

**# 51 – week 5 of December 2023**

**Christmas Tea at the Richland Hospital, Richland Center, Wisconsin, 1966**  
*... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"*

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → **Richland County History Room Digital collection**

With an Accompanying news article from THE RICHLAND OBSERVER  
dated Thursday, December 29th, 1966 on Page 6, from Section 1

The article titled "Faithful Hospital Personnel Return for Annual Christmas Tea"

It was a special homecoming last Wednesday afternoon at the Richland Hospital's annual Christmas tea for all of the people in the community who help carry on the hospital's work in one way or another. These seven ladies are among the persons who have contributed greatly to the hospital's operations and success over the years. The seven have cumulatively served the community for 209 years, and had the eighth been able to be present, it would amount to 248 years.

In the Picture accompanying the article From left to right, with their years of service to The Richland Hospital, are: Mrs. Winnie Richardson, 18 years; Mrs. Ruth Richardson, 41 years; Helen Zuengler, 36 years; Lulu Allbaugh, 26 years; Mrs. Leora Frase, 36 years; Anna Borkenhagen, 30 years; and Mrs. Clarice Johnson, 22 years.

Unable to attend the tea was Iva Sippy, who had served for 39 years.

The Richland Hospital is a 25-bed acute care Critical Access hospital with a long history of serving the health care needs of people in Richland Center and the surrounding area. The Richland Hospital, was first established in 1924, occupying the Bailey Mansion, which was located where a portion of the current facility now stands.

Our existing Richland Hospital building is the result of many building and renovation projects. Early history Excerpted from the [richland hospital our-history](#) on their website

The Beginning of The Richland Hospital, Incorporated began as a concept in 1919, when the Federation of Women's Clubs of Richland Center began to raise funds for a new hospital. With \$10,000 raised locally, the Women's Clubs purchased the H.T. Bailey home in 1921 and had it converted into a 14 bed hospital.

In November of 1924, The Richland Hospital opened with seven employees.  
Now just one year away from celebrating their 100th anniversary

# 50 – week 4 of December 2023

**We Remember Christmas Past – Christmas in Bear Valley**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → the Richland Observer December 23rd, 1976 written by Vera Gutknecht Grover

During 1976, our country's Bicentennial Year, we've done a lot of reflecting ...

Lots of interesting events and situations have been brought to mind that we've perhaps not thought of since childhood. So it seems, I too have continued to reminisce and now during winter and this advent season, I have been asked to share these precious memories with You. ... as children the true meaning of Christmas was uppermost in our observance. Gifts, elaborate parties, and holiday garb came in as a much lesser degree.

My childhood seems to be divided between customs and observances ...

The parlor was "opened up" for the Advent season and one day when our father had to make a trip into Lone Rock he combined it with a side trip to the Gotham area where he found and cut our Christmas tree. Not a particularly nice tree according to our selective standards of today, but it was a beautiful tree to us. The large spaces devoid of branches and needles gave opportunity for many decorations which were homemade and new each year. Ours were stings of popcorn, no cranberries though since those were much too expensive and meant for eating, ginger cookie cut outs and small attractive objects we had collected during the years some of which were surprises found in Cracker Jacks. Best of all I remember that our mother saved all the tinfoil wrappings.

Do You remember when Hershey candy bars were wrapped in foil ? We were all too wrapped up in the excitement of Christmas to notice that Santa's sleigh bells were the same as the ones that were put on our horses as we drove through the countryside in our bobsled. Our gifts for the most part were simple and practical. I do recall that we got stocking caps, mufflers with mittens also sleds for the boys and one year I got an absolutely divine pink dinner pail. Our gifts were complete surprises

Winter recreation as we know it would hardly be recognized as fun by today's Youth.

Sunday nights when there wasn't enough snow for outdoor fun the neighbors would get together. While parents visited we kids popped corn, made candy and played games. I especially remember PIT. ...around the table I recall chants of TWO TWO TWO one THREE THREE THREE How excited and loud we got.

Attending church and the Sunday School program ...

and the radio that brought us wonderful Christmas programs and music

As I write this I'm sitting in front of a blazing fireplace and the Christmas tree is beautifully decorated ... I do cherish the memories of the past.

I'm a fortunate person to have experienced both modes of living

**# 49 – week 3 of December 2023**

**The story begins in 1899 and how did Schmitt Woodland Hills evolve  
... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"**

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → [schmitt woodland hills dot com our-history](http://schmittwoodlandhills.com/our-history)

In a much in need of repair their factory located in Byrds Creek,

William and Carl Schmitt began their cheese making business.

From these humble beginnings, the brothers, aged 18 and 21 at the time, grew an industry that by 1928 embraced eighteen cheese factories throughout western Wisconsin and warehouses that assembled twenty million pounds of cheese annually.

The business, known as Schmitt Brothers, was eventually absorbed by Borden Enterprises with offices in Richland Center. William Schmitt came to Richland Center to live in 1837 and built a home on North Central Avenue.

