

For these 52 episodes of HISTORY MOMENTS over this past year it has been truly enjoyable. On behalf of the Richland County Historical Society Board of Directors All the Best in the new year 2023 and may the promotion of history throughout the Richland County area be shared !

52 – week 5 of December 2022 – The FINAL installment for the calendar year 2022

Fifty years ago to close out the year 1972 an uncommon warm spell hit the area ... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → a newspaper clipping published in the Richland Observer, 4th of Jan 1973

There was a picture of a woman crossing the street with an umbrella in her left hand and a purse over her right shoulder. The picture is taken from the intersection of Central Avenue looking southwest down Court Street.

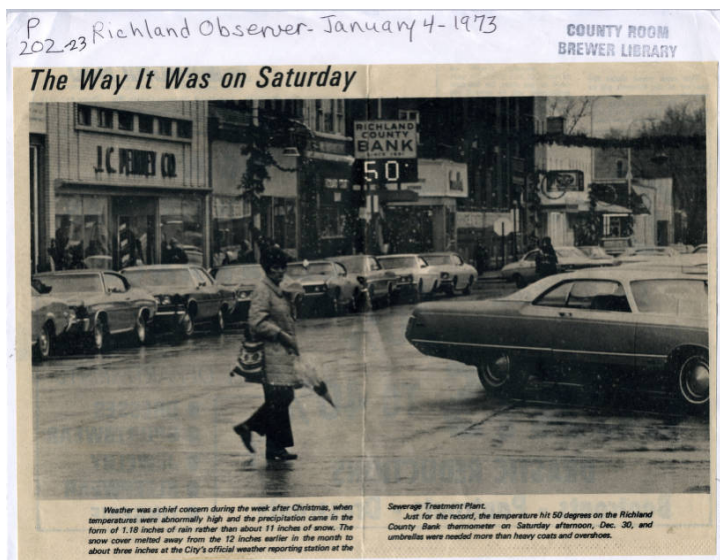
Clearly in view was the J. C. Penney Company store front and further down across the intersection You could make out the Gambles signage.

The vintage Richland County Bank lighted sign on the corner of the building had the thermometer at the bottom noting the temperature of 50 degrees lighted up clearly.

Lots of automobiles, mostly two door vinyl tops, were parked tightly along the south side of Court street in front of those buildings and angle parking on the north side near what would have been the Schultz Brothers store.

Christmas decorations were still up along the street, but there was no snow to be seen on neither the street surface nor the sidewalk.

The headline read: "The Way It Was on Saturday"



Weather was a chief concern during the week after Christmas in 1972 when temperatures were abnormally high and the precipitation came in the form of 1 point 18 inches of rain rather than what could have been about 11 inches of snow.

The snow cover had melted away from what was 12 inches earlier in the month to then only about three inches at the City's official weather reporting station at the Sewerage Treatment Plant in Richland Center.

Just for the record, the temperature did hit 50 degrees as was pictured on the Richland

<https://content.mpl.org/digital/collection/rchr/id/3094/rec/411>

County Bank thermometer on that Saturday afternoon, Dec. 30th 1972, and umbrellas were needed more than heavy coats and overshoes.

51 – week 4 of December 2022

*“Christmas in the Valley was always a time of joy and beauty.” is the opening line to chapter 2 page 7 of stories about the Fry family near Neptune Richland County, Wisc
... and now for a Richland County Historical Society “HISTORY MOMENT”*

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → Beyond the Valley is a paperback book by Darrel Fry in a second printing by the Richland Center Shopping News August of 1981 is available at the Brewer Library on the Second floor Richland County History Room for 1 \$.

Predominantly written with a religious context in this book it is these excerpts that provide a truly holiday feel from his writings.

There were no evergreen trees growing on the hillsides of our farm, but somehow there would be a tree show up around christmas time.

... it was just the right fixture to hang the attractive handmade ornaments on and to lay a few packages under. There were no electric lights

Were we poor? I am sure there were times when there was very little money, but if we were poor we sure didn't know it. Homemade presents, home-grown food, homemade music and entertainment and a home-grown family are all security and riches that money can't buy.

Sleigh Riding was the most popular winter sport. The hills were just right, the Wisconsin snows had them well paved with white fluff and we went sliding down on boards, pieces of tin as a homemade sled and a few other objects. No Hi-flier sleds or modern snowmobiles but we had good fun.

Continuing on Page 8

Wisconsin Winters are associated with heavy snow. Sled and Toboggan trails were on the hillsides near every home where there were young folks. Fun in the cold and snow contributed to the joy of Christmas, and there was a two week vacation from school

I never knew an Ebenezer Scrooge. We were somewhat sheltered from the harsh realities of life. Christmas in the valley was for real, Giving gifts and gifts received, homemade music family togetherness and neighborhood friendliness – ***And to All a Very Merry Christmas !
May your family memories be as joyous and your holiday stories be truly memorable !!***

50 – week 3 of December 2022

Travel Back in Time to Bloom City located in north central Richland County

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

As it is covered in the U S GEN WEB dot INFO

The town of Bloom is one of the townships that was included in the town of Marshall when the latter was erected, and in the congressional survey it is described as town 12 north, of range 1 west. Bloom was organized in 1856

The town of Bloom enjoys the distinction of being one of the best agricultural towns in Richland county. Its soil is especially adapted to diversified farming, fruit growing and truck gardening, in which pursuits, combined with stock-raising, the intelligent and industrious farmers have met with phenomenal success.

According to → [re collection wisconsin dot .org](http://re-collection.wisconsin-dot.org)

A 1906 history of Richland County tells us,

“Bloom City, formerly called Spring Valley, is quite an important gathering place for the people of the town.

There is perhaps nothing in its annals of any great historical importance, other than the fact of its existence, which statement is equally true of its business rival, West Lima, just a few miles away. In each place there are several energetic and enterprising business establishments, and schools are carried on to a high degree of excellence.”

There’s something about this description that’s just so right about so many small towns and cities, villages and townships from a certain time, across the state.

In Margaret Helen Scott’s book The Place Names of Richland County, Wisconsin – *Bloom City is the only place in the county that had four names.*

From 1855 to 1883 the little post office was known as West Branch (meaning the west branch of the Pine River).

In 1883, the government changed the name to “Bon”, which was never popular, especially with those who preferred Spring Valley because of the springs there.

In 1887 J. W. Renick was given the task of drawing up papers for the changing of the name.

Spring Valley was not accepted by the government as there was already another Spring Valley in Wisconsin.

The government then accepted Bloom City.

49 – week 2 of December 2022

The 1972 to 1974 Richland Campus General Catalog

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → Volume 4 Number 1 General Catalog of what would become the University of Wisconsin Center - Richland formerly known as the Wisconsin State University Platteville - Richland

The 1971-72 calendar was printed but the 1972-73 year was being revised and not yet in print for the catalog . For copies of the University calendar needing to contact the Office of the Associate Dean

Established in 1967 the Richland Campus was Accredited by The North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools

On September 5th, 1967 was the Opening of First Semester. January 22nd, 1968 the Building program completed. Then on April 25th , 1968 there was a Formal Dedication.

The Richland Campus, of the Wisconsin State University-Platteville, has been established in Richland Center to provide low-cost higher education to qualified area students.

The purpose of this campus is to provide a high quality educational program for all serious students capable of learning at a collegiate level. To implement this purpose the campus will provide a wide variety of learning experiences appropriate for students of various interests and aptitudes. A secondary purpose of the Richland Campus is to offer programs of adult education and community service.

The campus faculty was made up of many who began in 1967 and 1968 when the campus first opened numbering 33 plus instructors Notably Marjorie Wallace as Associate Dean and including such names as Schriver and Meadows Krekus and Koelsch Hirschy Hall and Deckert Bower Black more and Birkett and finally Velma Allen as Library Director

Courses of study include the first two years of a four-year program in ARTS and SCIENCES, ELEMENTARY and SECONDARY EDUCATION, and pre-professional programs in the following fields: Agriculture Business Administration Chiropractic Commerce Conservation Dentistry Engineering Medicine Wild Life Management Forestry Industrial Technology Journalism Law Medical Technology Mortuary Science Nursing Optometry Osteopathy Pharmacy Veterinary Medicine

The Richland Campus, Wisconsin State University-P offers a wide choice of extracurricular activities in the form of professional and social groups, athletics, dramatic and music organizations, literary groups, service and religious groups, lectures by outstanding persons, concerts and other programs of cultural value

In 1972 the Richland Campus was also well known for their mens basketball team as they would go on to receive national recognition for their defensive prowess.

48 – week 1 of December 2022

There is a Woodstock in Richland County Wisconsin !

*... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY
MOMENT" Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → Place names of Richland County by Margaret Helen Scott on pages 51 & 48 & 27

Why Woodstock well in Henrietta township because the Syresville post office was off the main route so it was then moved in 1855 some two miles or so.

Some believe it was named for Woodstock England yet others claim the name was assigned by the government.

Syresville is the little hamlet platted by Alexander Sires who came from Indiana in 1854. The town faded when the post office was moved but the name still clings to this little community.

The town of Henrietta was the first name of the second daughter of James Laws of the Laws Ferry era . Laws was an early settler who operated a ferry from then Richland City across the Wisconsin River south to near what is now Avoca in Iowa County.

Henrietta Law gained popularity as a teacher and later lived in Richland Center as the wife of Reverend L . Leonard

The town of Henrietta was originally well supplied with timber and was one of the finest hunting grounds in Richland County. Desirable trading points extended from Hub City to Yuba and to the west was the village of Woodstock with each of these communities sustaining excellent farming land.

In 1875, B. F. Snook, the state missionary of the Universalist Faith, came to Woodstock and delivered a course of five lectures in the Methodist Episcopal Church. All this information according to the 1906 U. S. gen web in chapter 19 of genealogy trails

A Dunkard or German Baptist Society as it was known organized in the vicinity of Woodstock in 1878. Meetings were also held once a month in Rockbridge and once a month in the town of Bloom.

Other denominations included Second Adcventist, Normans School, a Sabbath School, United Brethren, Wesleyan Methodist and also Catholics.

The Union school district of Woodstock was also covered . The first school in the present village of Woodstock was taught by Julia Satterlee.

In the fall of 1859 a petition was circulated which was presented to the legislature asking that the Woodstock district and part of the town of Bloom be organized together.

The prayer was then granted and the organization of the new district was effected.

47 – week 4 of November 2022

A THANKSGIVING WEEKEND SPECIAL – It was #3 Wisconsin vs #5 Minnesota for the Big Ten Football Championship November 24th 1962

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

What is the area connection to the 1962 Wisconsin Football team You Ask ?

Well it is the Emeritus Dean of the Richland Campus Dion Kempthorne and he still remains a Richland County resident even today.

