



Stories from Forest Hill Cemetery Will Highlight Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Historic Blooming Grove Historical Society will be held on Sunday, May 4, at the Dean House. The membership meeting and elections for vacant Board positions will begin at 1:30. The public program will start at 2:30 and will be followed at 3:30 by refreshments and tours of the Dean House.

The candidates for the three vacancies on the HBGHS Board are Randy Paul, Shelley Schmitz, and Anne Wellman.

The program will feature an illustrated talk by Mark Gajewski, compiler of the new two volume collection of stories about those buried at Forest Hill Cemetery. The collection, *Forest Hill Cemetery: A Biographical Guide to the Ordinary and Famous Women and Men Who Shaped Madison and the World*, is published by the Forest Hill Cemetery Committee of Historic Madison, Inc.

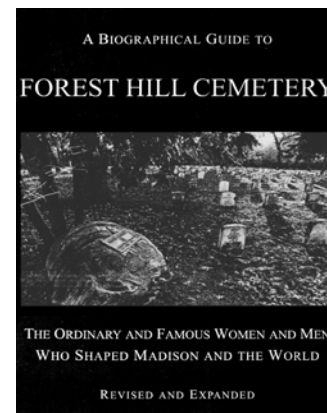
The Forest Hill stories will be followed by a brief presentation from

Ann Waidelich on a proposal to compile similar information about those buried in the Blooming Grove Cemetery on Pflaum Road.

Gajewski is the President-elect of the Wisconsin Historical Society and has been involved in Historic Madison, Inc. for about 10 years. Living close to Forest Hill and running through the cemetery for exercise every day sparked his interest in the monuments and names he passed. He was a part of the committee that produced the cemetery walking tour brochure in 1993 and offered his computer and research expertise to the committee who put together the first Forest Hill Cemetery book in 1996. He and the committee went on to produce the Resurrection Cemetery book *Bishops to Bootleggers* in 1999 and have topped off their efforts with the expanded edition of the Forest Hill book.

The stories of people buried at Forest Hill are inspiring and tragic, funny

and amazing, and include the LaFollettes, Wisconsin's dominant political family for over half a century; Harry Steenbock, discoverer of vitamin D; Howard Temin, Nobel laureate in retrovirology; Frederick Jackson Turner, the most influential historian of his generation; and Edwin E. Witte, one of the fathers of Social Security.



“Quills to Ball Points” Exhibit in the Dean House Museum Room

A new exhibit featuring writing instruments has been installed in the display table in the Dean House Museum Room on the second floor.

Inspired by Helen Cattell's collection of fountain pens, pencils and ball point pens, Ann Waidelich has created an exhibit tracing the history of writing instruments from quills to ball

point pens. Included in the display are quills, pen knives, a child's slate and slate pencil, steel nibs and holders of various materials, three types of fountain pens (lever, matchstick and aerometric) and ink wells. Many of the blotters, letter openers, pencils and ball point pens are souvenirs or premiums from Madison area businesses.

If you have collected similar items and are interested in lending them to the Dean House for this exhibit, we would be happy to include them. Please contact Ann Waidelich (249-7920), or bring them to the Dean House on Monday mornings or during a Second Sunday open house from 2-4 pm.

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.

At the Dean House Museum

Blooming Grove Real Estate Assessment and Tax Records

HBGHS has had the real estate assessment records for the township of Blooming Grove for more than 15 years. They are a valuable tool for doing research on the history of a house or piece of property. They were in heavy binders and many volumes had suffered severe water damage.

In January, a new shelving unit was purchased for the closet in which they are kept, and the Monday morning work crew (Bob Bean, Chuck Waity, Bob Bossman and Ann Waidelich) have been taking them out of their heavily damaged binders and making new covers for them.

If you want to research the history of property in Blooming Grove from 1870s to 1950s the volumes are available by appointment with Bob Bean.

The Society recently also accepted the tax records for the townships of Blooming Grove (1912-1950) and Madison (1912-1950) and the Villages of Monona (1938-1950), Fair Oaks (1912-1913) and Maple Bluff (1931-1950).

Tax records are similar to assessment records but include both the assessed value of the property and the amount of taxes the property owner paid.