William H. Schmitt passed away in 1962 and when his will was probated there was a large sum of money bequeathed for the building of a retirement center.

Planning for this new center began almost immediately.

The "Home"[as it was referred to then] was incorporated in 1962 as a non-profit organization and in the same year the first Board of Directors was assembled.

Many had hoped a suitable site could be found in Richland Center itself.

Ultimately, no site could be found within the city limits and the decision was made to purchase farm land at the end of Seminary Street from Kevin Norman for the building site for the new "Home". The Board signed construction contracts totaling \$735,000.00 with Kraemer Brothers of Plain, Wisconsin

and ground breaking ceremonies were held on September 2, 1963.

Mrs. William (Oda) Schmitt, William's widow, wielded the first shovel of dirt.

The initial Open House was held on March 25, 1964, with the week witnessing over fifteen hundred visitors from sixty-five Wisconsin communities and beyond.

Since 1964 several additions and changes have taken place starting in 1981

Today Schmitt Woodland Hills is a Christian residential retirement community offering a complete continuum of services from in-home to comfort care.

**# 48 – week 2 of December 2023**

**THE VILLAGE OF BOAZ**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → **Genealogy trails dot com**

*Boaz is the only village within the limits of the town of Dayton.*

*It is located on sections 19 and 20, on Mill creek. The village is surrounded by an excellent agricultural and dairying country, and enjoys a good trade.*

*The village was platted in the winter of 1857-8 by R. and J. T. Barnes.*

*The first store on the village site was started in 1857 by R. Barnes and M. Ripley. In 1861 Mr. Barnes purchased the store, and ran it until the time of his death in 1871. He was succeeded by J. W. Briggs and W. M. Barnes.*

*The first blacksmith shop at Boaz was opened in 1857 by Conrad Kierns, who remained about ten years. George H. Starr was the first harness maker to locate in the village. He established his shop in October, 1870, and is still in trade.*

*The first wagon maker in the village was Peter Kierns, who occupied the same building as his brother, Conrad. The first hotel at Boaz was opened by Lewis Berry in 1870.*

*The Boaz House was erected in 1859 by M. Ripley, who occupied it for a number of years as a store and dwelling. In 1874 the property was purchased by George H. Starr, and in connection with his harness shop he ran this as the Starr Hotel.*

*The post office at Boaz was established in 1858 with M. Ripley as postmaster.*

*The first school in Boaz was a subscription school, taught in a building owned by Reason and James T. Barnes. In 1857 a log school house was erected, in which John Dunstan was the first teacher. In 1883 a school house was erected at a cost of \$1,400. It is a fine two story building, 28 X 78 feet.*

*Kittie Delaney has the honor of being the first teacher in this house.*

*The Boaz mill is the most important establishment in the town. The land upon which the mills are located was entered, in 1854, by Reason Barnes and his son James T. In 1853 they commenced the erection of a saw-mill which was ready for operation in September, 1856. It was furnished with an 'up and down saw. In 1857 M. Ripley became a partner and in 1858 added a grist-mill. In 1861 Mr. Ripley withdrew.*

*In March, 1869, the mill was destroyed by fire, but was at once rebuilt. The saw mill has been furnished with circular saws and machinery for the manufacture of wagon stock. The flour mill has two run of buhrs and all other machinery for making first-class flour. It is run as a custom and merchant mill, and has a liberal patronage.*

**# 47 – week 1 of December 2023**

**Sears & Roebuck in Richland Center**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → Bits of History by John Duffey from the Thursday May 15th 1986 excerpt on Page 9 of the Muscoda Progressive

A few years ago W R C O had a morning program consisting of three elderly Bohemian ladies from the Hillsboro area and Rod Perry. These ladies told about growing up on three farms.

The most interesting part was their telling about the whole family gathering around the kitchen table as mother and father were ordering the winter necessities from Sears Roebuck.

Some of the order was for wearing apparel but the most important part was ordering the winter's supply of dried fruits, candies, malted milk powder, coffee, etcetera.

Then when the mailman would deliver the materials it was the best day of all the winter

Sears Company was then celebrating 100 years from their Chicago headquarters. It all started when Richard Sears, a young freight clerk obtained watches left unclaimed at the depot.

He contacted the company purchasing those for \$12 and then selling them for \$14. Soon he had requests for more watches. Eventually he opened a company in Minneapolis. It wasn't too long before repair requests began to follow and Sears hired a repairman by the name of Alvah Roebuck. Thus the great merchandising venture was born profoundly affecting the buying habits of rural and small town America.

In Richland Center the Sears & Roebuck store was located across from the fire station in what is now the Century professional building. Entering on the Church street side was a merchandise store.

On the corner there was a small gas station that later became the Paramount Studio for a time period. Around the corner there was another entrance across from Jones Chevrolet side when they were located in town and what is now Shawn's Auto Repair.