Dion was the starting guard and linebacker for the Badgers in 1962

This excerpt is nationally sourced – According to → a Sports Illustrated article December 1962

There was no doubt about the final score 14 to 9 or the winner Wisconsin ... what no one may ever find out is what exactly happened or did not happen during the bizarre and decisive closing moments of the game as the Badgers came from behind to beat Minnesota and establish themselves as one of three top college teams in the country.

It was number three Wisconsin versus number five Minnesota in the Big Ten championship game.

Late in the fourth period Wisconsin trailing 9 to 7 took possession of the ball on its own 20 yard line with 80 yards from the distant goal line and only 3:54 left to play After an incomplete pass followed by 3 completed passes to All-American end Pat Richter from Quarterback Ron Vander Kelen that put the ball on Minnesota's 43 yard line

but only two and a half minutes were left. Then came the play Dropping back to pass again Vander Kelen was this time rushed by Bob Bell of Minnesota came crashing into the quarterback as he flipped a feeble, wobbly pass that was snatched out of the air by Minnesota linebacker Jack Perkovich. But a red flag was flung to the ground and roughing the passer was called; the interception was void and Wisconsin was given the ball on the Minnesota 38. That was followed by another 15 yard penalty for unsportsmanlike remarks from the Minnesota side lines. Now a mere 13 yard now to the goal line Wisconsin had little trouble scoring the touchdown and the victory.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THERE WERE SOME DRAMATICS UNTIL THE FINAL SECONDS TICKED OFF THE CLOCK AS WISCONSIN PRESERVED THE VICTORY.

Much was said in the commentaries after the game.

Last September two months ago neither school figured to make much of a ripple this year; a game between Wisconsin and Minnesota had proved to be two of the best teams in the county in 1962. The article also included a reflection of a Thanksgiving eve practice in which Wisconsin superficially at least did not look like then what could be a national champion.

Wisconsin would go on to finish number two in the county losing a historic 42 to 37 Rose Bowl in January that was Nationally televised. *The Wisconsin State Journal featured 10 years ago in their sports section Dion Kempthorne story as he reflected on that memorable 1962 season.*

The article in its entirety is the insert section of last month's October issue of the AKEY BRAKEY News

46 – week 3 of November 2022

The Wild Turkey in Early Wisconsin by A. W. Shorger September 1942

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → S O R A dot U N M dot E D U Volume 54 Number 3 pages 175 to 180

In spite of the early establishment of Fort Winnebago at Portage there is no definite statement of the occurrence of the turkey in Wisconsin. Mrs. John H. Kinzie who came to reside at the fort in 1831 mentions that the Indians used the feathers of the wild turkey as ornaments in their hair. These features might have been by trade or brought from a distance ... The surveyor William H. Caufield came to Sauk County in 1842 ... He had been interested in natural history and in his list of the birds of that county he states that the wild turkey occurred formerly. The adjacent county of Richland had large numbers of Turkeys ... Judge James H. Miner mentions that when the towns of Willow and Richwood were first settled both deer and turkeys were exceedingly plentiful

and furnished the principal meat supply of the early settlers.

Mr. Aldo Leopold was informed by George Johnson the district game warden of Richland Center that he had discussed frequently the early status of the game in this county with the Winnebago Indian named Good Bear. ... Good Bear stated that he had killed turkeys along the Pine River presumably while he was just a young man.

The notable traveler H. R. Schoolcraft was in Prairie du Chien of Crawford County in 1820 and recorded the turkey as being common along this part of the Mississippi River area.

An army officer stationed at Prairie du Chien wrote on August 23rd of 1847 quote "Turkey and deer are of plenty in these woods ' end quote

... It is possible that beech nuts of which turkeys are very fond combined with the succession of mild winters may have told the birds to migrate further north ...

The highest density of turkey population occurred undoubtedly in southwestern Wisconsin in the county of Grant . At that time flocks numbering in groups of ten to forty birds were to be seen by going a short distance into the timbers. As late as 1856 wild turkeys sold for as little as twenty five cents a piece in the streets of Lancaster.

The turkey was almost extinct though in Wisconsin by 19860. The near extinction of the wild turkey is stated succinctly by Dr. E. B. Wolcott who told that turkeys were abundant prior to the harsh winter of 1842-1843 there after experiencing a steady decline ...

Finally in 1887 there were recent attempts to RE introduce the wild turkeys to this area

This research summary was written nearly 150 years ago

now just as it has occurred again in Richland County some twenty years ago

45 – week 2 of November 2022

A tribute to honor the works of Mariel Kepler for Veterans Day Weekend

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → Channel 3000 dot com posted on January 13th 2015

Mariel Kepler, age 89, of Richland Center, passed away on Monday at Pine Valley Healthcare, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Mariel Marie Beeman was born on March 18, 1925, at home on the Beeman Farm in Akan Township in Richland County. She graduated from Richland Center High School in 1944. While employed at Pure Oil, she met Downing R. Kepler of Marshall Township who had recently returned from having served in the China-Burma-India Theater of WWII. On October 18, 1947, they married at Park Street Christian Church, officiated by her uncle, Rev. Alva Beeman.

Through the following years, Mariel worked at Probation and Parole, Sears Roebuck, was Deputy Register of Deeds, and was a secretary at Richland County Teachers College and Richland County Extension. In her delight in working with children of all ages, Mariel served 26 years as a 4-H leader for the Brush Creek Knowledge Seekers and Fancy Creek 4-H clubs, also helping to organize a Richland Center City 4-H club, The Richland Rangers.

In recognition of her community service and volunteer work over the years, Mariel was presented with the Richland County Honorary Senior Award at the Richland County Fair in 2005.

At a very young age, a love of history, a sense of patriotism, and a respect for the military service men and women was instilled in Mariel. In her high school years during WWII, she scrapbooked every local newspaper article of Richland County persons serving in the war. Those scrapbooks were preserved and at the urging of her husband, Downing, she organized her scrapbooks into a large hard-bound book, World War II – News of Our Men and Women in Service. That book was accepted into the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. in 2004. A dream of Mariel's began to materialize for a Richland County Veterans Memorial. She was chairman of the research committee with the task of verifying over 8,000 names of veterans to be inscribed on the memorial. And her final contribution to the Memorial project was creating a large veterans quilt to be auctioned as a fund-raiser.

It is regrettable that Mariel was not present for the final dedication of the Richland County Veterans Honor Roll six months later in June, 2015.

44 – week 1 of November 2022

*EARLY POLITICAL PARTIES in Richland County – Elections Nationally and in the state
... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"*

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → the 1906 U S gen web Chapter 7

Richland County was organized in 1850 at a time when public sentiment was rapidly crystallizing and lines were being sharply drawn upon the great issue of slavery extension. ... Nationally in 1854, when a fusion between the Free-Soilers and Know-Nothings was made, and both elements combined under the name of Republican. ... In 1855, at the November election for governor, Coles Bashford carried the county and the Republican ticket was elected.

After the election of 1852, the very name and machinery of the Whig party nationally had passed out of existence and practically all elements united in opposition were to the Democrats. In 1856, Richland county gave a heavy vote for the Republican ticket, John C. Fremont for President. The contest of 1860, Richland County largely increased the Republican vote and gave to Mr. Lincoln a large majority.

Since the Civil war period, thru the early 1900's, Richland County has been reliably Republican, and the only question has been in regard to the size of the majority.

It was not until the campaign of 1896 was the highest vote ever recorded for a Democratic presidential candidate in Richland county....

In Richland county every district school house became a political forum, and interest in everything else waned while the "battle of the standards" was in progress.

In 1904, however, a high water mark was reached so far as Republican majorities in presidential years are concerned, and Teddy Roosevelt received 2,698 votes, while Parker the Democrat received just 1,340. These figures represent the largest majority ever given to a political party in Richland county. There can be no doubt that the Republicans had a large majority in the county by nearly 2 to 1 nationally. Also In 1904 although, the vote for governor at the same election Bob LaFollette received 2,075 to Peck for the Democrats 1,923; a Republican majority of only 152 votes.

In local and state affairs, however, an independent spirit has been manifested more or less ever since the close of the Civil War, particularly as regards to candidates for county offices; and members of the minority party have frequently been the incumbents of official positions.

The first election held in Richland County of which there is any record, was on November 5, 1850, and the following officials were elected to positions: County clerk, John Rutan; clerk of court, A. B. Slaughter; register of deeds, Levi Houts; county treasurer, D. H. Byrd; county judge, J. W. Coffinberry; sheriff, John J. Mathews; prosecuting attorney, John Stone; surveyor, James Appleby; coroner, William Kincannon. These gentlemen were duly qualified as officers of the new county of Richland and entered upon the duties of their respective positions.

43– week 5 of October 2022

The Mapleside Footbridge across the Pine River Mill Pond –

one of many historic locations in Richland Center

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → c i dot richland hyphen center dot w i dot u s

The founder of Richland Center, Ira Haseltine, built a dam across the Pine River to create a mill pond to generate power for his saw mill and a grist mill early in Richland Center's formative years. The grist mill was later sold to A.C. Parfrey when Haseltine left the city.

In the early years of Richland Center, little building was done on the west bank of the Pine River. As the city grew to include properties on the west bank of the river, a group of citizens in 1912 decided to connect east and west sides across the mill pond with a foot bridge. The group included Charles Parfrey, F.O. Smith and Grant Miner, Sr. All these men owned land on the west side.

Charles Parfrey drew the plans Otto Klinzing and Grant Miner, Sr. built the bridge. During the first winter of work, the crew drove the pilings which were 15 feet long with a horse drawn pile driver.

In 1917 the bridge was given to the city which then later came into dispute when the footbridge was destroyed in the big flood of 1951.

In July of 1951, after a four inch rain pummeled the county,

the city experienced a severe flood. The anchorages on both ends of the footbridge were ripped from their moorings and the bridge was swept away.

There was no money available to rebuild the footbridge since the county had only received \$500 in federal disaster funds. The city council voted not to rebuild it ... But the people on the west side demanded it be replaced.

The city council, backed by legal advice, claimed the gift of the bridge to the city in 1917 was illegal as one of the owners sat on the council.

There was such a stir created that Judge A.W. Kopp ordered the city to rebuild it. In the summer of 1952, the council on a 3 to 2 vote appealed that order to the state supreme court. The court ruled that the city must replace the bridge because it was a public way that required the same attention as any of the streets in the city.

The bridge was replaced at a cost of \$19,200 and was re-opened in 1954. The mill pond, over the many years of its existence, was a popular area for recreation which included fishing, boating, and in the winter, ice skating.

This changed when the dam across the Pine River was removed

and the river returned to its original stream bed.

The footbridge is well maintained and remains a unique remnant of Richland Center's past.