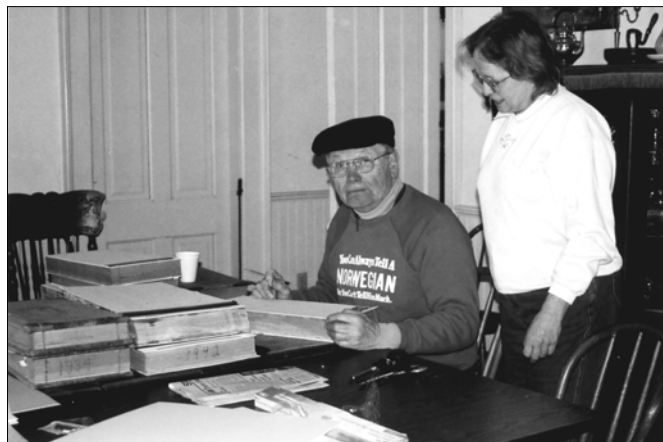
Recently, the Blooming Grove Tax Records were given to the Wisconsin

Historical Society by the Blooming Grove Town Board for microfilming and then returned to the Dane County Historical Archives and Record Center. The Records Center is in the process of moving from the Madison Public Library to the Lussier Family Heritage Center at Lake Farm Park. The new space in the Lussier Center can't hold all the records that were stored at the Library, so the Dane County Historical Society was looking for a good home for the tax records from several Dane County townships and villages.

The City of Madison Tax Records, now stored in Madison's Record Center are also in need of a new home, and once the other tax records that HBGHS has taken in are properly stored we will decide how many of the City of Madison record books can be archived at the Dean House.

Photo Gallery

Three old photos are on display in the Museum Room, a 1943 photo of Antlers Tavern and a 1950s accident scene on Highway 12 & 16, both collected by Randy Paul. A third photograph of an area intersection was taken by Angus McVicar in 1933. You're challenged to guess where it was taken (the answer is provided under the flap). A big thank you goes to Al Burling, who helped in identifying the site.



Dean House curator Ann Waidelich and volunteer Chuck Waity working to repair and recover Blooming Grove assessment record books. (Photo courtesy Dorothy Haines)

McBurney's "The Barter" Hangs Again in Monona Library



Photograph of James McBurney's 1924 painting, "The Barter," in the library's new quiet room. (Photo courtesy Dorothy Haines)

In its September 30, 1971, issue, the *Community Herald* reported that James McBurney's 1924 painting, "The Barter," originally created for Madison's Belmont Hotel and removed to make way for YWCA renovation of the hotel, had been donated to the Monona Library and was being restored.

The artist, who taught in Los Angeles during the second decade of the twentieth century, was a student of Arthur Dow and Charles Davis. While art director for the Chicago Art District and a member of the Southside Art Association, McBurney painted numerous murals in the Chicago area.

The painting depicting Winnebago Indians and a French trader on the shore of Lake Mendota hung for nearly two decades in the library before being removed and placed in storage during a remodeling project.

Now with the completion of the library expansion and following additional restoration funded by a gift from John and Lynda Weinberger, the painting is again on display in the library's new "quiet room."

The *Herald's* original article about

the painting is reproduced below.

Ludwig Neuhaus, who has restored many of the large murals in Madison, recently completed the restoration of the painting, "The Barter," which will hang in the Monona Public Library, according to Thomas Stoker, city librarian.

The semi-circular, nine by five foot work was donated to the city of Monona's fine arts committee in 1966 by the Vogel Bros. Construction Co. when it remodeled Madison's old Belmont Hotel to house the Madison YWCA. The painting is the work of James McBurney, who completed it in 1924 for the hotel. It depicts Wisconsin Indians and fur traders bartering for goods.

"The Barter" was plastered to a wall in the hotel and was removed and taken to Neuhaus' studio. The Wisconsin Historical Society was considering funding the restoration at that time.

After Neuhaus had worked many hours to remove the white lead and plaster and oiled the canvas to make it pliable and preserve the

surface, the historical society decided not to finish the project. The society said it already had a similar painting.

Responsibility for the work then reverted to the Vogel Bros. Co. which offered it to the Monona Library, provided it pay for the cost of salvage and restoration.

The city's library board accepted the painting and the arts committee agreed that the \$96 salvage bill and the \$450 for restoration would be paid without involving library budget funds.

Vogel Bros. agreed to provide the frame and mounting board for the painting, and that cost amounted to \$161.

Earlier this year [1971], the restoration was underway and the fine arts committee began making installment payments to Neuhaus for his work. The fine arts committee has almost finished paying for the painting and it has been delivered to the library. Stoker said plans are to hang the work in the lower level of the library.

Neuhaus appraised the painting at \$3,000.



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

President's Greeting Gloria Simley

It is Membership time—either as a renewing member or as a new member. The Dean House does not receive any money from the cities of Madison and Monona for upkeep, furnishings, or maintenance. We depend on donations and membership fees.