At that entrance one could purchase horse machinery, farm supplies and other necessities ... including All State tires that Sears & Roebuck carried. My father Kenneth O. Thiede recalls for an oral history of the time my Grandfather Will Thiede, on their monthly trip for shopping in Richland Center, decided to put on new tires on the Dodge as winter weather was approaching.

My Grandmother Minnie Thiede would want to make a stop at Keegan's to get a fifty pound bag of flour and some sugar. Uniquely in the center of that block on West Court Street there was a gas station with the promotion of: SEVEN GALLONS FOR ONE DOLLAR.

According to my Dad it was a popular spot because of the price. Well now the "Rest of the Story" includes that the date was—December 7th, 1941. The next day on the radio they would hear how President Roosevelt declared war on Japan for the actions at Pearl Harbor.

Gas and Sugar were rationed. Now everything was rationed and you couldn't get tires.

It was 'just by chance' that the day before the Thiede family had made their regular trip to Richland Center to go shopping having stopped at the Sears & Roebuck store.

#### **# 46 – week 4 of November 2023**

### **Hannah's Letter's: The Story of a Wisconsin Pioneer Family 1856 to 1864**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to →The Wisconsin Magazine of History Vol. 74, No. 4 (Summer, 1991) pages 272-296 Hannah's letters are about the move of a family from New Hampshire to Wisconsin

first staying with relatives in Walworth County in the mid 1850's and the story continuing thru the Civil War

In 1858 Herman Aldrich and Hannah Thompson Aldrich were spending their first winter in Sylvan, Wisconsin. Herman was teaching school to pay the mortgage, while Hannah tended the cabin, the farm and the two sons.

Sylvan was an infant community, still almost completely wooded.

Located in the unglaciated region of Richland County, the settlement was crossed with ridges and deep valleys. The Aldriches were friendly with their neighbors

...

In Part two Hannah's letters reveal the virtually ceaseless chores of a pioneer woman. For Hannah each rising sun meant a new day of work. She casually mentions her chores, all part of a routine that was broken only by the seasons —

fall for butchering and making soap, winter for making and remaking clothes, spring for making maple sugar and summer for collecting nature's wild bounty. Year round Hanna had several tasks to occupy her time.

Daily she had to tend the cow, chickens and pigs. She milked the cow and made butter regularly, two jobs which require much strength and stamina. To milk a cow, one needed strong forearms and hands. Butter is made by repeatedly ramming a specially designed stick into a churn with the process taking up to several hours on intemperate days. Lacking a cellar with relatively consistent

temperatures for a large part of the time she was in Sylvan this task was probably especially difficult for her. Hannah also made her own cheese when the cow gave enough surplus milk.

However ... Thanksgiving had a baked chicken, some potatoes and onions and a johnny cake. [Johnny cake is essentially a cornmeal flatbread.] ... O to have some cheese and applesauce ... might have got cranberries plenty – To All This ... We acknowledge with gratitude ...  
Happy Thanksgiving !

### **# 45 – week 3 of November 2023**

### **Deer hunting has a long history in the Richland County area**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → Random Thoughts by Wendell Smith in the Muscoda Progressive - September 1st, 2022 issue Don Shemak dropped off a DNR "Chronology of Wisconsin Deer Hunting" that he has had for many years. With ... years of history, perhaps readers [and in this case listeners to WRCO Radio] will find a few facts about Wisconsin's long tradition of deer hunting interesting.

It was in 1851 when the first closed season for deer hunting was instituted.  
Deer could not be hunted between February 1 and June 30.

In 1887 two game wardens were appointed by the governor.  
They each received a monthly salary of \$50. Night-time hunting was prohibited

The first bag limit for deer was set in 1897 – two per season. A resident license cost \$1.00, and non-residents paid \$30 and an estimated 12,000 licenses were sold.

In 1921 wardens were instructed that "all deer found in possession with horns less than three inches in length should be confiscated. There were no open seasons in 1931 and 1933. The first bow season was held in 1934 and there was no open season in 1935.

1937 experienced the shortest season on record – three days.  
Starting in 1938, the use of .22 rifles and .410 shotguns were prohibited  
and in 1939 licensed children between the ages of 12 and 16 had to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Buckshot was prohibited statewide.

Back tags were required for hunters, starting in 1942. Wearing red clothing when hunting deer was first required in 1945. By 1951 a deer hunting license and tag cost \$2.50 and orange clothing was included under the red clothing law.

1956 – 100th established gun deer season. Registered gun kill, 35,562.

1960 – Hunters not permitted to buy a deer license after the opening day of gun season. The deer population was estimated above 400,000. 1967 – Hunter Safety Education Program began. 1980 – Blaze orange clothing required. Also the First season of Hunter's Choice permits. 1981 – Record-setting deer kill. That was followed by several record kill years.

