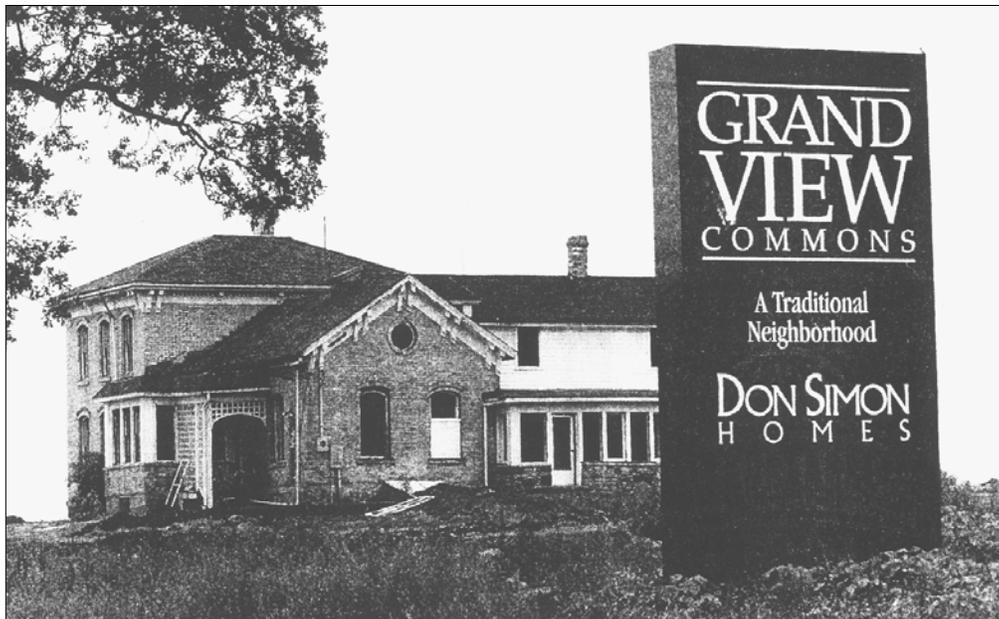
But the old landmark still had an interesting history. It was built around 1874 or 1875 by either J. Raringer or John Kavanaugh. In 1886, the 160 acre farm with its house and a stone quarry was purchased by Augustus Estes, a farmer and tobacco dealer. After his purchase, Estes donated the land for the original Estes School, located nearby at 6002 Cottage Grove Road. A later school on the site is now the Carl Payne Masonic Temple.

Estes was born in Milwaukee, grew up in Stoughton, and attended Albion Academy. In his early years he taught school and farmed with his father. Married twice, he had two children by his first wife before she died and two more children by his second wife, who was a widow with three children of her own.

In 1904 the property was purchased by Herbert W. Chynoweth, a prominent Madison attorney. He died in 1906, but his widow and children continued to live on the farm until 1922. It then became the Friday Dairy Farm until about 1946, when it was purchased by the Pallottine Priests of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate. In 1949, the Pallottines built the Queen of Apostles Seminary, which stood adjacent to the Estes House until it too was razed for the Grand View Commons project.

As described in the application for Historic Preservation Certification, "The brick Italianate house suggested that its owners were prosperous country gentlemen. Five miles from Madison, on a well traveled road, it provided a picturesque suburban home for its owners."

Too bad it couldn't have been saved and refurbished.



*Photograph of the Estes House before it was demolished in July to make way for the Grand View Commons construction (from the Herald-Independent, August 1, 2002, Section 1, page 6).*



Historic Blooming Grove  
Historical Society  
PO Box 6704  
Monona, WI 53716-0704

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## President's Greeting

**Gloria Simley**

How do you like the new format of the *The Courier*? We're a little late getting this to you, but we have had some changes. Dorothy Haines, the editor of *The Courier* for many years, resigned in order to give more time to writing her new book. The Board and I thank Dorothy for her many years of dedication.

Bob Schuster, a member of the Board, has agreed to become the new editor of *The Courier*. Thank you, Bob.

November and December are exciting times at the Dean House, with excellent displays at our open house the second Sunday of each month. Bring your friends and guests to see the beautifully furnished rooms—a fun thing to do!

## Curator's Corner

**Ann Waidelich**

Helen Cattell and Dorothy Chapek have been assisting with cataloging the Dean House clothing collection on Monday afternoons. So far, about 80 pieces of children's clothing, 13 quilts and quilt covers, and about 30 pieces of women's clothing have been cataloged. Clothing items are expected to be completed around the first of the year, and the project will move on to other fabric items such as blankets, bedspreads, and table linens.

If anyone remembers donating specific items of clothing or other fabrics, please contact me so that additional information can be added to the records. We can also

always use more help. Stop by on a Monday afternoon, or call Ann Waidelich at 249-7920.

## Manager's Notes

**Bob Bean**

The screens on the Back Porch have been covered with plastic for the winter. Over the fall, touch-up painting was completed by Don Taylor, Chuck Waity, and Bob Bosman. Ann Waidelich has installed new sun shades on the second floor to protect collection items from sun damage.

The usual wooden chair glue jobs are waiting for a volunteer.

## Comings and Goings

◆ The Dane County Heritage Foundation recently approved a \$3000 grant to assist HBGHS with the installation of a new furnace and air conditioning in the Dean House. The Foundation's grant was matched by a generous donation from Vern Koehler, who previously had donated her doll house.

◆ Bob Bean, Ann Waidelich, and Dorothy Haines attended the Capital Regional Convention of the Wisconsin Council for Local History held in August at the Lussier Center.

◆ The Wisconsin Historical Society has completed its project to microfilm property tax records for the townships in Dane County. The Dane County Historical Records Center—which had received the original books from WHS—has offered

the Blooming Grove tax rolls to HBGHS. They will be transferred to the Dean House as soon as the Record Center moves to its new space in the Lussier Family Heritage Center.

◆ With Dorothy Haines' retirement from the Board, the Society is looking for volunteers to write historical articles for *The Courier*. One to two articles are needed for each issue. Anyone interested in researching and writing on a topic of Blooming Grove Township history is invited to contact HBGHS President, Gloria Simley or *Courier* editor, Bob Schuster.

◆ Docents, male and female, are needed to guide Dean House visitors during Second Sunday Open Houses. Enthusiasm, not experience, is what is needed. The Society has a video about the museum and its collections that those who are interested in becoming docents can borrow.

◆ Bill Brendler recently donated a computer and laser printer to replace the Dean House's aging technology, and Bob Bean has donated a badly needed scanner. The Dean House now has the resources needed to reproduce documents for visiting researchers.

◆ Bob Schuster has added a virtual tour of historic buildings and places in the Monona and east Madison area to the Society's Web site.

◆ The Society extends its appreciation and thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to make this summer's Back Porch Concerts a success. In particular, the Society thanks Bill Brendler, the Society's newest Board member, for creating this summer's new signs.