42– week 4 of October 2022

How Richland County Highways began...the role of Sam Swinehart

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [highway dot c. o dot richland dot w i dot u s slash history](http://highway.dot.c.o.dot.richland.dot.w.i.dot.u.s/history)

The general shape of Richland County is almost a square, except along the southern border, where the line follows the Wisconsin River, and is therefore of an irregular shape. Richland County contains sixteen townships; it covers 620 square miles or nearly 400,000 acres. The general character of the land is steep, bluffy hills and fertile valleys, and streams course down each dale. The earliest overland routes were Indian trails, which in many cases determined the route of early roads. In the fall of 1845, Samuel Swinehart, one of the early Richland County settlers, joined a party of men and opened the first wagon road from Richmond (Now known as the town of Orion) to Rockbridge. In many areas, the "blazed" track through the woods was the early settlers only pathway or road available. The roads were frequently mud-clogged and rutted which made traveling hazardous and uncomfortable. As it is covered in the Tragedy of Richland City by J stor for the town of Orion to Muscoda the public spirited action of Smith and Matthews in establishing the ferry made communication easy from the south side of the river to the western part of the county. In 1843 Samuel Swinehart crossed the Wisconsin River from Muscoda and made his way up to the mouth of the Pine, establishing camp on the east side. This was the first attempt to settle on the site of Richland City. Swinehart spent the months of October and November exploring the valley of the Pine as far as Rockbridge, and in his canoe passed through the opening where the west branch flows through the high sandstone ridge. This opening forms the famous natural bridge of Richland County, and is one of the most interesting nature wonders of the western highlands. No tourist has done himself or the county justice who has not visited this charming region, with its rugged landscapes. fit to be reserved as a state park. After satisfying himself of the value of the timber, the next problem was to determine if it was possible to run the logs down the Pine River. This problem required a careful survey of the stream, which could be made only by passage down in a canoe or boat. After this exploration he went to Galena and became interested as a capitalist in a logging enterprise at Rockbridge. He secured an outfit and supplies, and attempted to make his way from Orion up Indian Creek and down Ash Creek to the Pine, then up to Rockbridge In 1845 he cut out a road up Indian Creek, down Ash Creek, and up the Pine to Rockbridge. The following winter, under contract, he cleared the Pine for a space eighteen feet wide from Rockbridge to the mouth, of all logs and brush that were above the ice, thus making it possible during the spring freshets to run logs down to Muscoda. Swinehart would later retire to Avoca and settle there.

****# 41- week 3 of October 2022

The **First Public School in Richland County.**

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → u s gen web dot .info from chapter 30

The first school in this town was taught at the house of Peter Kinder in 1848-9 in what is known as Richwood. This was a subscription school and William Durren was the first teacher

Peter Kinder, a native of Kentucky, came here in 1844 and located on section 26, in Richland County where he lived until the time of his death. He was a successful farmer, a good neighbor and gained a large circle of friends as well as the respect of all who knew him. In early days he was noted as a public benefactor. No one in need ever went to him in vain, and his uniform kindness and feeling for others became almost proverbial. Peter Kinder is more notably known for the discovery of **Eagle Cave**.

In 1849 Peter Kinder and an Irishman named Murphy, were chasing a bear.

They had followed the bear tracks in dense snow from the river bottoms up the hill and into the woods to the cave entrance. The entrance hall is rather huge and was easy to access. This according to show caves dot .com

The first high school would be held at Sand Prairie. The first school board elected in Richland county consisted of J R Smith, Thomas Matthews and Jackson Darnell., In 1848, they took steps to erect a log school house at Orion. Mr. Darnell started out in search of a teacher and soon employed Mary F Mulamphy, who is now Mrs. Joseph Elliott, of Highland, in Iowa county. She was to teach a term of three months at \$23 per month. The school house was not yet completed, but as it was necessary to commence immediately in order to receive the public money, so Miss Mulamphy opened school at the house of J R Smith. In a few weeks, however, the school house was completed, and the school then had more room. As the new building had seats around the edge of the room and the desks consisted of boards laid on pins driven into the wall, so that when the students were writing they were obliged to face the wall and thus turn their backs to the teacher

The school progressed finely and the students, who were twenty-five in number, were greatly benefited by attending. The teacher gave good satisfaction and was thus employed to teach the second term in 1849.

40 – week 2 of October 2022

Celebrating Columbus day 130 years ago

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [archive](#) [DOT j s online](#) [DOT com](#)

In 1892, schoolchildren across the United States observed Columbus Day (according to the Gregorian calendar) by reciting, for the first time, the original version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy. The pledge, which has been revised several times, originally went, "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

FROM Wisconsin history dot org on page 152 the History of Richland County the following excerpt is given...

An interesting event in the history of the school of Richland Center was the observance of Columbus Day on Oct 21 1892 in response to the proclamation of President Harrison. The high school building was decorated in an artistic manner, stars and stripes being given a place of honor and portraits of Columbus were draped with the Spanish flags.

An excellent program was rendered in honor of the day in the forenoon on the high school campus.

In the afternoon a line of march was formed at the school house with the pupils by various departments of the school in their order. The Grand Army Post, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and citizens joined in the line.

The procession moved to the courthouse where seating accommodations had been erected for the people. The afternoon program was carried out with an oration by Professor David Kinley.

The success of the celebration was due in large part to Professor Theodore Haney who at that time was the principal of Richland Center schools who as an educator and a school worker had no superiors

As James H. Minor in his 1906 work from page 151 about education he sums it up with this ... "We should write the history of the American people today in order that the wisdom of today may prove to be a rich inheritance for the generations to come."

#39 – week 1 of October 2022

The Ocooch Mountains of Richland County for Centerfest weekend

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → c i dot richland hyphen center dot w i dot u s

The Ocooch Mountains are a place name for the Western Upland area of Wisconsin also known as the Driftless Region, meaning unglaciated.

The lack of glaciated terrain accounts for the high hills, bluffs, and ridges. The numerous rivers including the Kickapoo, Pine, and Wisconsin along with their tributaries created deeply eroded valleys that contrast to the nearby peaks.

The appellation "Ocooch Mountains" first use appears to have been in Edwin James' three-volume work, "An Account of an Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains, in the Years starting 1819

James wrote, *"The only hills worthy of particular notice, not only in this variety, but in the whole section under consideration, are the Ocooch mountains, which are broad and elevated ridges rather than mountains along with the Smokeys. The former Ocooch is situated about twelve miles north of the Wisconsin one hundred miles above its mouth."*

The Ho Chunk tribe, called them a name phonetically similar to Ocooch, pronounced WAH-KOH-CH

Within a span of only a couple centuries, a new and distinctive culture from the Woodlands people that archaeologists call "Effigy Mound" arose in this area of Wisconsin. Some effigies are recognizable as birds, animals such as bear or deer. During the Black Hawk War of 1832, Black Hawk's band and the pursuing military ventured into this unknown terrain of steep ridges and valleys. Following Mill Creek in Richland County, some of the band headed over these rugged hills known as the Ocooch Mountains. Along the way, many died from exhaustion, starvation and battle wounds.

Richland County is centrally located within the Driftless area.

It is a common occurrence to see an abundance of deer, sand hill cranes, wild turkeys and eagles. Even Black bear and bobcat sightings are not unusual ... and the many streams offer some of the finest trout fishing in North America.

At the time Richland Center was platted in 1851, one of its founders, Ira Haseltine, described it as "a beautiful prairie with scattering shade trees, and the whole surrounded by noble groves of thrifty timber."

The historical development of Richland Center and Richland County began as a result of the early settlers using the abundant timber and streams.

Situated throughout the county were sawmills and grist mills. In fact, Mill Creek got its name for the many mills located on the flowage.

The early industries of Richland County were farming and lumbering. In these early days there were as many as twenty grist mills, thirty saw mills, and even two woolen mills within Richland County.

38 – week 4 of September 2022

A circa 1907 picture of a downtown building in what would become known as the Thiede Creamery in Viola

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → The changing Faces of Viola for the Viola Sesquicentennial 2005 pages 93 & 94

An important and successful business in Viola was the Thiede and Son Creamery.

Walter Thiede became associated with this business in 1914, becoming the sole owner in 1921. Mr. Thiede specialized in making "pure cream butter".

Wally, as he was affectionately known, kept updating the creamery by installing the most modern equipment.

Keith joined his father in the creamery business in 1937.

They were also making cheese and ice cream.

The whey left from making the butter and cheese was used by farmers to feed their hogs.

Whey became a popular "by product" that was sold to the Casin Factory in town.

They dried the whey into powder to be pressed into buttons.

Walter Theide died in 1950 and Keith continued to make the same quality butter and cheese as his dad had done.

Both Keith and Wally were involved in the Viola community, serving as trustees and, at times, President of the village.

After Keith retired, Charles Sanford took over, and the factory was known as Viola Milk Products. Conrad All - ness of Viroqua assumed ownership and later in 1962, Phillip McNamer and his brother, John, then bought out the business with Leland Crook and Wayne Adams, as the cheese makers.

They were making 40 pound cheese blocks and barrels of cheese.

John Sanders would soon become associated with the McNamers.

Finally, in 1968, Bob Streeter became the owner.

As it was with all the rural cheese factories, more farmers were going out of milking ... cheese factories around the area were closing

... and so it went with the Viola Milk Products.

The building was sold to John and Emmett Egge as they used it for storage.

Finally, the village bought the building and sold it to Janet McGlynnn who established a flower shop there in that original building from the picture circa 1907.

37 – week 3 of September 2022

A.H. Krouskop Lumber Yard is recognized as one of the Historic Districts in Richland Center

*... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"
Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → Richland Center Historic Preservation Project Survey Report September 1988
on pages 230, 267, 270 and 271

A.H. Krouskop Lumber Company was established as a lumber manufacturing industry in 1878 south of Seminary Street near the depot.

A. H. Krouskop Lumber yard expanded greatly in the early twentieth century extending south several city blocks between South Main Street to the Pine River.

In addition to the lumber yard and mill, Krouskops offered a wide variety of construction services to their customers in the early twentieth century as a logical extension of their original lumber manufacturing business.

Advertising quote "Homes of Economy" end quote
Krouskop's construction contracts included "all material labor, plumbing, electrical work at the same price or less than you can buy the material from a mail order firm" as printed in the Republican Observer 9th of June 1927. Built for the average family, reportedly examples of Krouskop houses characterized as two stories with small decorative porches are located one block below the yard as referenced in Margaret Helen Scott's book A History of Richland Center.

Krouskop's lumber yard included a sash, door and blind factory among its many other enterprises. As a comparatively small lumber dealer in southwest Wisconsin, although he was the largest business man in Richland Center, A.H. Krouskop survived and prospered by engaging in many businesses.

Krouskop first established his general merchandise store in Richland Center in 1863. He initially located his sawmill between the river to the west Haseltine Street on the north

From Main on the west extending to Central Avenue to include Gage Street to the south by 1883. His 1930 obituary suggested that he began this operation in 1878. However he did not acquire most of the land his milling operation was erected on until 1880.

The 1883 structure burned in 1892 and Krouskop rebuilt considerably expanding the brick mill by 1893. A wagon and buggy warehouse and grain warehouses existed by 1905.

The lumber yard was adjacent to the railroad to transport products in bulk.

