

HISTORY IN 3D

Stereoscopic Photographers of the Mount Horeb Area

By Arlo Paust

The Driftless Historium will unveil our new exhibit, *History in 3D* this May. When thinking about media in three dimensions, we do not usually think of the 19th century. However, as photography was developing way back in the early 19th century, the desire to capture images just



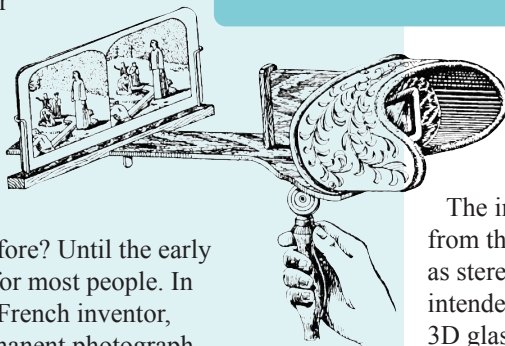
The Origins of Stereoscopic Photography

by Phoebe Salomon, Christopher Newport University student volunteer

Today's modern-day technology gives us the ability to take a picture of anything from anywhere. Can you imagine having never seen a photograph before? Until the early 1800s, that was the reality for most people. In 1826, Nicéphore Niépce, a French inventor, took the first surviving permanent photograph. Titled "View from the Window at Le Gras," Nicépce used a process he also invented called heliography, in which a metal plate was coated with asphalt, inserted into a camera obscura (an early image projection device using natural light), and exposed to the sun for several days. This was just the beginning of the history of photography.

At the same time that photography was being invented and developed, the stereograph was also growing in popularity. A stereograph consists of two nearly identical photographs or

The stereoview card above may look like the same two images are printed, but these photos were actually taken simultaneously with two separate lenses of a stereoscopic camera. When viewing these two images in a stereoviewer they have three-dimensional depth. This particular photograph shows photographer Andreas Dahl with his travelling dark room at his cousin's home in the Town of Blue Mounds, ca. 1875.



as they are seen by the human eye was already strong. Simultaneous to photography's invention, stereoscopic 3D technologies were being created as well. Read more about this in the article at left.

The images you will see in *History in 3D* have been converted from the original stereoscopic photographs—today known as stereoviews—into anaglyphs, which allow the originally intended three-dimensional images to be viewed with modern 3D glasses. In this process, the left image is made red, the right image is made cyan (blue), and they are then overlapped.

Aside from the three dimensional realism displayed in this exhibit, the images being shown are not just any old images of stereoscopic photography. They are images that document the earliest photographic records of outdoor spaces in the Mount Horeb area. Without them, our knowledge of the Mount Horeb area would lack much of its depth. Thanks to these photographers, remarkable details of village and rural life in the Mount Horeb area was documented. In particular, most of these photographs show

....continued on pg 2

CONTENTS

HISTORY IN 3D.....	PG 1	CIVIL WAR.....	PG 8	2022 MEMORIALS.....	PG 13	VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT.....	PG 16
TOWN HALL ROAD.....	PG 6	SPRING HOUSES.....	PG 10	COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT..	PG 14	MHACC AT 100.....	PG 17

continued from cover... prints that are paired together to produce the illusion of a single 3D image. The images are spaced about seven centimeters apart, roughly aligning to the spacing of the eyes. In 1838, Sir Charles Wheatstone, an English scientist and inventor, invented the first stereoscopic apparatus. Often referred to as the Wheatstone stereoscope, it used drawings that were viewed through a system of angled mirrors. From here on out, the stereoscope continued to be revisited and adapted, playing a huge role in the innovation of 3D and virtual reality technology.

In 1844, David Brewster, a British scientist, inventor, and author, took the Wheatstone stereoscope and made a few small changes, creating the lenticular or Brewster stereoscope. The Brewster stereoscope was the first portable 3D viewing device. Instead of mirrors, Brewster used prisms. The Brewster stereoscope, using photographs rather than drawings, debuted to the world at the Great Exhibition of London in 1851, and it even impressed Queen Victoria! Interest was so strong that by 1856, over half a million stereoscopes had been sold.

In 1859, Oliver Wendell Holmes, an American physician and poet, invented the American stereoscope, also known as the Holmes stereopticon. Instead of using mirrors or prisms like his predecessors, Holmes opted to create a viewer that utilized natural light. Companies began to realize the opportunities the stereoscope created, and they started sending photographers all around the world. By the late 19th century, most Americans had access to a stereoscope with the most popular stereoviews depicting engineering wonders like skyscrapers and railroads. The stereoscope also helped to usher in the first wave of tourism as people saw stereoviews of sites from Mayan ruins to Egyptian pyramids.

The Keystone View Company, one of the largest producers of stereoscopes, had a large grip on the market. The stereoscope was widely popular as a form of entertainment and education. It was affordable and “provided a stay-at-home version of international travel” according to the Rosenberg Library Museum website. The company also explored the stereoscope as an early form of classroom technology. It was especially transformative for students in rural areas, allowing them to view locations that would have been otherwise unreachable. Unfortunately, by the late 1930s to early 1940s, the concept of the stereoscope lost its glamor due to the rise of the cinema and television.

The Tru-View had already begun the transition away from stereoview cards when the View-Master



debuted at the World’s Fair in 1939. Created by William Gruber, a photographer, and Harold Graves, president of Sawyer’s Photographic Services, the View-Master was originally intended as an educational tool for adults. In 1951, Sawyer’s bought the Tru-View Company, their main rival, and obtained the rights to Disney characters, leading the View-Master to become a more popular toy for children. Although it is often considered a retro toy today, View-Masters can still be found on the shelves of your local Target or Wal-mart.

Just within the last decade, the news has been full of exciting new virtual reality innovations. Few people realize that the history of virtual reality spans as far back as 1838, when Sir Charles Wheatstone researched how the brain processes two nearly identical images that

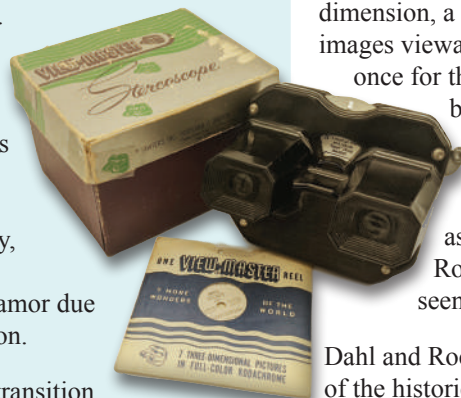
are to produce the illusion of a single 3D image. While virtual reality has advanced considerably since 1838, allowing us to wander through fictional lands or attend sporting events from the comforts of our homes, nothing would have been possible without the building blocks that are now giving us the ability to explore all the things our imaginations have to offer. *

continued from cover... Norwegian immigrant families who were in the process of transitioning to life as Americans.

Although four photographers’ works are being showcased in this exhibit, the real bulk of the photographs come mostly from Andreas Larsen Dahl and also Severin Nilson Rockstead. Both these men catered to a growing interest in landscape photography in the stereoscopic format. The reason for them working almost entirely in this format, we believe, was because stereoscopic technology was influencing the progression of photography at this time. In addition, it is understandable that depth is desirable when viewing outdoor photography. Indoor studio photography, on the other hand, remained popular in a two dimensional format.