We are very proud of our beautiful Victorian house and encourage you to visit the Dean House the second Sunday of each month. Bring a friend and make it a special treat on a Sunday afternoon.

With the May 4 Annual Meeting, our good and faithful board members Alice Schuller, Helen Wentland, and Secretary Kathy Schuster will have concluded their terms. They have my thanks for all of their time and talent. Ann Waidelich and I have agreed to stay on for another Board term. Nominated for terms on the Board are Randy Paul, Shelley Schmitz, and Anne Wellman.

Manager's Notes Bob Bean

Maintenance tasks are ongoing at the Dean House. Volunteers with time and a variety of skills are needed. Projects include repair and gluing for wooden chairs and hinges on cabinet doors, cement work on the basement floor, and installation of the air conditioner on the second floor. Repairs and adjustments are needed for cornices, the porch screen door, paving blocks around the foundation, and inside doors. And hands for cleaning and dusting are needed throughout the house. It's Spring Cleaning time!

Work days are 9:30 to noon each Monday, but other times can be arranged through a call to Bob Bean, 222-5783.

Dean House Calendar

April 13: Second Sunday Open House and Tours, 2-4 pm.

April 14: Board Meeting, 7-9 pm at the Dean House, public welcome

May 4: Annual Meeting:

1:30 pm—HBGHS Membership Meeting;
2:30 pm—Program: Stories from Forest Hill Cemetery;

3:30 pm—Refreshments and tours of Dean House.

May 11: Second Sunday Open House, 2-4 pm. Mother's Day Open House and Tours. Vintage "Lacy Undies" on Display.

May 12: Board Meeting, 7-9 pm at the Dean House, public welcome

May 26: Memorial Day. Coffee and rolls will be sold from the Dean House front porch.

June 8: Second Sunday Open House, 2-4 pm.

June 9: Board Meeting, 7-9 pm at the Dean House, public welcome

June 21: Evaluation day.

Back Porch Concerts

This summer's Back Porch Concert schedule is taking shape. The following dates have been confirmed:

June 26: Checkered Past

July 10: Rich Baumann, banjo and storyteller

July 17: Trombone Extravaganza

July 24: Old Tyme Fiddlers

July 31: The Bards

August 7: K G and the Ranger

August 14: Ice Cream Social

Other Activities

WHS Workshops

All-day Spring workshops are being of-

fered by the Wisconsin Historical Society and the Wisconsin Federation of Museums. Anyone can attend. Cost is \$25 each. Ann Waidelich will attend the May 10th and June 20th workshops. Call her for more info on the workshops or to car pool.

The workshops include:

◆ Marshfield, Saturday, April 5th: *Collaboration and Partnerships*. Tips on how to work with partners to increase audience and revenue, raise visibility and enhance exhibits and programs

◆ Old World Wisconsin, Saturday, May 10th: *Preserving Your Historic Building and Artifacts*. Basic and Advanced tracks will cover preservation of historic structures and care of historic objects

◆ Prairie du Chien, Friday, June 20th: *Exhibits and Interpretation*. Learn about planning strategies, design ideas and materials for constructing exhibits, and ideas for developing interpretive tours of historic houses.

Historic Tours of Lake Monona

Historic pontoon boat tours of the lake by Royal Gibson sponsored by the Madison School Community Recreation Department are scheduled for May 19, 9-12:30, June 24, 1:15-4:45, June 30, 5-8:30, August 26, 9-12:30, and September 27, 9-12:30. Cost is \$7. Call 204-3000 for more information and to sign up.

WHS Membership

In anticipation that you will renew your membership in HBGHS, we have enclosed a card from the Wisconsin Historical Society which recognizes any member of a local history society to be an affiliate member of WHS. Detach the short end of the card and carry it with you, because it entitles you to a 10% discount on admission to any WHS historical sites.

HISTORIC BLOOMING GROVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 6704, Monona WI 53716

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

If you haven't already renewed your membership in HBGHS for 2003, NOW is the time to do so!

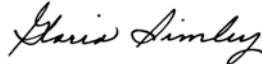
We need your support to:

- Furnish and maintain the Dean House
- Care for the Society's artifacts and records
- Continue the HBGHS organization

In return, you will:

- Know that you are helping to save an important Blooming Grove landmark
- Enjoy programs and events at the Dean House
- Have an opportunity to volunteer your time and talents
- Receive the HBGHS newsletter

THANK YOU!



Gloria Simley, President

Check is enclosed for:

_____ Contribution for Dean House restoration/maintenance

_____ \$10/yr individual membership

_____ \$15/yr family membership

_____ \$25/yr (or more) supporting membership

I will volunteer for _____ activities.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____