The Krouskop Lumber Yard reached its full capacity by 1911.

By the time of the report in 1988 much of the lumber yard environment no longer remained. Although notably the lumber industry contributed heavily to the economic development of Richland Center historically from the 1880's to the 1920's.

36 – week 2 of September 2022

Tales The Tombstone Tell - Republican Observer - May 31, 1956
The Indian Creek Cemetery Orion Township, Richland County, Wisconsin
About Captain John R. Smith and Thomas Mathews

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → <http://davidbrentthompson.com/IndianCreek/IndianCreek-TALES.html>

The snows of 106 winters have laid white upon the grave of Captain John Smith, a soldier in the Black Hawk war. Captain Smith is buried in the Indian Creek cemetery in the town of Orion just a bit east of the village on highway 60.

On the simple slab of marble are carved in beautiful script these words

"Captain John R. Smith Died June 27, 1850 In the 61 years of his age"

That is all the stone tells; no word of his being in the Black Hawk war back in 1832;

... not a word of his being one of the founders of the village of Orion

... nor even of his early days in a new country,

So we turn to the pages of the history of Richland County published in 1884 which says:

"Captain John Smith, was born in Kentucky about 1790.

While a young man he moved to Illinois and there enlisted in the Black Hawk war and served as a Captain. He was married to Elizabeth Holliday, who was also a native of Kentucky.

He worked at his trade, which was that of a millwright, in Illinois until 1838, when he moved to Wisconsin and there engaged in the lead mines in Iowa county until 1841 when he moved to Muscoda where he worked at his trade there. He was employed on the first mill ever erected in Richland county on Mill Creek at Parish Mill, now Balmoral in the town of Eagle. He came to Richland county in 1842 and remained there until his death in 1850. When he died he left a wife and two children - Catharine, the wife of Thomas Mathews, and a son Benjamin

Mr. Smith and his son-in-law Thomas Mathews, were the first settlers in the town of Orion and they laid out the village of Orion, erecting a crude log cabin on the site of the new village. The village grew and prospered, as it became the county seat of Richland county. It contained stores, a hotel, blacksmith shops, drug store, and the ferry landing which was important back in those days. Smith and Mathews owned the ferry which operated between Muscoda and the village. The ferry operated until about 1870 when the bridge was built and the ferry went out of business.

The ferry landing area at the west end of the village can still be seen.

Thomas Mathews, also buried in the Indian Creek cemetery, a son-in-law of Captain Smith, was a native of Tennessee, born May 7, 1814. In 1836 he came to Wisconsin and worked in the lead mines. In 1840 he married Catharine Smith and built the first log cabin present site of the village of Orion. "Their cabin" says the history, "though a humble one, was where strangers never found the latch string out."

As the village grew their cabin became known as the "settlement"

and Mr. Mathews kept the hotel.

Mr. Mathews, so his tombstone says,

Died in 1885 at the age of 71. His grave is close to that of his father-in-law Captain John Smith.

35 – week 1 of September 2022

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED the Richland County Veterans Memorial

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to →

A [Leader Telegram](#) article dating November 5th 2018 with story by Jim Massey

One of Wisconsin's most impressive veterans' memorials now stands along Highway 14 in the city of Richland Center. The memorial features monuments honoring those who served in 13 U.S. wars and conflicts.

It is somewhat different from many memorials around the state in that it lists all the names of those from Richland County who have served, both those who gave their lives and those who lived to tell about it. Called a memorial honor roll because an honor roll can list both the living and deceased. A memorial generally includes only the deceased. The honor roll currently has 8,658 names engraved on them, and more can be added as men and women serve in the military in the future.

13 flags and 17 benches are featured along with the monuments.

This memorial was built in stages as money was collected.

Also more details are provided from travel.wisconsin.com

The Richland County Veterans Memorial Honor Roll is unique in many aspects which separates it from most other veteran's memorials.

The memorial is wedge shaped. It is 77 1/2 feet wide at the north end, 96 1/2 feet in length, and 30 1/2 feet at the south end.

The granite monuments are arranged in chronological order, by date & by war, in a counter clockwise direction.

The Memorial honors Richland County Veterans with eleven monuments starting with the War of 1812 through the present Global War on Terror

plus there is a monument for the Reserves and National Guard.

The honor roll also includes the names of Richland County law enforcement, the fire department personnel and the emergency medical technicians.

34 – week 4 of August 2022

Origins of the Richland Rustic as one of several newspapers in Richland County from the latter 1800's

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → The History of Crawford and Richland County circa 1888

Sub titled the Richland Rustic

Jerry A. Smith got out his first issue on February 5th 1881 retaining the name of the Richland Democrat.

The name later changed to The Democrat and Farmer. Finally in June of 1881 to The Richland Rustic which is the name still remaining.

The Rustic was run as an eight column folio for a long time and during the winter of 1883 to 1884 was enlarged to an eight column quarto.

The subscription price of the paper is still only seventy five cents per year now in 1888 making it as Mr. Smith can claim, "the largest paper on earth for the price".

It does have a large circulation as well.

Jerry A. Smith, who is still the editor in 1888 and proprietor of the Richland Rustic was born in Janesville Wisconsin in 1858. His parents still reside there even today as they are among the most wealthy merchants and prominent citizens of that community.

Mr. Smith received a liberal business and general education in Janesville having been supplemented by a wide business experience. He resided there until 1880 when he moved to Richland Center.

It is unnecessary to say that Mr. Smith has made the Richland Rustic a success in every way

... and abundantly able to continue doing so in maintaining the standard the paper has now reached.

33 – week 3 of August 2022

Plane Crashes at Gotham Sunday was the headline in the Richland Democrat, the 10th April 1935, page 1, column 5

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → a facebook post from the [Richland County History Room](#) dated April 5, 2019 ·

Airplane wreck, Gotham, Buena Vista Township, Richland County, Wisconsin,

Four Miraculously Escape Death as Plane Falls Two Hundred Feet Just After Taking Off.

A plane crash at Gotham Sunday afternoon might have caused the death of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Hanold, Miss Florence Hanold and the pilot, Sam Griesman, all of Madison. The party, in a plane belonging to the Four Lakes Airways, Madison, had been dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Hanold of Gotham, parents of Mr. and Miss Hanold and the farm field just east of Gotham was used as a landing field. Miss Hanold is a student in Madison and makes her home with her brother, L. J. Hanold, in Madison.

The accident happened when the plane, taking off for its return trip, became unmanageable when it attempted to circle and fell from a distance of about 200 feet, then traveled considerable distance as it landed. The two women passengers escaped with slight injuries, but the pilot and Mr. Hanold, riding in the front, were caught in the wreckage. They were brought to the office of a local physician, who discovered that Hanold had two scalp wounds, and the pilot Sam Griesmer was cut in the hand and over the eye.

Both were able to return to Gotham.

The plane is probably wrecked beyond repair.

The accompanying picture to the article by Gillett Studio of Muscoda would certainly confirm that the damage to the plane was totaled.

32 – week 2 of August 2022

Remembering Connie Winterberg Shireman as a local woman who achieved Midwest notoriety

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [tribute archive dot .com](https://tributearchive.com)

Connie M. Shireman was born June 23, 1947 in Rockford, Illinois, the daughter of Lester and Bessie Winterberg.

She moved with her parents to Richland Center, Wisconsin when she was three years old attending Union Elementary School in Gillingham, and graduated from Richland Center High School in 1965.

She was later honored by the high school as one who had achieved success in their careers as an outstanding Alumnus of R C H S.

Connie married James Shireman on August 21, 1965, and they had two daughters: Lori and Jacqueline. Connie worked for Richland Center Savings and Loan, where she was employed for 11 years.

Her career began in the electrical business when she became the office manager of Richland Center Electric Co-Op.

After ten years, she moved to Elizabeth, Illinois to work at Jo-Carroll Electric, first as assistant office manager and then became the CEO for 19 years.

Connie Winterberg Shireman notably became one of eight women out of 800 men that were C E O "s for the R E A organization.

Connie served on many boards, including being President of the Dairyland Power Managers, and President of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative Managers and was also featured on the cover of the National Rural Electric Magazine.

Connie also found time in her busy life to serve her community. Among several service organizations she was a member as well as president, she joined the Galena Rotary Club in 1987 serving as president of that organization from 1996-1997. She also later served as Rotary Regional Governor for Northern Illinois.

Connie Winterberg Shireman died at the age 61 on April 29, 2009, with Richland Center as her home, following a long illness staying at Pine Valley Healthcare.

31 – week 1 of August 2022

St. Patrick's Melancthon Creek Cemetery is located in Henrietta Township, Richland County, Wisconsin.

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → **h m d b dot .org**

A cemetery style marker is located north of Hub City, in Richland County.

The marker carries a Cazenovia address and can be reached from State Highway 80, 4 tenths of a mile north of County Highway C C, viewed on the right side of the road against the steep hillside when traveling towards Hillsboro.

In 1858 the land for St. Patrick's Church and Cemetery was donated to the congregation by Charles and Catherine Shields.

The first church was erected there in 1867.

In 1904 an addition was added to accommodate a growing congregation.

Then in 1924 the old church was razed and a new church was built.

The monies, the time and the materials were all donated by the members of the parish.

Father Frahling designed the church and was instrumental in its completion.

The church was eventually closed in 1964.

That church was later razed in 1997. The cemetery remains there as a landmark.

This memorial located on the site which symbolizes the community of St. Patricks Church was made possible by donations of former parishioners and friends.

30 – week 5 of July 2022

Headline reading → ***The Masonic Temple – Reflections on its past***
... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [s w news 4 u .dot com](http://www.swnews4u.com) **in an article** *Published: June 24th , 2015.*

By Victoria Fritz

The Richland Center Masonic Temple, more recently known as Blue Highways, is located on the corner of Central Ave and Mill St in downtown Richland Center

Nearly a hundred years old now, this handsome building once housed an organization of men who espoused an enlightened way of thinking.

Completed in mid-1922, its arrival on the scene was announced by The Richland Democrat (the precursor of current The Richland Observer) in January of that year, publishing a photograph of the Masonic Temple with this headline:

Richland Center's New Masonic Temple Nearly Completed at a cost of \$55,000

A week later, The Republican Observer (also a precursor of today's Observer, as both The Richland Democrat and The Republican Observer merged in 1962), also published that photo, with the following caption reading:

Quote "...The first floor will house the bowling alleys, the billiard and card rooms, baths and heating plant. On the second floor will be the dining room, dance hall and kitchen. The third floor will be given over to the lodge rooms..." end of quote

The inauguration in July was a dazzling affair, this time reported in the more widely circulated Wisconsin State Journal. Its July 16th Sunday edition published an article headlined "Richland Center Masons' New Temple". It began, "Several thousand Masons from all parts of the state, accompanied by bands, attended the dedication ceremonies of Richland Center's new Masonic temple, Friday... [at a cost of] \$70,000... The building is three stories high, of Ionic architecture ... The dedication was observed by a parade of 1,000 Masons..."