Until now, these historical images needed to be viewed by handheld stereoviewers in order to see them in three dimension, a solitary practice. *History in 3D* makes these images viewable in three-dimension by multiple people at once for the first time. Although some of these images have been displayed before and used in publications about Wisconsin or Norwegian immigrants, this is the first time (that we know of) that these images have been showcased in three dimensions as originally intended. (In fact, in the case of the Rockstead images, these have never before been seen in three-dimensions; more on this later.)

Dahl and Rockstead both recorded the people and places of the historic Blue Mounds Norwegian Settlement that encompassed most of the Mount Horeb area. Norwegian





Above: This typical A. L. Dahl composition shows the widow Berit Knudsdatter Stugaarden with her seven children: Ragnild, Knut, Anna, Maria, Olena, Harald, and Ole. This house that once stood on Town Hall Rd was added onto in 1875. The right portion dated to 1853, their table of prized possessions. Berit's husband Harald had died in 1876 and this photo was likely taken the previous year. See pg 7 for a picture of the farmstead from a distance.

Right: A. L. Dahl's photo of the dinner table at the 1876 dedication of the East Blue Mounds church demonstrates the striking depth achievable through stereoscopic photography.

immigrants were in the process of assimilating to American society and, as was common custom, posed with some of their most prized possessions outside of their homes. This family-in-front-of-house genre of photography shows they must have been very proud of their homes, and the items chosen, to purposefully record them for posterity. Their farmsteads were seen as symbols of great achievement and prosperity.

Although neither photographer worked *exclusively* with Norwegian-American subject matter, the majority of their clientele and work was related to the Norwegian experience in the new world. Dahl's catalogue of stereoscopic views was geared specifically to Norwegian interests, listing on its first page all of the photos he had taken of Norwegian Lutheran pastors in front of their homes.

During the photographers' tenures of landscape photography work, there was still an active effort to maintain Norwegian values in America. The Norwegian settlements had their own language; churches; schools including academies, seminaries, and college; businesses; mills; holidays; doctors; and also their own photographers to document their success in their new home.

While these photos obviously record the look of people, clothing, landscapes, and buildings of the day, a little bit of research

reveals more stories of deep old-world connections and local economics. The Norwegian-Americans came from a place of generational lineage and were in the process of re-establishing their networks in America. Some families attempted to maintain this better than others, but the economics of the midwest were in an unsettled state. In this period of the 1870s-1880s, the Mount Horeb area was beginning its transition away from a mostly wheat-based agricultural foundation to one based upon dairy cattle. The west lured many and the result of these families being able to prosper here in their Norwegian-American network in the 1870s often led them to continue their westward journey to more plentiful and profitable wheat fields. Those that stayed in the area shifted to dairy, almost entirely, by 1890. This shift in economy is seen in several of the stereoviews.



The Photographers

Andreas "Andrew" Larson Dahl (1844-1923) was the most well known and prolific stereoscopic view photographer of the Mount Horeb area in the 19th century. The knowledge of his work was enhanced by an extensive collection of his negatives being donated to the Wisconsin Historical Society in 1964. Dahl's work has been lauded as an unparalleled window into not just Norwegian but also midwestern America in the 1870s.

Dahl emigrated to the United States in 1869 from the Valdres valley of Norway at the age of 25 with his mother. While his brother had been in DeForest since 1861, the Dahls had more familial connections to the Mount Horeb area and the Norwegian Blue Mounds settlement. Three of his mother's sisters, and many of his cousins (including Iver Kleven of Klevenville), were already here with their families.

....continued on pg 4

continued from pg 3... Upon arrival, his mother lived south of Mount Horeb with one of her sisters. Andreas, on the other hand, quickly took up the profession of photography, (so quickly that he may have been practicing in Norway already.) He first lived near Marshall, WI, where he attended Seminary classes until graduation in 1873. When not studying he continued his work with photography, establishing a studio space in DeForest.

Andrew travelled extensively in his wagon labelled “A. L. Dahl, Landscape Photographer” and eventually began to sell his photos in sets of collected themes. He travelled to other states, perhaps the farthest was to the World’s Fair in Philadelphia in 1876. By 1877, Dahl had a “Catalogue of Stereoscopic Views” that featured compiled collections on themes such as natural wonders, grandiose events, and Norwegian Lutheran parishes. He advertised his more than “600 different views of churches, school-houses, residences and farm sceneries in general, in the Norwegian settlements... of Wisconsin.” His work is impeccably well-composed and often times humorous, creating an enjoyable record for those who view his work. He placed himself in some images, people on roofs in others, and attempted to record the joy of life despite somewhat long exposure times. We are fortunate that he travelled the Mount Horeb area so extensively.

The end for Dahl’s photography came when he became sick (probably typhoid or diphtheria) in 1879. He swore that he would dedicate his life to God if he survived, which he did. Upon recovery, he immediately entered the Norwegian Lutheran Seminary in Madison where he became ordained in 1883. He moved north with his family to be a minister in Mt. Morris, Wisconsin. According to his daughter, he never used a camera again.



Above left: Andreas L. Dahl soon after his ordination in 1883.

Above right: Samuel N. Rockstead with his wife, car, and cat, ca. 1907.

Below: S. N. Rockstead’s photograph of the Perry Lutheran church in Daleyville at its dedication in 1882. Notice the likely 1878 tornado-mangled tree in the foreground.



from an artistic family. His father was a painter and his older brother was a prolific photographer in the Rock Prairie Norwegian Settlement and Rockford, IL. His family appears to have been well-off as two of his sisters married a doctor and a reverend, respectively, at a time when those were among the most elite professions among Norwegian-Americans.



Rockstead clearly owned a stereoscopic camera—but he did not print his images correctly. All his stereoviews from this period are printed directly from the negatives, resulting in the right and left images being inverted, creating a reverse three dimensional effect. This is known as a “pseudo stereoscopic” effect where the figures in back come forward and those in front go backward. It was an easy mistake, but in order to create the stereoscopic effect, the images

must be cut out and switched.

Despite this flaw in his printing methods, Rockstead had a good eye for striking images in his landscape work. He chose unusual compositions, often with trees in the foreground, to further display a compelling depth of field. In one case, he even appeared to stitch a narrative together by placing a mauled tree in the foreground of the newly-built Perry Lutheran church whose predecessor had been taken out by the tornado of 1878.

Around 1885, Rockstead moved to Albany, WI and continued working with stereoviews. By this time, he had figured out his mistakes and continued taking local views, in addition to commercially sold series. When he moved back to Blanchardville

Severin “Samuel” Nilson Rockstead/Rockstad (1859-1927), worked out of Blanchardville from around 1880 to 1885. He was perhaps inspired to develop a traveling “landscape photographer” stereoview business when Dahl retired in 1879, leaving a hole in the market. Born in Durand, IL, to recent Norwegian emigrants from Buskerud, Norway, Rockstead came

around 1894 he dropped the “e” in his last name, becoming “Rockstad.” He continued working as a photographer, but focused more on studio portraiture and two-dimensional outdoor photography. Rockstead was particularly entrepreneurial and pursued a variety of interests. He was Blanchardville’s policeman around the turn of the century, the first automobile owner in that village in 1905, a beekeeper, a prohibitionist, and a freshwater pearl dealer — he pursued freshwater clams in his travels throughout Wisconsin and Illinois. His wife, who likely helped with his photography, was a landscape painter and maker of hair pieces. The multi-talented and ambitious Rockstead retired from photography around 1908. He married twice but had no children.



Above: The Andrew E. and Marit Arneson family in front of their home. Photo taken by Rockstead in 1882. The composition places a tree in the foreground to create a compelling three dimensional effect.