**In conclusion Wendell recalls ...** *Among my most enjoyable deer events came this summer when Vi and I saw a doe nursing her twin fawns while she was standing in the middle of Indian Creek Road in Richland County. Unfortunately, they did not pose long enough for a photograph and the trio of deer quickly slipped into the woods.*

**# 44 – week 2 of November 2023**

**Earl's Autobiography — He was a self taught man of many talents ... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"**

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → a manuscript in the County Room, Brewer Library Richland Center Wisconsin

I, Earl Sugden was born April 17, 1898 at Podunk, a small hamlet in Sauk County, Wisconsin. When I was a baby a neighbor woman used to borrow me each day and after a while she begged my mother to let her adopt me as her own.

I lay in my crib and laughed at the ceiling

We were very poor. My father worked in the sawmill and my mother did sewing for the neighbors. The sawmill closed and we moved into Richland County on a small stream called Hawkin's Creek. Here I remembered everything distinctly. I knew the names of both children and adults. From the first I knew the difference in the plants and trees. I learned several melodies, though I could not pronounce correctly many words.

We moved from the old log school house to a sawmill camp farther up the valley in January 1889. This was one of the coldest winters on record. The next spring we moved to our uncle's house over the hill on a stream called Soule's Creek. Here my oldest sister taught me the alphabet. I was only four but I tried to read all the printed matter ...

In the fall of 1893 we moved into an old log shack with a board roof that let the rain pour through. Here I began to study arithmetic.

Learning to write was hard for me. Neither my father or mother could write. I made my pen out of a tin can the ink from "Barlow's Indigo Blue" and my paper was the margin of a Farmers Institute book.

In the autumn of 1900 my parents bought a forty acre farm. We moved there that fall. We boys were enthusiastic in clearing the land. This was the first home of ours. I had never been to church till I was fourteen. I soon began to attend Sunday school.



In 1910 my younger brother bought a forty acre farm and we moved to it. I taught at the local school that year. We paid for the farm in three years and I sold my share to my brother and began teaching. I taught off and on till 1924 and then quit teaching

My father died in 1922 so my younger sister and I ran our mother's farm till she died in 1933. We bought out the heirs and farmed till 1947. We sold the cattle and bought a house in Woodstock five miles west. We still live there ...

*It should be noted that Earl Sugden was a man with deep respect and desire for knowledge. With just a few months of elementary school he was admitted to the Richland County Normal School. He first taught at the Ryan School in the town of Akan. He taught for many years. By self study he acquired understanding of several languages, He was well versed in the sciences. He was a painter of rural scenes, a carver of wood, and a writer of tales and poems. Many have benefitted from knowing Earl Sugden and their lives have had wider horizons because of this.*

**# 43 – week 1 of November 2023**

**The Richland County Industrial Development Association**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → the 1965 Atlas of Richland County in the back section of histories includes this:

**Richland County has 24 manufacturing plants located within its boundaries.**

**Employment in these 24 plants is estimated to be 700 employees**

**and since 1954, there has been a concerted effort within the county to locate new industry in Richland County.**

**The first of these plants was Richland Industries, which was built in 1954.**

**The Marten's Manufacturing Plant moved to Richland County in 1959 from Sheboygan, Wisconsin.**

**Marten's manufactures products out of native hardwood maples found here in Richland County.**

**Two larger plants moved to Richland County in 1962; the Richland Center Foundry Company and the O'Bryan Brothers Lingerie Plant from Chicago.**

**Employment in these two plants today totals around 220 employees and they are rapidly growing.**

**Other manufacturing plants in the area - the Gold Bond Ice Cream Plant which specializes in frozen ice cream confectioneries.**

**The Carnation Company just completed a million dollar expansion**

**program. Many of the other small manufacturing plants and processors are built around the dairy industry of Richland County.**

**Concerted efforts are being developed that will bring new job opportunities to Richland County by the local Richland County Industrial Development Association.**

**These efforts are being developed around the natural resources of wood product and dairy commodities as much as possible**

As a FOOTNOTE to this excerpt notably the Richland Center Allen-Bradley plant opened in 1971 which then became Rockwell Automation in 1985.

**# 42 – week 4 of October 2023**

**“AGUE” Chased this Family Out of Indiana Into Wisconsin**

*... and now for a Richland County Historical Society “HISTORY MOMENT”*

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → information From the Richland County History Room on the second floor of the Brewer Library in the scrapbook of Stephen Fogo

**AGUE spelled A G U E – is some other illness...likened to Malaria involving fever and shivering.**

**AGue, day after day, that’s what brought us from Indiana into Richland County – so spoke a gentleman by the name of Moses Bible of Westford when we asked him why his parents came to Richland County.**

**We don’t suppose that the Bible family thought much of the AGUE with its chills and fever, BUT we can give it credit for one thing and that is it was one of the main reasons for the family coming into Richland County . A fine family it was and is. ... as written in this account**

**These early pioneers and their sons and grandchildren have proven worthy citizens.**

**Mr. Bible will be 90 years old in September and has lived upon the same farm for now onto 82 years.**

**His father was also named Moses. He was a Native of Tennessee and was born in 1808. In 1855 by reams they came to Richland County They brought with them three or four head of cows and they were accompanied by two other families Zachary Clary and Jonathan Smelier This was in the fall of 1855.**

**There was an old log shack on the land entered by their father. It was hardly room for the whole family to gather at one time but they managed some how....**

**and the next summer a large two story log cabin was erected. This log house still stands but is now used as a workshop. The old fireplace serves as a black smith forge.**

Upstairs we noticed a couple of old fashioned grain cradles ... while out in a nearby shed was a hand made harrow and a hand made plow of the model of about 1860 as we would judge it to be.