Seven Freemasons, consisting of "six Entered Apprentices and one Master Mason...is the requisite number to constitute a Lodge of Masons, and to initiate a candidate...They assemble in a room well guarded from all cowans and eaves-droppers, in the second or third story..." which in turn explains why the Richland Center Masonic Temple had recreational and dining facilities on the first and second floors, and all the lodges only on the third floor.

Few Richland Center residents today know what this proud building once stood for, especially since it changed hands in the mid-1990s. Finding the place too big for their purposes, the Masons sold the building.

If You'd like to see the entire article check out the October issue of the AKEY BrAKEY News.

29 – week 4 of July 2022

The origins of the VILLAGE OF HUB CITY.

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → the Romance of Wisconsin Placenames by Robert Gard on page 127

T. G. Mandt made wagon parts, some say only HUBS – hence the name HUB CITY

Yet another version of the the naming was provided by the daughter of Mr. Mandt as she told of visiting the little town as a child and hearing her father tell of a close friend known as "Hub" Atkins who was then a Chicago Railroad magnate.

In Genealogy trails DOT com *Source: History of Crawford and Richmond Counties, Wisconsin, Illustrated, Chapter 25 (1881) transcribed by RuthAnne Wilke*

During the summer of 1854 James Ghormley put up a saw-mill on section 34. He put up a frame building and threw a brush and dirt dam across Pine river. In 1855 he made an addition to the building and put in one run of buhrs for grinding corn and wheat, and a bolting machine for the manufacture of flour.

In 1860 he erected a two story frame building, 20x40 feet in size, and put in one run of buhrs for making good flour. A few years later he added another run of stone, and about 1867 he put up a new saw-mill which he equipped with a circular saw.

Mr. Ghormley ran the mills until 1876, when the property was purchased by the Honorable George Krouskop. In the winter of 1881-2 Mr. Krouskop sold this to T. G. Mandt, of Stoughton, Wisconsin

A post office was established here in 1882 under the name of ⚡Stalwart,⚡ but this has since been changed to ⚡Hub City.⚡

In 1882 a village was platted here under the name of Hub City. It now contains about twenty dwelling houses, aside from the numerous mill buildings.

The first store in the village was notably started by T. G. Mandt in 1882.

Hub City is still a prominent location north of Rockbridge on the way to Hillsboro

28 – week 3 of July 2022

Since 1898 Mill Dam Has Produced Power For Muscoda

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → an article in the Richland County History Room's Digital library

the plant on the Mill Creek in Eagle township.

It was in 1898 that the Rodolf brothers put in the first generator at the dam to supply the village of Muscoda with electricity using a single phase, 133 cycle generator.

A dam at the Eagle township site goes back to 1841 when Tom Parish built a dam and a saw mill on the bank of the Mill creek. The waters of the creek have been working for the betterment of this area ever since. A flour mill and then a feed mill followed the saw mill at the location. The feed mill operated on water power until 1928 when it switched to electricity.

Ownership of the dam and site went to the village of Muscoda in 1911 after the dam washed out and the Rodolf brothers no longer wanted to operate it. It was in 1912 that the village rebuilt the dam, built the present generator and wheel house and put in a new generator and wheel. The new generator put into operation

in 1912 was three phase, 60 cycle, 2,400 volt.

The 1912 generator was used until 1941 when the feed mill at the location was torn down.

A 50 kilowatt generator was installed in the plant in 1934. It is this generator which is still producing some of the power used by the village.

The present dam was constructed at the site in 1921.

Prior to that time dams were rock and wood structures. The present dam is concrete. It cost \$16,000 to build.

The last major work to be done at

the site was in 1957 when the generator and water wheel were completely overhauled.

The generator on Mill creek runs 24 hours a day and produces the cheapest electricity used by the village. However, the plant is limited to 50 kilowatt production which is about 10 per cent of the total usage of the village. The remainder of electricity used in Muscoda is purchased by the village utility from Wisconsin Power and Light company. The diesel plant here is now used only for emergency service.

27 – week 2 of July 2022

THE ONLY BUILDING FRANK LLOYD Wright designed in his hometown of Richland Center was built because the now-famous architect owed a man money.

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [atlas](#) obscura DOT com **Guide To Wisconsin**

143 Cool, Hidden, and Unusual Things to Do in Wisconsin

The man was wholesale grocer Albert Dell German, and the building was a four-story warehouse designed for German by Wright to make good on unpaid bills.

The design, which seems to fit the Mayan style Wright would use often in later buildings, includes an ornamented concrete frieze on the top and narrow vertical slits running up the brick façade.

The poured concrete building, an early example of this method, was built over a layer of cork, which would absorb shock and help keep it stable. Each floor is a concrete slab held up by concrete columns that get smaller on the upper floors.

Construction started in 1917 and was halted, unfinished, in 1921, after the cost of the structure more than quadrupled. German was still able to use it to store sugar, flour, coffee, tobacco and other things until 1927, but he eventually lost the building.

Double brick walls helped create a naturally refrigerated storage environment, but since the 1970s the building has mostly been used to display Wright-related exhibits. The first floor includes a gift shop and small theatre.

In addition to being the only building Wright designed in his hometown, it is also the only commercial building of his from this period that remains standing.

26 – week 1 of July 2022

IRON INTERESTS around Cazenovia

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [Genealogy trails DOT com](#)

The land upon which the village of Cazenovia is now located was entered in 1848 by Allen Perkins. The village was surveyed in February, 1855, by Solon Rushmore, for Mr. Perkins. The first frame house upon the site was erected by Samuel Colby, in 1854. The first log house was erected by the Lincoln brothers the same year. In this building they opened the first store in the village.

In 1874 Joseph Culver, from Madison, came to Westford township, secured the services of Joseph Moll, and leased land from him as well as Joseph Dresen and also John Cobbledick, on sections 2 and 3.

Mr. Moll was employed to prospect for iron ore, commencing first on the northwest quarter of section 2. They soon found ore sixteen feet below the surface of the earth. In the fall of 1875 a shaft was sunk on section 2, about forty-eight feet deep, and afterward several other shafts were sunk near by.

In 1876 a company was formed, consisting of Joseph Culver, Gen. Lund and James Gunn. The company continued operating the mines, and piled up the ore upon the ground. The vein became larger as they progressed, and finally Culver, Lund & Gunn sold out their interests to the Iron Ridge Iron Company, of which Leonard Bean was president. This company built a furnace at Cazenovia, and during the summer of 1877 erected a foundry. Numerous shafts were sunk on sections 2, 3, and 4, and large quantities of good ore were taken from these shafts.

The Iron Ridge Iron Company carried on the business until 1879, when they stopped work, and about one year later sold the buildings to C. E. Bohn, of Ironton, who converted it into a stave factory, for which purpose the buildings are still used.

25 – week 4 of June 2022

Have You ever traveled through what was thriving hamlet of Tavera ?

... as it still exists marked commonly by a cemetery east of the County road

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → the Richland County Digital History Room files taken from the **REPUBLICAN OBSERVER, Thursday, March 23, 1961.**

A Newspaper Clipping Description by Ray Ellsworth of Richland Center, supplies us the story of Ellsworth Mills, in the town of Richwood, later known as Tavera.

Tavera is now gone, its store, the mills, a post office, these only remain in memory.

His grandfather, J. S. Ellsworth came to Richland county in 1852 and eventually he purchased land in the town of Richwood, on Knapps Creek, then built a water power sawmill; he also operated a tannery, a carpenter shop and as well as a blacksmith shop.

He had three sons, Tom, Dick and Harry.

Dick, who was J.S. Ellsworth's father and Ray's grandfather started teaching school when he was 16 years old.

Later he took over his father's sawmill, then converting into steam and adding a planing mill.

Asked where Tavera got its name. The answer is from Uncle Sam.

Various names were suggested and Uncle Sam turned them all down, placing Tavera as the name.

Customers covered a wide territory, from Viola south to Wauzeka and east as far as Avoca. The lumber was loaded on wagons or sleds and made ready for the crossing below the mouth of Blue River.

A star mail route was soon started at once from Blue River supplying both Excelsior and Tavera.

Tavera once had a creamery. It was said to be among the first if not the first Cooperative creamery in the state.

After a period of time they installed equipment and made both cheese and butter employing two full time men.

24 – week 3 of June 2022

Who was this man Paul Seifert and Why is he historically famous for our area ?

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → two features in the AKEY BrAKEY News April 2014 first an exhibit that was at the State Historical Society in Madison Wisconsin titled in Watercolor: The Farmscapes of Paul Seifert and also from the October 2013 issue a book written by Dan Bomkamp titled The Mysteries of Bogus Bluff with his follow up which was a book titled River of Mysteries

German immigrant Paul Seifert came to Wisconsin living a varied and creative life on the edges of society, but all the while he was deeply immersed in the Wisconsin River valley landscape of the Driftless Region he called home.

Paul was from Germany & having lived most of his life in what was the Richland City/Gotham area.

He's best known for his vibrant watercolor farm pictures, which are beloved locally and highly desired by collectors nationally. He notably also painted from memory of castles in Germany.

The Wisconsin River, Paul Seifert, Bogus Bluff, Richland City, and the ancient cultures that once thrived there, all have something in common : mystery.

As Dan Bomkamp's book covers for 10,000 years humans have occupied the delta at the confluence of the Wisconsin and the Pine Rivers; inhabitants of distinctly different eras have left behind clues to their existence.

The most recent-the Native American Indians-have given us a bounty of lore and legend.

A mysterious letter in the hands of German emigrant Paul Seifert in the Nineteenth Century helps set the scene for another one of the river valley's most puzzling secrets. It has been the foundation of a 35-year-long search for a cave believed to be an Indian burial site containing vast treasures of ancient times. Treasure hunter/Researcher Ron Nagel has teamed with authors Dan Bomkamp and J.L. Fredrick to tell the story as it has developed through the ages. Together in their book they unravel some of the mystery surrounding this enchanted valley.

Arguably Paul Seifert was one of if not the first historians of Richland County both with the stories told and with the pictures that he produced.

23 – week 2 of June 2022

The history surrounding the discovery and eventual public usage of Eagle Cave

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → www.showcaves.com/ and [state trunk tour.com/](http://state.trunktour.com/)

Eagle Cave was discovered in 1849 by Peter Kinder and an Irishman named Murphy, when they were chasing a bear.

They had followed the bear tracks in dense snow from the river bottoms up the hill and into the woods to the cave entrance.

Now what is the entrance hall as it is rather huge and easy to access.

Several local businessmen formed a cave development corporation in spring 1937. They were granted permission by the State of Wisconsin to open the cave for the public. The development took only a year and it was inaugurated on 29th of MAY-1938, being the first show cave of Wisconsin.

The cave has several large rooms and passageways, and some formations. It is called Wisconsin's largest onyx cave which tells a bit about the size and formations of other Wisconsin caves.