Below: Andrew M. and Andrew O. Lee both appear in this comedic stereoview depicting early Norwegian immigrants. One is dressed as a woman and the wheels of the wagon are logs. This view, ca. 1900, has no three-dimensional effect and is simply the same photo printed twice.



In addition to the works of Dahl and Rockstead, there were other stereoscopic photographers working here in the 1870s and early 1880s, but none quite as successful in their intentions. Aside from pseudo-stereoscopes, a photographer might take two pictures in succession from slightly different angles. This works fine... as long as nothing moves, which can be difficult outdoors. Like Rockstead, they all seem to have picked up the trade after Dahl quit. One, Erik K. Gesme, a young Mount Horeb man, took several views that are now housed in the Historium collections, but all are simply the same image mounted next to one another. This creates simply a magnification of the image when viewed in a stereoviewer, with no added dimension.

After 1885, the market for stereoviews of local subjects seems to have dried up. Nationally distributed stereoviews saturated the market and these views covered a vast array of purposes

from education of ethnography, geography, and biology to fictionalized comedy and drama series entertainment. The latter serial views could be considered an expansion upon the storybook and a baby step towards film and television.

Around 1900, the next local photographers who are well-represented in our collection came along. This time it was a pair of cousins: Andrew M. Lee (1883-1920) and Andrew O. Lee (1880-1943), who lived next door to one another just outside of Mount Vernon. Stereoviews had been popular for decades at this point and the Lees embraced prevalent stereoview themes, creating views of local churches and even a comedic series of images. However, they apparently lacked a stereoview camera. Instead, they printed duplicate images side-by-side so they have, disappointingly, no dimensionality. However, we have come across three exceptions that illustrate their

ability to print images in three dimension. In these rare occasions, they may have developed a makeshift method of moving the camera slightly and taking a second picture. The Andrew Lees seemed to be quite close and even apparently exchanged negatives between one another. After their photographic experiments around

the turn of the century, both remained in the area as farmers their entire lives. Neither married or had children.

As we know, interest in three-dimensional technology has never ended. In researching for this exhibit, we learned many interesting uses for the technology such as militaristic applications for calculating heights of buildings from aerial pictures, virtual reality, and holistic optomology benefits gained from viewing stereoscopic images. From our natural depth perception, to the Wheatstone stereoscope, to the View Master, to 3D movies, to computer generated Magic Eye images, to virtual reality, to our exhibit, *History in 3D*, three-dimensional imagery lives on. *

TOWN HALL ROAD DESIGNATED

by Johnna Buysse, Wayne Hefty, & Arlo Paust

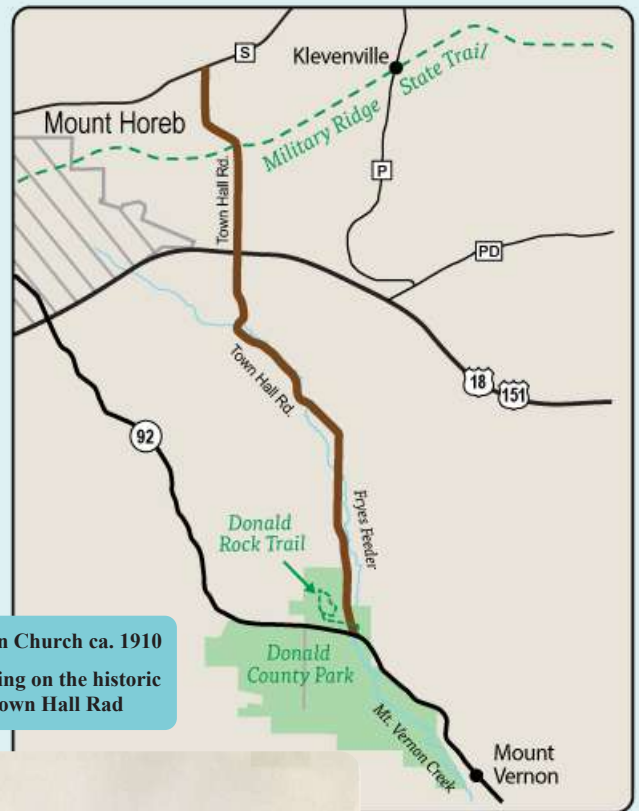


In our last issue we reported on the Springdale Town Hall. Since then, the road it sits upon, Town Hall Road, has been designated a Rustic Road by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The views of rock formations like Donald Rock, historic settlements, hardwood canopies, its crossing of the Military Ridge State Trail, and its route alongside Fries Feeder were all contributing factors to this recognition.

In large thanks to the initiative of Historium volunteer and Town of Springdale Supervisor, Wayne Hefty and detailed research by the MHAHS team, Town Hall Road is now “Rustic Road 124.” Travellers will notice the official brown, Rustic Road signage.

Stretching from WIS 92 to County S, a dramatic landscape typical of the Driftless Area—elevated ridges, steep-sided valleys, unique rock features, and winding streams through forested valleys—can be experienced in its breadth on a drive along the 4.8 mile-long Town Hall Road. Historic homes and buildings from the 1800s and 1900s line the road. Hiking along the Military Ridge State Trail or at Donald County Park, both accessible from Town Hall Road, allow a more immersive experience of the wide variety of habitats present here at the eastern edge of the Driftless region. While each of these elements is typical of the Driftless, to experience them all along one rural access road is unique.

The north end of Town Hall Road begins on the natural landmark



Top: Springdale Lutheran Church ca. 1910

Bottom: A rock outcropping on the historic Stugaarden farm along Town Hall Rd



known as Military Ridge. In this location, County Highway S follows the course of the historic Military Road, a rough traveled for millennia. This road, later developed by the US Army between 1832 and 1837, connected three important military forts—Forts Crawford, Winnebago and Howard—and improved communication and the movement of

supplies across Wisconsin Territory. Early settlers also arrived in the area from farther east via this integral roadway.

Geologically, Town Hall Road extends from this historic ridge crest all the way to the St Peter sandstone of Donald Rock below the carbonate layer. Along its way it crosses Schlappbach Creek, which has been designated a “Priority Stream” by Dane County Parks as part of the Streambank Easement Program. The Military Ridge State Trail crosses the road in this same valley. It was formerly the roadbed for the Chicago and North Western Railroad route from Madison to Lancaster, completed in 1881, and ceased operation on August 20, 1982. Within six months of its closure, the Natural Resources Board purchased



the railroad right-of-way for the creation of a recreational trail, becoming one of the first rail-to-trail projects in the nation to preserve rail corridors for public use.

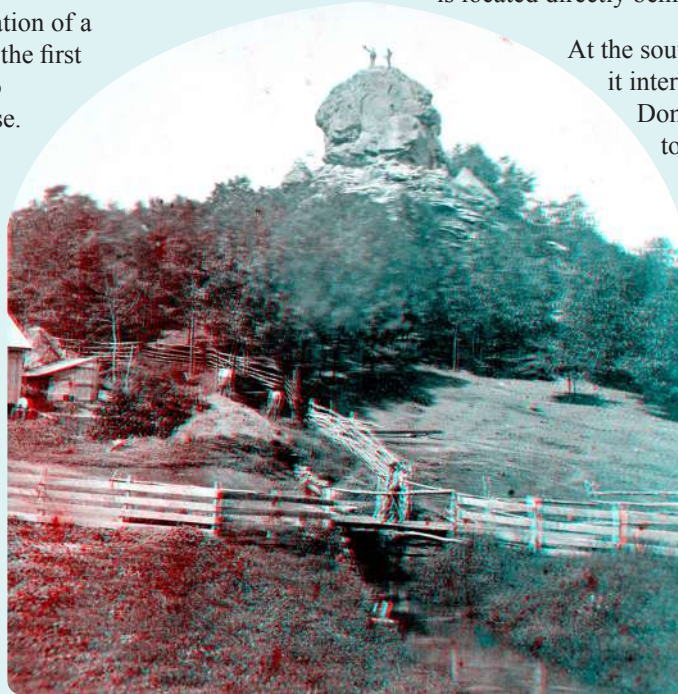
The next point of interest to the south is the vista provided from the location of the Springdale Lutheran Church, and the church itself. To the south is a sweeping view of the eastern edge of the Driftless Area where elevated hills are cut by forested valleys through which Fryes Feeder, another stream of the Upper Sugar River Watershed, drain southward.