According to Mr. Bible it was a six week trip from Indiana to Wisconsin  
The original farm was 160 acres but now is over 330 acres

Mr. Bible told us that his father once traded horses with a man down Loyd way.  
For his horse Mr. Bible got a mare and 30 bushels of rye and 5 bushel of wheat in a boot. In addition the horse raised 15 fine colts.

"You know" said Mr. Bible "If I were to tell you just how the pioneers had to live ... what they had to eat... and wear in those days ... for those who didn't know ... would think I was telling a great big fib"

Pioneers will have passed from the scene but they leave worthy successors.

The Children of Mr. Bible are Mrs. Hetty Anderson, Mrs Eivee Hess Fred and Bert Bible of Cazenovia and Mrs. Fannie Huffman of Akan

#### # 41 – week 3 of October 2023

*Headline reads – SPOOKTACULAR Sale and show comes to Downtown Richland Center*

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → an October 18th, 1979 supplement to the Richland Observer, the Muscoda Progressive and the Spring Green Home News

1980 Vehicle Show set for Saturday October 20th on Court Street was the title –

#### The 1980 cars are here !

Saturday, October 20th will be an excellent opportunity to leisurely browse and inspect a very large selection of 1980 offerings by the four major American car manufacturers.

You will also be able to look over a good selection of recreational vehicles and cycles. Court Street in the center of Downtown Richland Center will become one gigantic vehicle show ... Six local car and truck dealers representing all of the major American automobile makes will be showing selected models in their display areas along two blocks of Court Street.

One of the high points of the Ford lineup is the Thunderbird and all new is the Lincoln See Leyda's on Court Street Saturday

Vetesnik motors relates that the Buick-Pontiac lineup for 1980 has better aerodynamics resulting in better fuel economy. The Phoenix and Skylark are the big coming things

The big news from Wilson Motors representing the Plymouth line up is that the Gran Fury is back and look at the 1980 GMC trucks on display

Citation is the great new front wheel drive from Jones Chevrolet. They will be representing Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Cadillac on Court Street Saturday

Buhmeyers plans to show the 1980 Cordoba by Chrysler. ... also the Dodge Omni front wheel drive 4 door hatchback with added options for 1980

American Motor models will be displayed by G & W Car Sales placing major emphasis in 1980 on improved fuel economy as well as rust and corrosion prevention

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN DOWNTOWN RICHLAND CENTER THIS WEEKEND:

Merchants have a weekend of fun and good shopping planned

Not to be overlooked in the SPOOKTACULAR are the bargains featured in downtown stores

Penney's for example has savings on blankets, shoes, watches, jackets and many other items

Two Friendly owners of Richland Center Office Supply Warren and Tom are having their Grand Opening ... You might win a manual or electric typewriter

On and on goes the list.

Study these ads and save yourself some money this coming weekend

*In the 1972 Richland County Plat book in the back of the atlas there is a quarter section ad at the bottom of the page titled*

*"Compliments of Richland Center New Car & Truck Dealers"*

*Bulleted listings include: Jones Chevrolet, Leyda Ford, Buhmeyer's Dodge, Wilson Plymouth, Burke G.M.C., Port International and G.& W. Rambler*  
*# 40 – week 2 of October 2023*

*Richland Center's First Post Office*

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → an article in the REPUBLICAN OBSERVER dated September 8, 1960 from the digital records of the Richland County History Room on the second floor of the Brewer Library

The building housing the first post office in Richland Center still stands at the age of over 100 years.

This building is now located on the corner of N. Park and East Third streets, just south of the high school. It was built in 1856 for L. D. Gage, who was the first postmaster of Richland Center. He was appointed by President Pierce, and came to Richland Center from Illinois to take charge of the office. He continued to handle the mail until 1861.

The building stood on Church street facing east on what is now the site of the half block long brick building known as the H. T. Bailey block. It now houses the "Dime & Dollar" store. Joseph Kelly owns the building. The post office was located a bit north of the corner of East Court and North Church streets.

The little wooden, one story structure, the small part of the house pictured above, was used by Mr. Gage as a dwelling, his drug store, as well as the post office. Mail was received and dispatched once every two weeks when the office first opened.