The cave is still entered through the original entrance, but it is left through a second entrance in a quarry.

Eagle Cave offers over 3,000 feet of passages for exploring across eight levels, four of which are underground.

Eagle Cave has hosted a cave exploratory program since 1954, making it popular not only for tours, but also overnight camping, with seasonal and primitive campsites available.

The Muscoda Progressive in the 50's and 60's regularly featured Eagle Cave as a 'go to' destination for tourism.

You'll find Eagle Cave accessible along [Highway 60](#), about five miles west of Muscoda.

"Views from the Lone Rock Tornado" at the end of May in 1918 as reported in a newspaper article ... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ... According to → The Richland Rustic May 24th 1918

F902L6 From -
 To
 Richland Center Rustic
 May 24, 1918

Views from the Lone Rock Tornado

STORM AT LONE ROCK

Three People Killed in That Village and Others Lose Lives at Other Places

PROPERTY LOSS SIMPLY AWFUL

Lone Rock Had Twenty Homes Completely Wiped off the face of the earth, as Many More Wrecked and Dozens of Others Damaged.

THE DEAD

Lone Rock

P. C. Pitkin, aged 40, lawyer, graduate of the University of Wisconsin, and editor of the Tri-County Review, head crushed.

Miss Clara Hatrey, aged 13, killed outright.

Donald Hatrey, aged 7, killed outright.

Leland

Farmer named Yanke

Plain

Boy named Peck, aged 15.

Honey Creek

Ferd Buelow, Farmer.

POSSIBLY FATALLY INJURED

Lone Rock

Mrs. William Wright back injured

Mrs. Joseph Hatrey, crushed.

Arnold Hatrey, aged 5, head crushed.

Floyd Wells, compound fracture of the hip.

SERIOUSLY INJURED

Mrs. Emil Gilson

Mrs. Lulu Fries

Henry Axemaker

Stephen Bennet

Max Gundlach

James Moore

Clayton Burdick

Mrs. Edward Lindberg and two children

Mrs. Edward Burdick

Mrs. Elenore Stock

Raymond Stock

Pearl Stocks

Asa Knight

Richard Clemo

George Wright

Isaac Higgins

Tuesday evening at about seven o'clock a tornado struck the village of Lone Rock and left in its path which was about one hundred yards in width, nothing but destruction of both life and property. The course of the storm through the town was from the southwest to the northeast and traversed the most thickly populated district for a distance of at least a half a mile, the greater part of which distance was denuded of all the former standing homes, as though a scythe had been swung the whole distance.

No less than twenty residences were as completely wiped off the face of the earth as though a map of the village had been drawn upon a slate and then a wet sponge had been drawn from one corner of the map diagonally across the slate. The only way to express the completeness of their destruction is to say that they are gone—so completely gone that residents of the village are apt to argue as to the exact spot on which so and so's house stood.

There are no less than twenty more residences that are as badly damaged as would conform to ones imagination of what the effects of a tornado might be.

Three persons were killed during the storm. Mr. P. C. Pitkin, editor and publisher of the Tri-County Review, the other two being two children of a widow by the name of Hatrey, one a daughter, aged thirteen and the other a boy, eight years

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21 – week 4 of May 2022

The Mystery of Bogus Bluff may still have hidden treasures was the headline

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → a Monday July 16th, 1923 Wisconsin State Journal Article excerpted information

Bogus Bluff is located on State Highway 60 midway between Gotham along Highway 14 and the junction crossing the bridge to Muscoda on Highway 80 south

According to stories remembering the times when the Wisconsin - Fox River System from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien was accessed there were riches left at Bogus Bluff which consisted of French Coins as well as Spanish Doubloons from the river travelers and even Good American dollars were kept there.

French coins from the time of John Jacob Astor's Fur Company had maintained a trading post at Prairie du Chien money was supposedly hid there for concerns at the time of Indian attacks.

Bogus Bluff is the culmination of a series of Limestone hills that go on for about 7 miles along the river. It is located where the river journey joins Highway 60 and is next to what is called Judith's Point another high bluff just to the east where legend has it that Judith McCloud the daughter of a pioneer plunged to her death rather than being taken by a band of natives. Even more legend states that ghosts exist further to the east about two miles where the Pine River flows through connecting with the Wisconsin River.

What was known on the journey is Law's Landing is located further west of the bluff and that Indian Creek was an early access into the heart of Richland County then traveling on to the village of Orion along the river to the west.

Legend is said that counterfitters also came to the bluff during the Civil War days and operated there for nearly 20 years. They were part of a gang from Portage and relates to a story that in 1878 three of the most notorious counterfeiters were captured in Boscobel and later being sent to prison. From their story told to the government officials attempted a raid on Bogus Bluff but those there escaped rather than being captured by a secret passage way. No suspicious money was to be found. It was believed that they buried the money that lies with the wealth of the old cavern and so the legend carries on even to today.

20 – week 3 of May 2022

The Last dry CITY goes wet – RICHLAND CENTER, Wisconsin

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → **UPI ARCHIVES** dating back to **APRIL, 1986**

Residents of Wisconsin's last dry city can now wet their whistles for the first time in 53 years. That was the notable topic theming from the article.

But staunch advocates of temperance positions warned and still maintained that the city of 5,000 would become 'saturated with liquor' following the victory of a referendum in 1986 allowing beer and liquor sales to begin immediately in supper clubs and local stores.

The community of Richland Center was the last dry city in Wisconsin, so said C. Lee Cheaney, director of the state's Inheritance and Excise Tax Bureau noting also at that time there were 53 towns and three villages that were still considered to be termed "dry" in the state.

Richland Center had banned liquor sales in 1909 but allowed alcohol sales for a few months after Prohibition was repealed in 1933 before voters made the city dry again.

Voters had tried six times since 1960 to approve a liquor referendum, according to then Richland Center City Clerk Ray Lawton.

That Tuesday's election generated so much interest that more than 75 percent of the city's 3,300 registered voters turned out to cast their ballots.

It is said to be still one of the highest voter turnouts ever in Richland Center history.

19 – week 2 of May 2022

Bowen's Mill, on County Trunk Highway AA, in Richland County dates back to 1867

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → C i dot Richland Center dot W i dot U S

Florence, was located just north of the present-day Richland County Fairgrounds, and now is known as Bowen's Mill, as it once was a thriving village.

In the pioneer days of wheat raising Richland County had twenty - four grist mills located on the various streams and with ample water power to drive these mills for custom grain grinding.

The mill known as Bowen's Mill was located on the Pine River two and one half miles north of Richland Center.

Wheat was brought to this mill from four or five adjoining counties and so the art of home baking still survived the old time flour mill evolved out of the picture – like the one Bowen's Mill built in 1867.

The mill was built by two brothers, W.J. Bowen and F.P. Bowen. An excellent system of flour milling machinery was maintained in the mill together with feed grinding equipment.

Subsequently W.J. Bowen became the sole owner and he operated the mill for many years. On his death his son Frank Bowen operated the mill for a period of years.

The last owner and operator was a grandson of the original builders of the mill.

Four generations of the Bowen family had a hand at operating the mill which was then the oldest established business in Richland County.

South of Bowen's Mill and the old hamlet of Florence is the Bowen Cemetery. Many are buried there including William and Mary (Thorpe) Bowen as well as a number of Civil War veterans.

The mill today is now in complete ruin although part of the old building is still standing and some remnants of the mill machinery are still on site.

Bowen's Mill is an important and significant piece of Richland County history; here from the very first days of pioneer settlement.

18 – week 1 of May 2022

Halsey Rhinehart – Richland County native and notable local historian

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → wiki tree .dot com and tribute archives

Halsey Rhinehart was born near Rockbridge in Richland County on June 11th 1914.

He was the son of Charles and Mollie Rhinehart.

Based on the 1920 census, he lived with his parents as he grew up on the family farm.

He would eventually meet and marry Gyneth nee Truesdale who was originally from Bloom City as she graduated from Richland Center having taught at the Kidd School for two years . *They were married on August 9, 1939.*

They farmed and operated the Natural Bridge Grocery in Rockbridge for many years.

The Natural Bridge Grocery still remains today located in Rockbridge, Wisconsin about 9 miles north of Richland Center on State Highway 80 adjacent to the Pier County Park, which is also home to the stunning Natural Bridge that crosses the Pine River.

It was said that Halsey truly enjoyed Richland County and the history of this area.

He is best remembered for his paintings of so many locations throughout the region as his artwork adorns the second floor of the Brewer Public Library and is connected to the Richland County History Room.

Halsey Rhinehart died the 29th of November in 1990.

He was buried at Rockbridge Cemetery.

His legacy remains with the visual records that he has provided thru his artwork contributing to the history of the Richland County area.

17 – week 4 of April 2022

The role of Women's Clubs and as titled "the Radical Women of Richland Center"

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → the book Odd Wisconsin Amusing, Perplexing and Unlikely Stories from Wisconsin's Past written by Erika Janik on pages 117 to 118

Meeting with a secret agenda in the home of Laura B. James (mother of the future suffrage leader Ada James) on a June afternoon in 1882 a group of Richland Center Women formed the first women's suffrage club.

As the wives of prominent businessmen and professionals, these women felt that their husbands might not approve of their activities, so they operated publicly as a social, phil- an-thro-pic, and intellectual club — neglecting to mention the exact intellectual topics that brought them together.

Publicly, the club advertised meeting topics on the "Life of William of Normandy", the "Education of the girls in China", and "Home Duties".

In truth they discussed, among other things, marriage.

As Mary Elizabeth Hussong noted in the December 21, 1924 *Milwaukee Journal*, one club member came to the radical conclusion that "girls should be taught not to think that marriage finishes existence."

Women's suffrage had little popular support in nineteenth century Wisconsin, but by the 1890's a new generation of activists began relying heavily on women's clubs like this one in Richland Center to promote suffrage as one part of a broader platform of reforms.

16 – week 3 of April 2022

Another state historical marker located in Boaz NUMBER 315
legend of Richard M. Brewer

and the

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → legends of america dot com

Born on February 19, 1850 in Franklin County, [Vermont](#), Richard Brewer's family moved to [Wisconsin](#) in 1854 settling near what is now Boaz.

When the lad turned 18, he made his way west to Lincoln County, [New Mexico](#), where he became a rancher and horse breeder.

He soon befriended his neighbor [John Tun stall](#) who was in a feud with the [Murphy/Dolan](#) faction, which would soon lead to the [Lincoln County War](#).

March 1, 1878, when the rivalry had grown to gunplay, Richard Brewer was appointed constable by the Magistrate.

His group, became known as "The Regulators," and one of his deputies was Brewer's friend — William Bonney who later became known as the legendary [Billy the Kid](#).

Their purpose was to serve arrest warrants to members of the Dolan Gang for the ambush and murder of John Tun stall.