Springdale Lutheran Church and cemetery was first erected at this location in 1861. Following Norwegian tradition, it was built on a hill overlooking the area's farmsteads. A 25-foot tower was constructed in 1877 by Norwegian immigrant and local builder Iver Kleven (namesake of the nearby community of Klevenville) and remains today. The steeple was designed by renowned Norwegian master craftsman Aslak Olsen Lie (whose original log house is being restored by nearby Folklore Village) in the 1860s, as was the altar inside the church. Due to a need for a larger church, the present church was built in 1895 by Mount Horeb builders (and Iver Kleven's sons) Knut and Gilbert Kleven. The associated cemetery is the resting place of many of the area's earliest Norwegian settlers and their families, many of whom were residents along Town Hall Road. The Dane County Historical Society erected a

historical marker for the Springdale Lutheran Church in 1988.

The Driftless Area is known to have numerous springs, of which there are many along Town Hall Road; the name "Springdale" is said to refer to the many springs that were encountered by early area settlers. The springs feed Fryes Feeder which runs alongside the road as it continues southward. Sinkholes can also be found and word has been passed through the years that a large sinkhole exists somewhere in the vicinity of the Town Hall that once swallowed a Ford tractor. Because the carbonate rocks in this area are susceptible to sinkhole and cave development, the sinkhole story is credible.

Along this stretch, the historic Springdale Town Hall stands as a noted landmark of this road. It was built in 1915 on land sectioned off from the farmland of Anton Field, a stone mason and bricklayer. He built the town hall and the deed read: "This is given for the purpose of being used for town hall purposes and if ever discontinued for that purpose, it shall revert back to the original owners. Said premises shall never be used for dancing in any form." The building is no longer used as the Town Hall, but a newer town hall, built in 1980, is located directly behind the historic structure.



At the southern culmination of the road, it intersects with County S where Donald Rock and the small outcrop to the north, both on the west side of Town Hall Road, are exposures of erosion-resistant St. Peter Sandstone that became isolated as the softer sandstone around them eroded. This rock was deposited about 450 million years ago, during the Ordovician Period of geologic time. The sand was originally transported by winds blowing across an enormous dune field that covered southern Wisconsin. Where the sand is naturally cemented, it resists erosion and forms knobs and pillars in the modern landscape.

These features are preserved in the Driftless Area, where the land surface was not overrun

by glaciers during the Pleistocene ice ages. This distinctive rock feature was an important landmark to indigenous cultures, including the Ho-Chunk. It has continued to be a landmark for area residents for generations. The valley here provided spring water for Native Americans, and later occupants, and is now a 782-acre Donald County Park.

Local lore states that Town Hall Road follows an old Native American trail that extended from thecontinued on pg 9

Above: The Stugaarden farm, ca. 1876, by A. L. Dahl
Below: Donald rock, ca. 1876, by A. L. Dahl

THE CIVIL WAR & TOWN OF BLUE MOUNDS by John Helmenstine

The Civil War was an important event in American History and in the lives of the 775,000 residents of Wisconsin at that time. Over 91,000 Wisconsin men became soldiers and more than 12,000 died for their country.

Although residing far away from the slave states and the events leading to the firing on Fort Sumter, residents of the Blue Mounds area became deeply involved in the war. Over 110 men from the Town of Blue Mounds volunteered to serve in the Union Army. Of these, nineteen men lost their lives through being killed or dying from wounds. At least seven others were wounded severely enough to be mentioned in official records. In addition, at least two men from Blue Mounds spent time in Confederate prison camps.

Blue Mounds men volunteered for both the infantry and cavalry and served in many places far from home. However, a small number of men never left the state and served their time at Camp Randall and other training sights. The collective experience of Blue Mounds



Above: Civil War Veterans of the GAR Ren Dixon Post 191 of Mount Horeb in the 1890s.

Below left: Christian Ruste, who died of disease at Battle of Island Number Ten on the Mississippi River, was part of Hans Christian Heg's Scandinavian 15th Regiment.

Below right: Private William Thousand of Blue Mounds



Christian M. Ruste. Co. E, 15th Regiment Wisconsin. Died May 2, 1862. Buried on Island number ten, State of Tennessee

men was as varied and wide as the war itself. They experienced the boredom of guard duty, the arduous effort of marching, the anticipation of action and the chaos of battle.

Eleven men from Blue Mounds served in the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry regiment, which was organized at Camp Barstow, Janesville on January 31, 1862. On the way to their assignment at St. Louis, there was a railroad accident that killed twelve, but the Blue Mounds men escaped with no injury. Detachments

of the Regiment were then constantly on the move and were involved in some 40 battles in Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas against Confederate forces. This unit also fought in Montana on May 25, followed by fighting in Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas and then back to the Cherokee Nation on October 11, 1863. George B. Balch, James Carroll, Edward P. McGill, and James H. Noble from Blue Mounds gained leadership in the 3rd Cavalry serving as sergeants. Lorenzo A. Dixon of Blue Mounds rose through the ranks to become a 1st Lieutenant before dying from wounds at Independence, Missouri.

Ten Blue Mounds men served in the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, which was organized at Fond du Lac on June 29, 1861. During their first year, they served in the upper Potomac area and in the Shenandoah Valley. Oliver A. Hegg of Blue Mounds provided leadership first as a sergeant and then as a 1st Lieutenant. In 1861 and 1862, this unit took part in the battles at 2nd Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. They were then sent to New York City to help quell draft riots. In September 1863, they were made part of the Army of the Cumberland and took part in the battle for Atlanta and in Sherman's march through Georgia. Five men from Blue Mounds were wounded but survived to be mustered out at the end of the war. They were Benjamin Cumley, Joseph Land, Jackson Land, Artis McBride, and Davis Scott.



The 11th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment with ten men from Blue Mounds was organized at Camp Randall on October 16, 1861. This unit spent their first four months in St. Louis patrolling and guarding railroads. They then took part in expeditions and

guard duty in southern Missouri and Arkansas in the winter of 1862-1863. Soon thereafter they took part in the maneuvers, battles and siege of Vicksburg, Tennessee. The 11th also took part in operations in Louisiana, Texas, and Alabama before being mustered out on September 4, 1865. The activities in Arkansas were not kind to men from Blue Mounds as Charles Anderson and Theophilus Cross died from wounds there.