In 1883, H. T. Bailey bought the land and the building, moving the structure to its present location and fixed it up into a dwelling, adding a two story addition. It is now owned by Edwin Klockow and at present occupied by Mrs. Shirley Gander and her children.

L. D. Gage was not only the first postmaster of the village but was also the first druggist, first doctor, first abstract office owner and the first suicide. He continued as postmaster until 1861 at which time President Lincoln appointed W. H. Downs and Gage retired to private life remaining a resident of the village until his tragic death in July 1870.

W. H. Downs, the second postmaster, had his office at his home at the corner of South Church and East Seminary streets on the present site of Dick's Pure Oil station, a block east of the Park Hotel. The building was moved to 478 North Main street where it was remodeled and is now owned and occupied by Howard Huffman. On the original site is Dick's Oil station and a part of Ewers Pontiac Motor Co. garage at 191 East Seminary street.

# 39 – week 1 of October 2023

*Keysville – the little community that was built around a church known as  
St. Mary's high upon the hill*

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → Margaret Helen Scott's Richland County Place Names page 30

From 1855 to 1872 the area was known as St. Mary's the church that was up on the hill. In 1872 when a post office was to be established, the government rejected "Rhinesburg" which had been suggested by the settlers in remembrance of their native village in Germany.

According to the most creditable version, the matter was referred to Norman L. James, who was elected to the Assembly in 1872.

Mr. James consulted with Judge E. W. Keys, a former mayor of Madison on the matter. Judge Keys mentioned "Jamesville" while Mr. James suggested "Keyesville".

When a vote was taken of these two options; James, Keys and three others voted with two votes for Jamesville and three votes were for Keyesville ... hence the area became known as Keyesville.

From Tales The Tombstones Tell - Republican Observer - November 14, 1957

The Keyesville Cemetery — Close by St. Mary's Catholic church in the town of Ithaca, is the cemetery which contains many of the early settlers and pioneers of that section.

Upon the monuments and markers are the names of those who have passed on.

Among these are Hanco, Schauf, Weitzer, Huebsch, Wolff, Honer, Crapser, Hess, Durst, Kearney, Stoltz, Reis, Balgheim, Grell, Hild, Ruetten, Faber, Mueller, Gassen, Pulvermacher. There are others; Acketz, Nussbaum, Deitelhoff, Slatterly, Kavenough, Schmitz. There are many names to be added to the list printed above. To be included are Sullivan, Brier, Duffy, McCluskey, Lord, Riser, Olson and Dederich.

Two early born folks to be buried here are Henry McCann who was 77 years of age when he died in 1872. The other is John Moser, a native of Germany, who passed on December 29, 1870, at the age of 75. Some tombstones give a bit of history of the person whose grave they mark. Such is the one for William Schauf. It says:

"Born May 1st, 1822, in Glessen, Germany, married in 1847 to Wilburga Harriger.

They settled in the town of Ithaca, Richland county, in 1857, died August 1886."

Michael Schauf, buried here, was born April 19th, 1837, and died March 22nd, 1907.

**# 38 – week 5 of September 2023**

**The Henry and Louisa Fiedler house on the National Registry of Historic places  
December 29th 1986 — listed as Number 86003515**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

The Fiedler House is located in the unincorporated village of Orion at Putnam and Washington streets. The 1860 house is built of rough coursed stone and barn built in 1914 referred to as A K A the Ellen Hale House

According to → [davidbrentthompson. Dot com/ slash Cedar Mound- Hyphen TALES](http://davidbrentthompson.com/slashCedarMound-HyphenTALES)

From the Cedar Mound Cemetery in ORION

Henry Fiedler and Louisa [nee Klinge] Fiedler, were early settlers of Orion.

Mr. Fiedler was born in 1825 and she in 1832. Mr. Fiedler died in 1904 and his wife in 1911. They came originally to Muscoda and later into Orion. Back in Germany they were sweethearts. With others they came to America and to Grant county where they were married. They came to Orion in 1854 and lived in a log house. Mr. Feidler was a carpenter and cabinet maker. He

built for himself and family a stone house which still stands at the eastern limits of the village, joining the old cemetery on the north.

Much of the timber in the house was secured from driftwood rescued from the Wisconsin river.

Big rafts would break up and the lumber floated downstream where it would be secured.

The stone in the Fiedler home came from the ledges along the Wisconsin river.

Mr. Fiedler was a veteran from the Civil war as a member of Company D, 44th Wisconsin Infantry, giving Orion as his residence when he enlisted February 12, 1865.

He was mustered out at the close of the war, the date of his discharge being August 28, 1865.

There were six children in the Fiedler family, two daughters of whom are buried close to their parents.

Bertha died in 1885 at the age of 22.