On April 4, 1878, Brewer led the Regulators to Blazer's Mill where they were confronted by one of the men in the gang that they held a warrant for – namely [Buckshot Roberts](#).

Soon, the guns blazed as two Regulators were wounded and one killed – specifically Constable Richard M. Brewer formally from Boaz Wisconsin. Buckshot Roberts was also killed and the two men – Roberts & Brewer were buried there side by side.

15 – week 2 of April 2022

What are significant examples of railroad buildings of the late 19th century

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → the April 1993 Mid-Continent Railway Gazette /
thru 9 and page 15 / archived

pages 5

Rural communities showed great pride in their railroad stations. As a new depot was being built in 1881 at Lone Rock, the nearby weekly newspaper boasted that "it is one of the best arranged and most commodious depots on the Prairie du Chien division."

The paper said next week, "Mr. Towsley, the depot agent, says it is to be the model country depot in the state."

And thirdly, "... it is a credit to the company and an ornament to the town."

These communities are on the former Milwaukee Road line between Madison and Marquette, Iowa (stretching for 100.6 miles) and a branch line to Richland Center (15.5 miles from Lone Rock thru Gotham).

It's a historic route, a part of the first rail connection between Milwaukee and the Mississippi River. Since Lone Rock did not have a newspaper yet, coverage came from the Republican at Richland Center. In a Big Fire at Lone Rock, the paper said "the fire originated from the sparks of the engine that had just passed. The building being of a very combustible nature, it was impossible to arrest the flames, and it is said by spectators that from the time the fire was discovered until the building was a heap of smoldering ruins, only 35 minutes had elapsed." Immediately, a box car was "improvised" as a temporary depot. The new brick structure, occupied in March 1881, also served the branch line trains to Richland Center.

On the branch lines, the story was the same—fire, too had its impact.

Buildings burned in 1904 at Gotham, today it is a residence near the tracks; and in 1882 at Richland Center, which got a separate passenger station in 1910, now the tourism center.

The decline of the passenger business, changes in the economy, and highway improvements All contributed to their closing.

The final blow was the establishment of regional accounting centers in 1960. The Milwaukee Road closed the last station, at Richland Center, in 1980 as it stopped running between Lone Rock and Prairie du Chien.

14 – week 1 of April 2022

Bertha Reynolds, known as "Dr. Bertha," was one of the first women to be licensed as a doctor in the state of Wisconsin.

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [women in wisconsin dot org slash profiles](https://www.wisconsin.gov/profiles)

Bertha E. Reynolds was born in 1868 and raised on a farm in Thiensville.

Her family moved to Nebraska in 1892; she trained as a teacher at the Lincoln Normal School and then taught school for a short time, but her real dream was to follow in the footsteps of nine other people in her family and become a doctor. She was discouraged from pursuing such a career, both by family members and at the University of Nebraska; but finally, in 1898, at the age of 30, she was able to enroll in the Woman's Hospital Medical College of Chicago. She earned her M.D. degree in 1901.

After she graduated from medical school, Reynolds came back to Wisconsin and joined her brother Nelson in a medical practice in Lone Rock. After he moved away, she was the only doctor serving in that rural area, getting around to see patients by boat and horseback as well as by car.

In 1923, when the Wisconsin River was flooding and impossible to cross, she even got aviator Charles Lindbergh to fly her across the river to reach patients in need.

Reynolds, who was known as "Dr. Bertha," practiced medicine about 20 years before [Dr. Kate Pelham Newcomb](#), a more well-known pioneering physician in northern Wisconsin.

Although Reynolds tried to retire in 1940 in the town of Avoca, she ended up practicing medicine again when Avoca's only doctor left to serve in World War II. She retired again in 1953, and later died in 1961.

13 – week 5 of March 2022

What of the Neptune Cemetery in Ithaca Township, Richland County, Wisconsin

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → **Tales The Tombstones Tell in the Republican Observer Sept 29th, 1955**

A Visit to the Neptune Cemetery

Quite out of sight from the roadside which passes by it is the Neptune Cemetery atop a rocky ridge. The road passes the foot of the high hill so close that the little cemetery is hidden from view. A couple of large pine trees can be seen as you approach the cemetery which leads from Ithaca to Neptune. A glimpse of a tombstone or two can be noted as you pass Elephant Trunk Rock straight ahead.

The Neptune cemetery site was given as a burial place by Thomas Sippy, son of Dr. Joseph Sippy, back in the long ago. Mrs. Lena Reagles of Neptune, the secretary of the cemetery association had the old, old records but for some reason or other these do not bear any dates.

Mrs. Reagles gave some information about the cemetery when called at her home some time ago. She showed the old record, and, according to it, the cemetery contained 113 lots. Seven Civil War veterans are buried there and there are government markers for some of them. Among the old soldiers who rest there are Theodore Dockerty, Phillip Warren, John Van Allen, H. H. Butts, Harlow Stoddard and William. F. Krause.

Many of the older settlers of Neptune and vicinity have found a resting place in the shadow of the tall pine trees. These trees, as told, were set out by Thomas Sippy, to mark the grave of a Dr. Slack, who was buried there. He had no relatives in that area so far as is known and Mr. Sippy, besides planting the trees, put up a rough stone to mark the spot.

Dr. Slack's name appears upon the record but some say the name was not Slack but Slaughter.

Thus were the lives and fortunes of all the pioneers bound together.

Their efforts were not in vain as fine farms and a prosperous countryside prove that the pioneers of the Neptune area were worthy men and women.

12 – week 4 of March 2022

Ada Lois James was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin March 23rd, 1876

She was a nationally known suffragist, a social worker, and a reformer.

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [women in wisconsin .org](http://women.in.wisconsin.org)

Ada James lived in Richland Center, Wisconsin, for her entire life.

She passed away now nearly seventy years ago in September of 1952

Ada James had graduated from the University of Wisconsin.

She taught school for a while but spent most of her life working as an activist.

Both of her parents actively supported rights for women, including the right to vote.

Her mother, Laura Briggs James, helped start the Richland Center Woman's Club, which may have been the first organization in Wisconsin to fight for women's suffrage.

Her father, David G. James, was a state senator who introduced a bill that led to a statewide vote (as a referendum) in 1912 about amending the Wisconsin state constitution to allow women to vote.

But only men could vote in that referendum, and a majority of them voted against the amendment.

After that amendment failed to pass, she and her father both continued to work for women's suffrage.

When the U.S. Congress finally approved a constitutional amendment guaranteeing all American women the right to vote, all of the states had to "ratify," or give consent to the amendment to make it official.

Ada James campaigned to get Wisconsin to ratify the 19th Amendment, and her father was the special messenger who took the ratification papers to Washington, D.C., in June 1919.

John Coumbe, The first white settler in Richland County

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → The Wisconsin Magazine of History Volume 6, Number. 4 June of 1923

John Coumbe was born March 25, 1808, in Devonshire, England. A part of his boyhood days was spent in the city of London, where he received his education. Early in life he exhibited a love of adventure, which trait no doubt accounts for the fact that he later devoted his life to conquering the wilds of the territory of Wisconsin, and establishing there an estate, Galena, Illinois, where it was rumored great wealth lay in the lead mines. He worked there until the summer of 1838. Having heard of the rich lands north of Wisconsin River, he at last induced two of his young companions, John La Rue and Frank Hubbard, to accompany him through the pathless wilderness, that they might see for themselves this land of promise. When they reached Wisconsin River near the mouth of the Blue, they obtained an Indian canoe and crossed the swiftly running stream, landing near the place now occupied by the north end of the Blue River bridge.

The newcomers were charmed by the beauty of the country. They pushed through the forest to the northward and westward, and just as they climbed over the crest of the hill, where the old Coumbe homestead was later built and still stands, they discovered the tepees of a large Indian village spread out below them in a clearing that sloped down to the river. The smoke could be seen curling out of the tops of the tents, and the bones of animals used for food lay strewn over the ground. Scattered

For centuries the Indian name of the place had been Tippe-saukee, but the young men christened it Trip Knock. Having come with the intention of settling, they built a log cabin about two rods east of the stone bridge in the present village of Port Andrew. The braves, however, became so troublesome and arrogant that the young pathfinders, being in a hopeless minority, resolved to return to the "diggins."

For John Coumbe, however, the new country held a peculiar fascination. He was ever a lover of nature in her more beautiful aspects, and the broad clearings covered with blue grass, which sloped gently down to the banks of the silent and majestic river, formed a picture which was stamped indelibly upon his memory.

10 – week 2 of March 2022

Uniquely located near the north central border of Richland County about 17 miles north of the city of Richland Center, County Hwy C now runs through the village of Yuba, although the road was formally then State Highway 80 That was until those two roads interchanged some four decades ago which was said to have "straightened" the route to Hillsboro.

What of the 'speculation' of the village of Yuba's early naming origin ?

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → the romance of Wisconsin place names a book by Robert Gard page 370

The village was laid out in 1856 by the surveyor Joseph Irish, who was working for Edward Pinick, owner of the land.

Mr. Pinick also erected a sawmill using power from the Pine River, the water being carried to the mill by means of a race half a mile in length, which secured a seven-foot head of water.

An old-fashioned up-and-down saw was installed.

Pinick was suggested as a name, but Yuba was finally chosen, although just why is not certain.

It may have been adopted from a city, a river or a county in the gold mining area of California.

The post office in Yuba was established in 1857, with Edward Pinick as the postmaster.

9 – week 1 of March 2022

Richland County notably has a first nationally during the Depression Era

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [A Short History of Wisconsin](#) a book by Erika Janik pages 126 and 127

As the financial squeeze of the Depression affected the entire nation, a growing urban and suburban population demanded more efficient food production from the nation's farmers – an efficiency that many believed could be gained through rural electrification.

...

In 1935 President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Rural Electrification Administration [known as the] REA to help farmers meet the growing need for power. Although, like many New Deal programs, the REA began as a program of unemployment relief, it soon became a lending and investment agency. The government began to encourage and grant preference to nonprofit, cooperative organizations of farmers in order to develop their electrical transmission infrastructure.

The task of organizing rural electric cooperatives was generally left to local leaders, they organized meetings, collected fees, enrolled consumers, and worked with the REA on program details. The REA provided farmers with low-interest loans to help them build their own lines and provide their own electricity.

On May 7th, 1937, Wisconsin's first cooperative, the RICHLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, went into service. Within fifteen years, 90 percent of most American farms had electricity.

8 – week 4 of Feb. 2022

What of the illustrious political career of Richland Center native Vernon W. Thomson

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → classic n g a .org

VERNON W. THOMSON -- was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

He attended Carroll College in Waukesha for two years and graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1927. He went on to the University of Wisconsin Law School and was admitted to the Wisconsin Bar in 1932.

From 1933 to 1935 he was the enrolling officer for the Civilian Conservation Corps. He also served as Richland County's Assistant District Attorney in 1933 and City Attorney from 1933 to 1937 then again from 1942 to 1944.