The 12th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment was organized at Camp Randall on November 1, 1862, and was home to a dozen local boys. Blue Mounds men provided leadership with James E. Davidson, Sylvester Erickson, and Ole Urnes becoming sergeants and Charles Skinner serving as a corporal. The following men re-enlisted after their original tour of duty was up; Gottlieb Beiswanger, William Berkin, Noah Harmony, Cornelius Hart, John Henkle, and John Rein. Of the veterans, John Henkle was wounded and taken prisoner at Atlanta where he died in a Confederate prison, while William Krug was killed in action at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Otis Reid and Henry Rich died at Fort Riley, Kansas of disease. The unit then went on active duty at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas until May. They then became part of the Army of Tennessee taking part in the battles at Vicksburg, Atlanta, and Sherman's march through Georgia. It is claimed that the 12th Regiment marched 3,838 miles, traveled by railroad 2,506 miles, and by steamboat 3,159 miles for a total of 9,503 miles. They also took part in the Grand Review at Washington, D.C. before disbanding on August 9, 1865, at Madison.

Several Blue Mounds soldiers served in units that did not see any battlefield action—though this did not necessarily insulate them from harm, as we've learned: The 40th Wisconsin Infantry was an 1864 100-day unit; 10 men in this regiment died from

disease. The 45th Wisconsin Infantry were deployed for garrison duty in Nashville from November 8, 1864 to July 17, 1865. 34 men were lost to disease. The 46th Wisconsin Infantry were in uniform just six months, with 20 members perishing from disease.

The 49th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment contained a number of men from Blue Mounds and Iowa County. Andrew Arneson, William Helmenstein, and eight others walked from Blue Mounds to Black Earth and then took the train to Madison. The 49th was organized on February 1, 1865, at Camp Randall in Madison and served on Guard duty in Missouri until being mustered out on November 8, 1865. Total unit size was 1,009 men of whom 54 died of disease, five deserted, 134 were disabled, 16 were discharged early, and 804 mustered out.

Other men from Blue Mounds gave their lives as follows: Fritz Dagenhardt burned to death at Camp Randall; brothers Knud and Lars Dokken died at Battle of Island Number Ten along the Mississippi River; Ole Lewison was killed in action at Carrion Crow Bayou, Louisiana; Tosten Oleson died at Young's Point, Louisiana of disease; Christian Ruste died of disease at Battle of Island Number Ten; Theodore F. Woods died of disease at Fayetteville, Arkansas.

There were other Blue Mounds men that served in the Union army. After the war many returned to Blue Mounds and lived a successful life that was much more tranquil than their army experience. Others, like many Americans, moved on to places near and far. Most of the returned men joined their local chapter of the Union veteran's association, the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic). In Mount Horeb, the local GAR chapter was named for 1st Lieutenant Lorenzo "Ren" Dixon who was killed in Missouri. *

continued from pg 7... ridge, south through the valley, to the spring north of Mount Vernon, today known as Big Spring. The early and extended presence in this area, is evidenced by a group of Native American mounds that once existed along the road near the present Springdale Town Hall.

"As you drive through the little valley, you see these fine farms which have come down from generation to generation from the early pioneers." -Amelia Irene Johnson Pope

Aside from the above landmarks, the homesites along Town Hall Road are also notable. The first European settlers along the road were a group of Norwegian immigrants who had come from Muskego, WI, in 1846. These first family heads were Thosten and Guri Thompson Rue, Nils and Sigri Halvorson Grasdalen, John and Guri Berge, and Thore Thoreson and Turi Sveinsdatter Spaanem. Due to the prevalence of malaria and mosquitoes in the Muskego area, the group decided to go west in search of higher elevation. They had heard of the Blue Mounds and their new chosen home sites were selected for their proximity to pure, natural springs. The Spaanem family, often recognized as the leaders of this group, settled in Section 17 along what would become Town Hall Road. (Note: There

were Native Americans who have called this landscape home for hundreds of years still present in the valley at the time.)

The settling of these families along Town Hall Road served as a catalyst for a much larger Norwegian contingent that soon developed known as the Norwegian Blue Mounds Settlement. Thore Spaanem also wrote an article about the advantages in America that was published in a newspaper in Norway, encouraging others to come to the area.

The historic Norwegian Blue Mounds Settlement was somewhere between the eleventh and sixteenth settlement of Norwegians in the United States. Much of the land in this area of the Driftless was considered undesirable to the American-born population as it was not flat and did not look to be easily "improved" with agriculture. There were no large deposits of mineable resources discovered within its boundaries, unlike earlier settled hills at Mineral Point and Wiota, so it was settled later and more sparsely than land to the west and east, leaving government land for the Norwegian immigrants to purchase in the 1840s and 1850s.

The settlement eventually encompassed an area of over 250 square miles reaching from Black Earth ...continued on pg 13

SPRINGHOUSES AT THE EDGE OF THE DRIFTLESS

Contributed by MHAHS Member and Volunteer, Britta Johnson

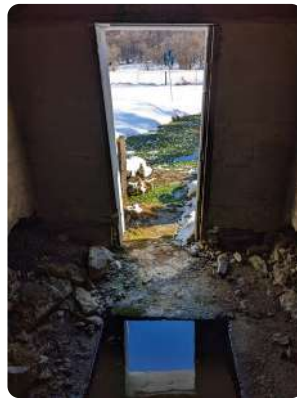
After a very snowy winter, spring is almost upon us; let's celebrate by giving attention to the history of springhouses in the Mount Horeb area. Springhouses are small structures built over, or near, natural springs that were used in the nineteenth and early twentieth century by area residents as a clean water source and to provide refrigeration for perishable items. Although springhouses were often the smallest outbuilding on a farm, they were one of the most important. It's easy to miss these small, unassuming buildings when driving by farms in the area. We hope this article encourages

you to keep your eye out for them going forward. In fact, we welcome you to share information or photos of any springhouses with which you are familiar; we know of many more that we haven't yet got a chance to visit or learn about. Let's dig in...

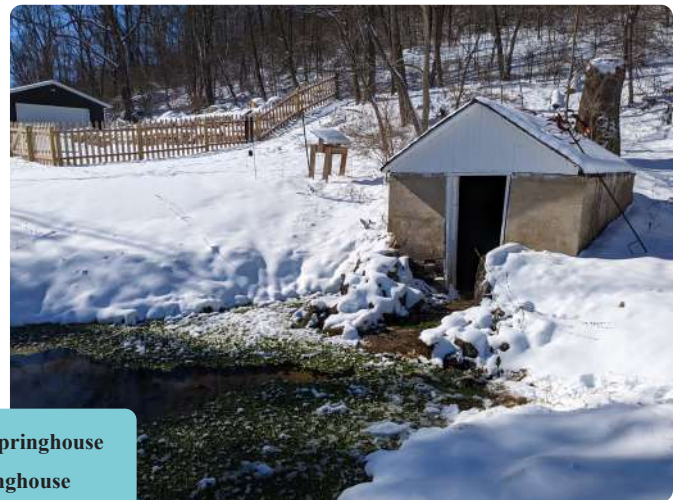
The Mount Horeb area is home to many natural springs due to our unique geology as part of the Driftless area. Springs are natural water sources that occur when groundwater intersects with land,



typically through fractures in bedrock. Springs can be found on hillsides, at the bottom of valleys, or beneath lakes and ponds. They are especially abundant in Southwestern Wisconsin—in fact, about half of all the springs in Wisconsin are in the Driftless area. Here, springs are typically found either emerging from rocky hillsides or in the valleys that cut through the region. A great resource to learn more about the science and ecological importance of



Above & Right: The Couper Springhouse
Below left: Little Norway springhouse



springs is "The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey: An Inventory of Springs in Wisconsin". (Find it on the web at <https://wgnhs.wisc.edu/pubshare/B113.pdf>)

Water sources, such as natural springs, helped determine the location of homesteads. Spring water stays the same temperature year-round, typically around 45 to 50 degrees. It provides a reliable water source, even in the coldest months when our lakes and streams freeze over. Springhouses are typically small, squat buildings made of stone that are built into a hillside or sunk into the ground a bit. The floor within the springhouse is dug out and lined with stones or concrete so the water can pool, with the protective structure shielding it from surrounding earth, leaves, and critters. Stone or wood floors were often built around the pool for easier access and to provide storage area for large items such as milk urns. For additional small-item storage such as eggs, butter and vinegar, shelves were frequently built into the side walls and hooks were attached to the ceiling to hang baskets or meat.