Katie passed on December 26, 1883, at age 16

**# 37 – week 4 of September 2023**

***The Monongahela river flows northeasterly into southwestern Pennsylvania on to Pittsburgh and its confluence is with the Allegheny River to form the Ohio River.***

***What is the significance of Monongahela to Richland County Wisconsin You ask?***

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → genealogy trails from towns chapter 2

## **Monongahela**

*Source: is the History of Crawford and Richland Counties (1881) Transcribed by Richard Ramos  
A brief reference located on page 1026*

**In 1844 (some claim it was 1845) the commissioners of Iowa county appointed James Murphy and two others to select a county seat of Richland county.**

**They came and selected the northwest fractional quarter of section 2, town I, range 1 west, now included in what is the town of Eagle.**

**It was for the prospective seat of justice.**

**About one year later Francis A. Hill surveyed a village here, laying out lots and blocks.**

**It was named Monongahela.**

**For a time Ambrose E. Parrish ran a saloon here, but everything connected with the village has long since passed away.**

Another reference located on page 865 **James Appleby married in 1846 to Susanna C. Palmer. They had nine children. In 1849 he came to Richland county and settled in what was now known as the town of Eagle.**

**He made his home in that town until 183 when he removed to Richwood in Section 4. Mr. Appleby has been the county surveyor for seventeen years. His first official survey was made in 1850 for the town of Richmond.**

**It was for a road and commenced from the middle of Commerce street in the village of Monongahela and extended north past Rodolf's Mill ...**

According To Margaret Helen Scott's Richland County Place Names on page 34

**she included the Indian word meaning 'sliding banks'**

**and was spelled – M E N A U G A H E I L then so pronounced "Me naug a heel"**

**Possibly... there was a connection to the Monongahela River area in Southwestern Pennsylvania ...yet that was not known for certain.**



**Spelunkers Unearth New Carving in Eagle Cave,**  
**May be 2,000 years old**

*... 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 on the second floor of the Brewer Library DATED September 9th 1965

**The Spelunkers diggings have paid off again !**

**Ever since last spring the group of spelunkologists**

**... A spelunkologist studies caves ... called a 'caver' or potholer;  
more commonly a**

**"Spelunker"**

**speleologists have been exploring the cracks and crevices in Eagle Cave.**

**They've made a new map of the cave, they've found where the  
entrance to the lost room is located.**

**They've discovered where bears made their nest for the  
winters**

**But their latest discovery can easily prove to be their most important.**

**In the back mud, they have uncovered a large carving made from an onyx  
stalagmite.**

**There isn't much that they make out of the carving as yet,**

**... It appears to be a statute or a figurine,**

**but it's so old that nothing else bears any resemblance  
to it.**

**The Spelunkers from the University of Wisconsin say**

**that it is the most interesting item that has been discovered from  
any cave in the midwest in recent years.**

**Their first job now is going to have to be to establish an age for the carving.**

**After a general age has been established, other comparisons with artifacts can  
be made.**

**At the present the best guess is that the carving is about 2,000 years old and  
perhaps older. It actually resembles closely some of the artifacts that have been  
discovered in the Christmas Island, continents and oceans away. The discovery  
has attracted the attention of various groups in the larger cities in this area.**

# 35 – week 2 of September 2023

**Richland County Fair's past and present Sept. 7th thru 10th 2023**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → The Richland County Fair: A sesquicentennial History by Dr. Jerry Bower

**During the 1890s several changes were introduced to the Fairs.**

**For example, in 1891 the first four - day Fair was held, during the last week in September, as usual. Fairs were held late in the month in the hope that most of the harvesting would be completed and that the agricultural produce and garden product displays would be large and numerous. The Fair began with entry day on Wednesday and ended at dusk on Saturday.**

**Merchants were encouraged to close their stores on Friday afternoon – Richland Center Day – [as it was called] so that their employees and customers would attend the Fair. The stores, however, were open late Friday night and there usually was entertainment in at least one of the opera halls to keep some of the crowd in the village.**

**In 1892 the combined crowd on Thursday and Friday was estimated at thirteen to fourteen thousand. The receipts totaled \$2,500.00 enough to cover the expenses and allow the Society to pay down debt from various building projects. That year fairgoers saw the first steam powered merry-go-round in operation. Previously the ride had been powered by a gang of boys or by a pair of ponies. Because the steam engine and machinery were noisy the operator turned up the steam calliope very loud.**

**The operator of this attraction took in over \$800.00**

**At ten cents a rider that is a lot of rides.**

**In the 1920's Steve Fogo the long-time editor of the Republican Observer reminisced about a typical day in the 1890s at the Fair for a farm family.**

**First, there was the slow trip to the fairgrounds, which could take up to four hours for a family living on the fringe of the County.**

**Their conveyance would have been a buggy or a farm wagon powered by horses or a yoke of oxen. The buggy would be stuffed with food for a picnic lunch at mid day and with fodder for the animals. Often Fogo wrote the county fair was the site for a family reunion with the relations gathering at noon for a huge feast. Fogo estimated that a trip to the Fair would consume eighteen hours for many farm families. For many farmers, the Fair was on of the rare occasions that they left the farm for an outing**

