

Postcard from the Field

Southern Region

One of the great joys of being a field service representative is getting to visit and see first-hand some of Wisconsin's historic sites, societies and museums. Such a privilege came on October 30, when I drove with Kristen Clausen on a beautiful fall day to Tipplesaukee, otherwise known as the John Coumbe Farmstead, in Richland County. Kristen works as an assistant to the current owner, Mary Moffat. There I met Bruce Moffat, Mary's son, who lives in Madison. Together we discussed the farm's history and its possible future.

The farm was settled by Coumbe, the county's first white settler, in the mid-1830s. It has since been listed on the National Register. More importantly it has remained in family ownership to this day. Because of the continuity of ownership many original furnishings, all

the outbuildings, and even the original field patterns have remained intact. The retention of the decorative materials, family papers, cultural landscape and archaeological resources present a rare opportunity for scholarly research. The current owners are well aware of the educational value of the property, its holdings, and associated lands, and are planning to form a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization to own and preserve the farm. They also hope to establish a "cultural field station" where students and scholars can take full advantage of these materials for educational purposes. The educational potential of the farmstead was proven when the current owners sponsored a two-day symposium on the farm's history. Because of events and discoveries like this, site visits are a favorite part of the job.

—Rick Bernstein



This article and picture is reproduced with permission of *Columns* which is the Wisconsin Historical Society newsletter. It appeared on page 6 of the Jan/Feb edition and fits in nicely with the feature article on our front page. *Columns* can be accessed on their webpage wisconsinhistory.org which has wonderful information. Do consider becoming a member receiving both *Columns* and *Wisconsin Magazine of History* along with other benefits offered by the Society.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am excited to be writing this brief item for the very first ever issue of THE AKEY BrAKEY News of the Richland County Historical Society. We intend to publish twice each year, once in the Spring prior to opening the Akey School Museum and then in the Fall after the Museum has closed. In our newsletter we intend to promote Richland County's History. I hope you enjoy this issue. Comments are welcome, please send them to me at 29448 Pronold Drive, Richland Center, 5358

Jerry Bower

The Akey School Museum is located off Hwy 14 about four miles south of Twin Bluffs on Cty TB between Richland Center & Gotham or four miles north on Cty TB off of Hwy 60, one mile west of Gotham. It is open during the summer months from June through September on Sundays from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Consider a "DAY TRIP" to ...

In a section of each newsletter we would like to devote to an area historical site to go on a "Day Trip" adventure and enjoy locations in Southwest Wisconsin. In this issue we would like to feature:



Come & Explore inside Wisconsin's largest onyx cave. Guided cave tours are available Memorial Day through Labor Day: Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. and the last tour is at 5 p.m. The tour lasts approximately one hour. The cave is a constant 52 degrees all year long, so bring a jacket or sweater to keep warm. It's perfect for those hot summer days. Camping, canoeing, and an exploratory program are available. Eagle Cave is located two miles North off Hwy 60 on Eagle Cave Road; three miles East of Blue River or six miles west of the junction of Hwy 60 & Hwy 80 into Muscoda.



The Richland County Historical Society has nominated IN AGES PAST, by Marilyn Rinehart, for the Wisconsin Historical Society/Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Genealogy/Family History Award. The entries will be judged during the summer and awards will be presented in the Fall.

Richland County Historical Society WEBSITE

CHECK OUT our fall newsletter for information about our planned WEBSITE. Board member Barb Pauls is looking into creating a Richland County Historical Society WEBSITE with the possibilities of posting our Bi-annual Newsletter and Akey School Museum information, as well as local history. If you have pictures of one room school's get in touch with Barb by mail or sending the information to her e-mail bpauls@countryrspeed.com

In memoriam...

The Richland County Historical Society would like to recognize **Harold W. Pauls** for his dedication, contributions, and commitment to preserving, supporting and promoting the Akey School. We feel it is only fitting that he should be recognized in this the first edition of "The AKEY BrAKEY News".



The following excerpt was taken from his obituary.

Harold W. Pauls of Lone Rock passed away on Wednesday, July 30, 2008. He was born on February 1, 1925 on the Twin Bluffs family farm on which he lived his entire life. He was the son of Christopher and Della (Jacobson) Pauls. Harold was married on July 17, 1976 to the former Barbara Beck. He taught school for 12 years at the Pulaski Grade School and 23 years in the River Valley School District. Harold enjoyed working on his farm, dancing especially the polka, playing cards, cooking and riding his moped. Most of all, Harold relished spending time with family and friends. He was a member of the Masons, the UW-Richland Alumni Board, the Richland County Historical Society Board, the Richland Area Retired Education Association, the Richland Coin Club, the Backroad Express Riders and the Gotham Lions Club. He was a proud member of the committee that founded the Akey School Museum. Harold also appreciated a good celebration and a good joke. We will miss his buoyant nature and sense of humor.

SUMMER / FALL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Information accessed from the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce www.richlandchamber.com/events

- June 7 – Akey School Museum opens
- 14 Richland County Dairy Breakfast
- 19 – 21 Wisconsin High School Rodeo
- 20 June Dairy Days Parade
- 25 – 27 Star Spangled Celebration
- July 5 – Richland Center Independence Day Celebration
- 25 – Churning Dirt Nationals
- August 14 – 15 Walk with GRACE
- September 9 – 13 Richland County Fair
- October 2 – 4 Center Color Fiesta
- 3 – Canyon of Lights Parade