Once upon a time, springhouses were a common feature on area farms and homesteads situated in valleys and on hillside slopes. Today, few of these structures remain; but I, along with a motley crew of Historical Society folks, were fortunate recently to tour several in our area.

The first visit of our springhouse team was to David and Christine Couper's property in Blue Mounds. Their home, where David has lived since around 1980, was once a dairy farm and is nestled on the west side of County K. (Interestingly, part of their driveway is the original roadway.) David was our gracious tour guide on a very cold and snowy day. (Thank you David!) Here, the springhouse is about sixty feet from the farmhouse and is built into a slope, with a small pond directly in front. Getting to the springhouse involved carefully stepping on rocks protruding from the water. (In case you're wondering, none of us fell in the pond.) Near the rear floor of the springhouse is an old pipe that runs out both sides of the structure. David surmised that at one time the spring water was piped both into the farmhouse and to the barn



Above: Anderson "springhouse"

Below right: Howlett springhouse and farm



It was my first time visiting the Winner property and it is Storybook Magical. Thus, it was very appropriate that to get to the second springhouse, we quite literally went over the river and through the woods—if only there had been a horse to carry us in a sleigh through the white and drifty snow!

This "springhouse" (actually more of a refrigerator house) was built partially atop a small stream. It is thought to be associated with the Anderson farm. It is a squat building, originally built of stone that appears to have been skimmed over with mortar or cement. You can still see the original stonework peeking out in spots. Interestingly, the lower corner of the springhouse closest to the stream was open to the outside. It is not clear if this is from the structure deteriorating over time, or an intentional part of the design. Scott thinks farmers placed their milk urns in this corner to keep them cold.

I asked David if he currently uses the springhouse for storage; with a twinkle in his eye, he reported the only item he stores in there are misbehaving children.

The spring on the Couper property is still bubbling away in the springhouse; it was interesting to watch the movement of the sediment and water as fresh water bubbled up through the ground. A short video clip of the Couper spring in action can be found on the MHAHS website at <https://www.mthorebhistory.org/springhouses.html>.

The second stop on our springhouse tour was the County JG property of Scott and Jennifer Winner, which many of you no doubt fondly remember as the location of Little Norway. There are three(!) springhouses here, and we were able to see two of them.

Some of you might recognize the first springhouse we toured on the Winner property, as it was in a prominent location at Little Norway. However, it was closed to the public. I'm happy to share with you the uniqueness of that little building. Yes, there is a bell in the belltower, and I really wanted to pull the rope...but Scott advised against it and I listened. He recalled playing with his siblings in the springhouses when he was a child and reported that if you step into the water, you sink into the sediment like quicksand—yikes! He also shared a childhood memory of wanting to know how deep the springs were: he put a five foot stove pipe into the springhouse bottom, where it sunk down almost to the top of the pipe and water started shooting out of the top.

This springhouse is unique in that it is built with hand laid stone on the lower half and wood beams on the upper half. (Through my research, I've learned that wood framing wasn't typically used because over time the moisture from the spring water caused the wood to rot.) There is also a decent-sized ledge on top of the stone foundation which would have been used to hold vessels or crocks. Additionally, there is a peg with two tin cups in case you need to wet your whistle. This charming springhouse had a lot of natural light from several windows and a high, open ceiling because of the bell tower. Scott thinks the current structure was built in the 1920s. Its springs are still active; watch a video clip of it gurgling and see more photos at <https://www.mthorebhistory.org/springhouses.html>.

Many of you have probably noticed this next springhouse on Hwy 78 North between Mount Horeb and Black Earth. It is tucked behind a small pond and built into the hillside. This property is currently owned by Bethany and Eric Howlett. The day they hosted me, Eric was boiling down maple sap into syrup over an open fire in an old stone outdoor fireplace near the springhouse. Unlike the other springhouses we



visited, this one is not completely enclosed; the front and a small section on each side are open between the ceiling and the concrete foundation. (See photo.) Because the walls of the springhouse are made of stone, I think it may be possible that the springhouse was originally enclosed, and altered at some point by opening it up and adding the concrete foundation in the front. The Howletts shared an older photo of their home and springhouse seen here, and I snapped a few while I was on site.

The final springhouse we visited is on the Cates Family Cattle Farm in Spring Green. Although it is not officially in the Mount Horeb area (defined by MHAHS as bounded by the school district), I'm including it nonetheless because (1) the structure is in great shape, (2) our tour guide, Eric Cates, was an interesting and welcoming host that knew a lot

....continued on pg 12

KLIR ESTATE UNDERSCORES COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



Rose Klir, 1987 yearbook

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society is the grateful recipient of a \$17,510 bequest from the estate of Rose Klir. Rose was a longtime educator in the Mount Horeb Area School District. She “departed for the eternal classroom” as her obituary fittingly states) on May 8, 2022. Rose launched her career in 1953 as a rural school teacher of grades 1 through 8 at Erbe

School in the Town of Blue Mounds, followed by a tenure at nearby Ruste School. She ended her career in 1991, after over twenty years as a Mount Horeb Grade School fifth grade teacher—but she remained “Ms. Klir” forever to generations of her pupils, who recall a classroom ethic emphasizing the ever-important life skills of respect, discipline and good penmanship.

In addition, David and Ann Baumgartner, dear friends of and estate managers for Rose, facilitated the donation to MHAHS of her locally famous

classroom rocking chair; decades of daily journals documenting Mount Horeb comings-and-goings, weather and breaking news; and classroom materials that tell the story of Wisconsin’s close-knit and hardy rural schools.

Klir also remembered twelve other charitable organizations in her will, including the Mount Horeb Education Association Scholarship Fund, Mount Horeb Area Fire Department, Mount Horeb Landmarks Foundation, Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Association and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mount Horeb.

Rose Klir, left, at Ruste School, Blue Mounds



Be like Rose! Making a gift of estate assets can be simple to do and provides lasting support for MHAHS’s decades-strong mission of saving and sharing the unique histories of southwestern Dane County. For more information, call 608-437-6486 or email mthorebahs@gmail.com.



continued from pg 11... of history about his farm and (3) he has a super cute dog named Chunk that took a swim in the springhouse while we were there.

His farm and the surrounding area, we learned, were originally settled by Irish immigrants during the nineteenth century. An old, low stone wall they built in traditional Old Country style still remains; it runs diagonally up the hillside behind the farmhouse and was probably used as a property line marker.

The Cate’s springhouse is the largest we saw, and they have been working on reclaiming it from Mother Nature. When they first moved to the farm, the roof and sides of the building were grown over by grass and soil. Since then, they have unearthed the roof and sides of the exterior. It is built into the hillside close to the house and, like the Couper springhouse, it opens to a pond. The springhouse once also piped water into the house as you can see on the left side of the interior photo. Also in this photo,



Cates Springhouse

The Cates Farm used to be owned by the John Kraemer family. As evidenced by his initials and date carved into the mortar of the doorframe, it appears that John did some work on the springhouse in the summer of 1937.