He was elected to the Wisconsin Assembly for eight consecutive terms from 1935 to 1949, serving as Speaker in 1939, 1941, and 1943 also as Republican floor leader in 1945, 1947, and 1949.

He was elected Wisconsin Attorney General in 1950 and re-elected in 1952 and again in 1954, ultimately winning the governorship of Wisconsin in 1956. In exchange for receiving increased salaries and living expenses, state legislators agreed to Governor Thomson's demand for enactment of what became one of the strictest lobbying laws in the country, designed to prevent lobbyists from covering significant portions of legislators' personal expenses. During his term as governor, Thomson also approved legislation providing group life insurance for state employees and revising the public retirement system.

He was defeated for re-election in 1958 by Gaylord Nelson, after which he practiced law for two years.

In 1960 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Richland County, a seat that he held for seven term before closing out his political career

7 – week 3 of Feb. 2022

Local history with some urban legend would center around the Boaz Mastodon

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [wisconsin historical markers .com](http://wisconsinhistoricalmarkers.com)

In 1897, after a severe rainstorm in Richland County, local farm boys Chris, Harry, Clyde and Verne Dosch found large bones sticking out of an eroded bank on a tributary of Mill Creek near Boaz. The bones were later identified as those of the extinct American Mastodon, a large, hairy animal, nine feet tall and weighing eight tons, noticeably related to modern day elephants.

This was the first recorded discovery of mastodon bones in Wisconsin. Mastodons lived in North America from as far south as Florida to northern regions of Alaska during cool, wet times that were dominated by spruce forests.

They had moved into Wisconsin after the last glacial retreat about 13,000 years ago and lived here for the next 4,000 years, when they became extinct.

A fluted quartzite spear point found near the bones suggests that humans also arrived in Wisconsin shortly after the last glacial retreat and may have hunted these animals for food.

The assembled Boaz Mastodon skeleton is on exhibit at the Geology Museum, at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

The historical marker acknowledging this event is located at a highway pull-off on U.S. 14 west of Richland Center near Boaz

6 – week 2 of Feb. 2022

It has been over a decade since she moved here and still noteworthy for history would be the death of Russian leader Joseph Stalin's daughter in Richland County

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → [find a grave .com slash memorial](#)

Svetlana Iosif on ova All ill U yeva known as simply "Lana"

Born the 28th of February 1926 in Moscow, Russia

She Died the 22nd of November 2011 listing Richland Center, Richland County, Wisconsin as the location of her death.

Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's youngest child and his only daughter with Stalin's second wife Na dez da

Svetlana's defection to the west in 1967 caused an international uproar, which the United States used as a public relations coup, during the Cold War.

She entered the United States embassy in New Delhi, India and presented a written statement of her desire to defect and was offered political asylum which she accepted.

Her memoirs, titled "Twenty Letters to a Friend", written in 1963 about her life in Russia, was published in the United States in 1980 and became a best-seller. She wrote three more books, including "Only One Year," an autobiography published in 1969.

Lana was married 4 times, the last marriage was in 1970.

In 1982 she moved to Cambridge, England and then returned to the Soviet Union in 1984 where she was granted citizenship. She settled in Georgian Soviet Socialist Russia until 1986 and then resettled, once again, to the United States.

Lana relocated to England in the 1990s and then returned to the United States, settling finally in Richland Center, Wisconsin, in 2010 where she died a year later from complications of colon cancer at the age of 85.

5 – week 1 of Feb. 2022

Early settlement in what is the Town of Marshall dates back 170 years to 1852

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → U S gen web chapter 27

The first permanent settlement within the limits now comprising the town of Marshall was made in 1852. During the spring of that year John G Marshall and Simon Marshall, natives of Ohio, came to this area and entered into 160 acres of land in Richland County.

In the fall of 1852 their mother, then a widow, came, accompanied by two more of her sons,

Mahlon Marshall and George Marshall. They all lived together farming the homestead until 1855, when Simon died, and soon afterward their mother was taken sick so she went to live with her daughter, Mrs. John Hart, where later she also died .

John G went to live in Tennessee.

Then Mahlon died in 1879. Lastly George Marshall occupied a portion of the old homestead.

The first mercantile business in the town of Marshall was carried on by Joseph Marshall, who sold goods for George Krouskop, and also handled ginseng.

Joseph Marshall, was a prominent man of Richland County, and the pioneer of the town of Marshall, which territory bears his name, he was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, on March 25, 1820.

His father was a large owner of timber land, and he spent a considerable amount of his time clearing portions of the same, while his brothers were employed in farming. He was married in April, 1851, to Margaret McCannon,

The day following they started west to seek a home, embarking on a steamboat they came to what was known as Muscoda Wisconsin, a prairie region located just south of the Wisconsin River

While in company with Alexander Bartley seeking a desirable location to settle, the land in that vicinity did not suit Mr. Marshall . The party showing him the country inquired what kind of land he wanted, to which Mr. Marshall replied, "I want land where there is plenty of wood and water." "Well" said the man, "we will have to go back into Richland County where Mr. Marshall would later establish his homestead.

4 – week 4 of Jan. 2022

George Kroskup played a major role in several areas with the early development of Richland Center and Richland County

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → Chapter 7 of a **History of Richland by County Judge James H. Miner - 1906**

George Krouskop, one of the pioneer settlers of Richland county, was born in Bellefontaine, Logan county, Ohio, May 12, 1832. He spent the early part of his life in Ohio, his father's family moving to Richland County, Wis., in 1851. George Krouskop received a good education in the common schools of his native state, and supplemented this by a thorough academic course at the Geneva College in northern Ohio.

His first trip to Richland County was in 1850, when only eighteen years of age. He spent the summer of that year prospecting in this region, returning to his old home in Ohio in the fall, and when the family moved here in 1851 he came with them. For a year or two he was engaged alternately in teaching school and running his father's saw-mill at Sextonville.

In 1854 he embarked in the mercantile business, and laid the foundation for a successful business career by establishing a store on a small scale near the Sextonville mills. Shortly afterward he purchased the mills, and continued these enterprises until 1865, when he moved to Richland Center and engaged in the mercantile business for a number of years. In 1870 he opened a bank.

Mr. Krouskop always took a leading part in all public enterprises and improvements which would advance or develop the material resources of the town and county, and aided liberally both by his influence and ample means. While a member of the board of trustees of Richland Center and the largest tax-payer in the village, he was instrumental in putting down the fine artesian well, 752 feet deep, which is now the source of an inexhaustible supply of pure water. He was one of the originators and projectors, as well as one of the principal stockholders in the Pine River Valley & Stevens Point Railroad, an enterprise that was built wholly by home capital. He was president of the company for several years.

Politically, Mr. Krouskop was a Democrat, and he served two terms as state senator in the Wisconsin legislature, representing the district composed of Crawford and Richland Counties, being elected each time by a handsome majority over his opponent, in a district that was usually largely Republican.

3 – week 3 of Jan. 2022

The naming of present day Gotham located just north of what was then Richland City

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → the romance of Wisconsin place names a book by Robert Gard

Originally it was Richland City because of the confusion with Richland Center it was changed; although the influence of a Mr. H. M. Bock had it changed back from Gotham to Richland City three times.

W. A. McNurlin, a store owner, is credited with suggesting the name after his friend, Captain M. W. Gotham who was postmaster when the post office was moved from the riverfront nearer to the railroad.

Captain M. W. Gotham became a Great Lakes sailor at the age of eighteen and commanded steamers for more than thirty years. When he married Clara Campbell, a Richland County girl, he decided to live in Richland City because it reminded him of his former home on the St. Lawrence River.

In the winter months he enjoyed matching tall tales with the river men who worked the steamers and the lumber rafts on the Wisconsin River. He was sixty one when he and two of his sons perished with the Macy on Lake Erie.

In the winter of 1902 the steamer the Sylvanus J. Macy commanded by Captain M. W. Gotham was towing the schooner Mabel Wilson commanded by his brother Captain J. E. Gotham.

They were on Lake Erie bound for Kenosha with cargos of hard coal the last trip of the year. When a heavy storm struck, heroically the men on Macy cut loose the towline before their own ship went down. The Wilson reached Detroit and told of seeing the lights on the drifting Macy disappear suddenly about three o'clock in the morning.

2 – week 2 of Jan. 2022

Margaret Helen Scott – one of the most noted historians from Richland Center and of Richland County

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to →the Amistad Research Center

Margaret Helen Scott was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin on December 26, 1898. After her father died in 1918, she attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in history.

She taught in Ladysmith, Wisconsin for two years and then returned to Richland Center to teach English at the high school. In 1930 she moved to California and did two years of post-graduate work at the University of California-Berkeley. She earned a Master's degree in Library Science in 1943 at the University of Chicago.

In addition, she worked briefly in Kentucky and in Michigan for a short time.

She then returned to the south to Talladega College to serve as head librarian for 25 years until her retirement in 1964.

After her retirement, Ms. Scott went back to her hometown of Richland Center and worked for ten years as a volunteer at the Brewer Library where she organized the Richland County History Room.

She wrote several books documenting the history of the town including most notably her first work *Richland Center, a History* in 1972 and also her final book *Frank Lloyd Wright's Warehouse in Richland Center, Wisconsin* in 1984

During her retirement, Ms. Scott was honored with numerous awards by her hometown of Richland Center for her work in documenting the town's history. She died March 29, 1994 at the age of 95.

Margaret Helen Scott was a historian, a teacher, a librarian, an author, and a humanitarian.

1 – week 1 of Jan. 2022

The first telegraph connected to Richland Center was from Lone Rock with lines thru Sextonville

... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → Chapter 6 of a **History of Richland County Judge James H. Miner - 1906**

In 1874, Charles W. Towsley, a telegraph operator at Lone Rock, conceived the idea of constructing a telegraph line from that place to Richland Center.

He accordingly made a proposition to the people of the latter place, that if they would patronize him and pay for a certain amount of telegraphing in advance, he would construct and manage the operation of the line. Tickets, which were called "franks," were issued, and were handled the same as stock of a joint stock company, only differing in this, "that the holder of a frank was entitled to telegraph out the amount shown on the face of a frank, and was not entitled to dividends."

The people of Richland Center took hold of the matter with a vim, and many of the enterprising citizens took \$5, \$10, and some as high as \$150 worth of the franks. At least \$700 was raised in this way at Richland Center.

The line was ready for operation in September, 1874, and Mr. Towsley placed operators at Richland Center and Sextonville. The enterprise met with marked success and gave the best of satisfaction to its patrons.

When the narrow gauge railroad was built, a few years later, this line of telegraph was used for railroad business, notwithstanding the fact that the wires followed the wagon track and shot across fields and creeks, the nearest way possible to Lone Rock, regardless of the course taken by the railroad.

When the narrow gauge railroad was sold to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul company, in 1880. This ended the existence of the "Pony Telegraph" as a Richland County enterprise.

START OF REPORT in reverse sequence ...