I’ve since discovered that the spring on the Cates’ property is considered “high volume” and therefore is included in the “Inventory of Springs in Wisconsin” mentioned above. A high-volume spring has a flow rate of 112 gallons per minute or more!

There are many more springhouses in the area that I did not get a chance to visit because of this newsletter’s deadline. These little gems dot the Mount Horeb countryside, and we encourage you to keep your eye out for them. In closing, I want to thank everyone that helped me as I researched this topic. I was amazed at how many people reached out with information and/or allowed me to tour

....continued on pg 13



you will see metal hooks in the ceiling that were probably used to hang meat.

2022 MEMORIALS

Thank you to the donors who honored friends and family members by making a gift in their name to the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society. Such contributions are always bittersweet, as we reflect upon the legacy of the Mount Horeb area neighbors, alumni and steadfast supporters that they commemorate. We wish peace and comfort to those who grieve.

In memory of...

Dorothy Bergum by	Beverly Eckel Linda Gerke
Lolly Dybdahl Dickinson by	Linda Gerke
Vern Drape by	Linda Gerke
Alfred John Durtschi by	Ron & Chuck Wirth
Donna Scott Fink by	Jo Ann Six
Lyle V. Fink by	Ron Wirth
Patricia Flom by	Ron & Susan Wirth
Hazel Gladem by	Linda Gerke Ron Wirth
Marcia Greve by	Sharon Collins
Gary Huseth by	Linda Gerke
Marion Jelle by	Linda Gerke
Dorothy Johnson by	Shirley Martin Jo Ann Six
Maynard Judd by	Ron Wirth
Kevin Kelliher by	Mary Spaay
Stan Kleinert by	Mary Spaay
Rose Klir by	Mary Spaay Gary & Connie Jo Zwettler
Eilizabeth "Betty" Krantz by	Mary Spaay Ron Wirth
Russell Martin by	Shirley Martin Gary & Connie Jo Zwettler
Perry McMahan by	Ron & Sue Wirth Chuck & Mary Wirth
Don Moyer by	Linda Gerke
Russell Nelson by	Duane Moe
Harlan Oimoen by	Family of Harlan Oimoen E. Leroy Collins Beverly Eckel Linda Gerke
Betty Rosenbaum by	Shirley Martin
Audrey Scheide by	Alan & Joan Bilse Gary Einerson Saundra Hustad Jim & Marilynn Williams

Joyce Schultze by

her daughter, Susan Frank
E. Leroy Collins
Sharon Collins
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Linda Gerke
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Phyllis Murphy
Tony & Darlene Nowak
Stephanie & Mark Schneider
Sandy Shelly
Tim & Karen White
Charlotte Woolf
West Bend Mutual Insurance Co

Nancy Sutter by

Mary Spaay

Brenda Greve Thurber by

Jim & Marilynn Williams

Audrey Way by

Douglas & Gail Dahlk
Ron Wirth

Connie Zwettler by

Mary Spaay

continued from pg 12... their springhouses on cold winter days. I wish each of you a very happy spring!

On the MHAHS website at <https://www.mthorebhistory.org/springhouses.html>, you can find additional photos of the springhouses included in this article. If you have a springhouse on your Mount Horeb area property (or nearby!) or know someone who does, please let us know! Email mthorebahs@gmail.com or call 608-437-6486. *

About the author: Britta Johnson lives in rural Mount Horeb with her husband and two sons. She enjoys gardening in warm weather and books when the snow flies. Her family moved here ten years ago, and she notes a love for the community and beauty of area. Britta's passion is flowers; along with her husband, she owns Hill and Hollow Flowers—a side enterprise that keeps her hand dirty and her heart happy.

continued from pg 9... in the north, to Blanchardville and outside New Glarus in the south, and to Barneveld in the west. As it was a center of commerce within the settlement, 75% of Mount Horeb's population was of Norwegian descent in 1900. The Blue Mounds Settlement was one of the starter points for further westward migration of Norwegians in the United States.

The first Norwegian church service in the settlement was conducted on the Spaanem farm, underneath a large oak tree, in 1850. This led to the organization of the Springdale Lutheran congregation that became an epicenter for the developing Norwegian Settlement.

Between the 1840s and the early 1870s, a total of 14 homesteads were established along today's Town Hall Road. Twelve were settled by Norwegian immigrants who were founding members of the Springdale Lutheran Church. Most of these early farms are still present and visible from Town Hall Road. These features, sites,, and geological attributes are just some of the things that make Rustic Road 124 so special. Take a drive yourself and see! *

COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT: GLASS PLATE NEGATIVES by Brian Bigler

In the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society's photographic archive are located three substantial collections of glass plate negatives. These fragile pieces contain some of the most natural, every day and non-posed images that the Society cares for.

Thin glass plates, much like small sections of old fashioned window glass, were the first base used to create photographic images. In use from the 1850s to the 1920s, they were popular with both amateur and professional photographers.

There are two formats of glass plate negatives: collodion wet plate negatives (1855 – late 1880s) and gelatin dry plate negatives (late 1880s – 1920s). Both types have a light sensitive emulsion, with a binder thinly layered on one side.

Collodion wet plate negatives need to remain wet and have to be processed very quickly after exposure. This process of making photographs is complicated, inconvenient, and not very portable.



Above: Glass negative boxes from various collections and a negative from the Webber collection

Left: Young women pose on the new water tower, taken by Nels C. Evans.

Right: an unknown farm family pose in their informal best, taken by Alva Webber

Opposite: Albert N. Thorhaug in his studio and a photo taken by him.

Dry plate negatives eventually became the norm and were mass produced for a ready consuming market. The 1897 Sears Roebuck catalogue offered

both cameras and dry plate negatives in a wide range of sizes and prices, as well as bromide paper for use in developing contact prints. The catalogue also featured a large section devoted to equipment for developing photographs.

The MHAHS collection of glass negatives are mostly from three photographers: Albert N. Thorhaug, Alva Webber, and Dr. N.C. Evans. All of their images were produced between roughly 1895 and 1905.

Albert N. Thorhaug treated his dabbling with photography in a professional manner. Around 1900 he established a photography studio in his Blue Mounds residence and offered his services to the public. Besides portrait poses, Albert had a

fascination with the rural landscape in the Blue Mounds and Daleyville areas and created images of farmsteads and homes, as well as farmers riding their horse-drawn equipment.

Evans, who was a local doctor and pharmacist in Mount Horeb, focused on structures, children, and individuals mostly in the immediate downtown area where he lived and worked. Photographing around 1904, Evans captured some of the earliest views

of North Second Street and its stately Victorian era homes. He also produced the

earliest known image of the Mount Horeb Hospital shortly after its construction. He had an eye for the whimsical as shown by posing a group of children holding a funeral for a rat and a group of women in their finest clothing on the stair rungs of the newly constructed water tower.

Alva Webber grew up in rural Mount Vernon and by 1899 established a bicycle shop on Mount Horeb's Main Street. Webber's images focus on both the downtown area of Mount Horeb and on rural farmers, family and friends. These are some of the most candid and rare images in the MHAHS collections.





An April 24, 1899 notice in the *Mount Horeb Times* Newspaper states: "A. L. Webber, our amatur photographer, took a trip with his bicycle and camera through Primrose last week, where he secured some very pretty views, among which are some excellent pictures of the ruins of the Tasher cheese factory, the Mount Vernon rocks, and the rock on the McCord place."

On these outings he asked a couple to pause from their chores in their farmyard wearing dirty and torn clothing. Another



shows a woman bent over washing milk cans in her yard. The rare interior shots show a joyous baby sitting in a basin taking an evening bath, while another has two women mourning the loss of a loved one in the Mount Horeb Union Cemetery.

Most of these images, along with others in smaller collections, have been made into prints that are available for viewing by appointment at the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society. Call 608-437-6486 for more info *

FREE EVENT ALL WELCOME

CELEBRATE NATIVE ARTS & CULTURE

A collaboration of the
Driftless Historium and
Little Eagle Arts
Foundation (LEAF).

Featuring Ho-Chunk
music, dance & cultural
presentation. FREE
friendship bracelet
activity all weekend.

Detailed Event Info
www.mthorebhistory.org

Photo Credit: Ron Lutz II



5TH ANNUAL NATIVE ART MARKETPLACE

DRIFTLESS HISTORIUM

100 South 2nd Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
(608)437-6486

JUNE 3 & 4, 2023
SAT 10 AM - 5 PM
SUN 10 AM - 4 PM

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT JOHN PARÉ



Museum tip from the Director: Recruit volunteers who are military veterans* and former history

educators**, who are retired, respected local principals*** and have excellent rapport with the general public.

**they keep spaces organized and clutter-free, are even-tempered, no-nonsense and reliable.*

***who preferably maintain an appreciation for the subject matter; and are willing to contribute an engaging newsletter article here and there.*

****they know so many people!!*

And good luck finding one. I've been in the business for years, and have only run across one: John Paré.

MHAHS and the Driftless Historium are fortunate to have included John on our volunteer roster for many years, in many different capacities, holding steady while the organization evolved around him. Currently, his most conspicuous role is Every Monday Morning Man. As such, John is a top-notch, front-facing representative who manages to find a connection point with almost any visitor who walks in the front door.

Thank you, John, for sharing your wit and warmth, fascinating life stories and judicious perspective, time and many talents! We can't imagine our team without you.

Write your "own" job description of what you do here at the Society:

1. I volunteer every Monday morning at the front desk. I turn on the lights, count the cash and

straighten the counters if they need attention after the weekend. At 10 a.m. I open the doors, put up the flag and get ready to greet visitors.

2. Every week when I get the Mount Horeb Mail at home I clip the obituaries, make copies, bring them to the archive & add them to our alphabetical file for easy retrieval.

3. On occasion I fill in for volunteers who call in sick or otherwise can't make their shift.

4. EDIT: Mr. Paré is neglecting to mention his no-nonsense tenure on the MHAHS Board of Directors, and his service on the former Membership Committee.

How long have I volunteered for the Society: I retired in 2004 and I think I started volunteering around 2007. Sixteen years?



What is your favorite part of volunteering?:

I love greeting people with a welcoming smile. If they appear friendly, I talk to them. Anyone who knows me knows I can talk forever. I ask visitors where they are from. I ask veterans when they get their free ticket about their military service and I tell them about mine.

Who or what got me interested: Laurie Boyden who ran the Museum at the time asked me if I would like to volunteer and the rest is history. Thank you, Laurie.

Tell us about your family: I was born and lived in central Massachusetts until I was nine. I had four siblings, one of whom was my twin sister. We moved to Bermuda in

1952 and I graduated from high school there in 1960. I went into the USMC for three years and came to Wisconsin when my enlistment was up to live with my sister and her family in Milwaukee

for two years until I got married. I have three adult (middle-aged) children and five grandchildren. The three families live in Cambridge, Waunakee, and Mount Horeb.

Tell us about your education and vocational background:

I got my B.S from UW-Milwaukee (International Relations-1968), my M.A. (Latin American Studies-1969) and



Top left: John Paré today

Top right: John as a child with his mother and twin sister.

Middle: John aboard a USAF.

Left: Grade school John.

Below: 4-year-old John.



M.S. (Curriculum and Instruction- 1974) from UW- Madison. I've taught high school students, trained high school social studies teachers at UW, was a high school principal at three high schools and in the middle of all that I was a stock broker with E.F. Hutton & Merrill Lynch for eight years. Also, from 1974-1995 I was a U.S. Navy Reserve Intelligence Officer retiring as a Captain in Spring, 1995 when I was hired as the Principal at Mt. Horeb High School. The nuns always taught me "a busy boy is a good boy."

Why is the Mount Horeb area the best place on earth?: I can't say Mount Horeb is the "*best* place on earth." For a guy who grew up in Bermuda, has travelled in all fifty states and visited thirty-one countries and several affiliated islands and territories, I *can* say it's a *wonderful* place to live. I have lived here for twenty years and I own a cemetery plot here which should tell you something about how long I plan to live here. *

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY, MOUNT HOREB AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE!

This year marks the centennial anniversary of the founding of the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce. Showing April 7 through June 6 in the Kalscheur Family Foundation Community Gallery, "MHACC @ 100: The Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce Celebrates a Century of Good Works!" commemorates this milestone.

In 1923, a group of professional and business men organized what was then known as the Mt. Horeb Advancement Association to, as they stated, "promote the general welfare of Mt. Horeb and the Community." ("Community" in this case included not only Village residents, but the surrounding rural population as well.)

One hundred years later, the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce continues to promote the Village and its environs, our heritage and businesses.

This exhibit brings decades of organizational history to life with original artifacts, documents and a plethora of photographs.

Join us on Monday, April 24, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., for an exhibit reception and open house.

Mingle with Society Members and supporters, Chamber representatives and other Village neighbors—and have a slice of 100th birthday cake! At 6:00 p.m., local historian Brian Bigler will present a short program: "The Many Faces of Mount Horeb: MHACC Promotion and PR." All are welcome; reservations not required. Call 608-437-6486 or email mthorebahs@gmail.com for more information. *



Members of the Chamber of Commerce pose with the key for "Mt. Horeb: The Portal to Wonderland," 1964.



MHAHS is 2023 Nonprofit of the Year!

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society was recognized as 2023's Non Profit of the Year by the Mount Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce at their March 2nd Annual Awards Dinner.

Director Destinee Udelhoven (right) accepted the award on behalf of MHAHS from presenter and representative for 2022's winner Mount Horeb Veterans Memorial Association, Rebecca Turner (left).

Congratulations are extended to this year's other winners: Helwig Auto was awarded Business of the Year, and community champion Amy Mertz was the deserving recipient of the George Sievers Award. *



Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

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2023 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT ARTISTS

The Mount Horeb Area Historical Society and the Mount Horeb High School Art Department are once again partnering to celebrate the talent of area youth with the fourth annual "Student Spotlight" initiative. This program provides an opportunity for young artists to gain experience producing and promoting a public art installation in a professional setting, which includes managing a budget for art supplies, reception supplies and marketing.

MHHS Seniors Jenna Clark and Madison Conroy were selected by Committee to serve as 2023's featured artists. Their applications both highlighted the cathartic power of making art, with each including an example of how the creative process helped them confront and process personal challenges. In addition, Jenna and Madison both detailed their intentions to carry art forward post-graduation as a formal course of study (Madison plans to pursue a degree in art education, Jenna is contemplating a focus on psychology or art) and as a continued creative and emotional outlet.

Their show (title pending) will debut Saturday, June 10, in the Driftless Historium Community Gallery and be viewable through Tuesday, July 18. Meet the artists at a reception and open house on Sunday, June 11, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Funding for this community outreach initiative is provided by the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society, and made possible by our Members and donors. For more information, call 608-437-6486 or email mthorebahs@gmail.com.



Jenna Clark and Madison Conroy