# 34 – week 1 of September 2023

*Threshing in the Valley - 2022 Edition – Puts Old Iron to Work  
... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"*

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → excerpted from an article by Larry Scheckel with his permission  
published in farm collector dot .com

A fifty Year tradition continues ... farmers have come a long way from the time of the flail and the threshing floor, but the goal has never changed: Separate the oats grain from its stalk. Threshing day on Labor Day, September 5, 2022, brought back a lot of memories from my youth in the 1940's on the 238-acre Scheckel farm. Fortunately, there is a place to relive those youthful days. It's on the Monsignor Michael Gorman farm off Highway 171 between Boaz and Rolling Ground, on the western side of Richland County. The 250-acre farm has been in the Gorman family since 1857, handed down through generations of Irish immigrants.

Monsignor Michael Gorman born in Richland Center and raised on the family farm, he attended Akan Central Grade School and went to high school at Richland Center.

There can be no threshing day unless there are oats shocks to thresh. A 1936 McCormick Deering grain binder is pulled by a 1941 Farmall H tractor – Always intriguing is the knotter on those grain binders We can thank Cyrus McCormick for inventing the reaper and

John Appleby for developing the knotter. That combo increased grain production by a factor of 30. That big bull wheel on the binder runs the whole machine: the sickle, the reel, the three canvases, the binding mechanism, the knotter and the bundle discharge. There's something else you need to have on threshing day:

a threshing dinner. A sumptuous meal that marks the threshing day then once the threshers' dinner is concluded, the 1948 McCormick-Deering 28-inch-cylinder thresher leveled and belted up to a 1952 Allis Chalmers WD tractor, with all zerks greased, goes to work. Bundle after bundle, the behemoth thresher does its job, all eight belts and five chains working together to remove the oats grain from its stalk. Threshed oats go up an elevator on the side of the big machine and are dumped in a receiver bucket or weigher. The bucket is counterbalanced by a weight. When full, the bucket opens and dumps the grain into an auger that takes it to a waiting dump box wagon. At the same time, the

dumping bucket operates a geared counter that keeps track of the number of bushels threshed. Two dumping trips of the bucket is one bushel of oats counted and loaded into the grain bin by an auger. When Threshings complete, the machine must be "put to bed." The big straw pipe is telescoped to its shortest length. A large gear is turned so the straw pipe is on top and parallel with the thresher, then gently lowered by gearing it to its cradle. The long drive belt reaching from tractor to thresher is removed from the tractor's pulley and laid out on the ground. A crank on the thresher rolls up the belt and it is secured on the side of the thresher. The grain auger is removed from the grain bin, swung around and secured by a clamp. The hinged front feeder gate is unfastened and tucked under. The tractor

can now back up to the thresher, which is pinned to the tractor for transport to the machine shed where it will be stored until next year.

**# 33 – week 4 of August 2023**

***Back to School – Education as it was in the latter 1800's – Circa 1875***

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to →.u s gen web in chapter 10 title EDUCATIONAL

As has been said, the first school taught in Richland county was opened in 1847, it was in a room of Peter Kinder's house, in Richwood town, and from that small beginning has grown and ramified into the present full tree of education. No district is complete without its school houses; in Richland county are now some 130 buildings used for that purpose, covering an investment of about \$40,000, and employing about 210 teachers, who have enrolled in the neighborhood of 7,500 scholars. Behold, from how small a beginning great results may follow. In 1875 there were enrolled in the various schools of the county 5,429 scholars between the school ages of four and twenty. At that time 127 teachers were employed, and the schools of that period are spoken of as being in fine condition; but those who have lived in the county from an early date say that the last eight years have seen a remarkable improvement over that. This is partly due to the active exertions of W. S. Sweet, the present superintendent of schools in the county, who, to a liberal education and strong natural abilities, brings an earnest desire to raise the standard of excellence and quality of the educational status. The number of scholars enrolled in the various school districts of the county, during the year 1879, is here given by civil towns the following sixteen for convenience of reference: Akan, 323; Bloom, 536; Dayton, 440; Buena Vista, 340; Eagle, 454; Forest, 383; Henrietta, 364; Ithaca, 455; Marshall, 385; Orion, 272; Richland, 663; Richwood, 626; Rockbridge, 492; Sylvan, 434; Westford, 468, and Willow, 380; for a grand total of 7,029 in the whole county. There were at that time, 127 schools, taught by 203 teachers, who were paid salaries that averaged, for males \$28.48, and for females \$20.34. Most of the buildings were in good state of repair, and the county superintendent

in his report for that date speaks quite proudly of the efficiency of the corps of teachers.

**# 32 – week 3 of August 2023**

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*Resources and Early Enterprises – how Knapp's Creek and Byrd's Creek became important along the river route to Port Andrews*

*... 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 1906- chapter 8

Knapp's creek, on its passage through the town of Richwood, furnishes an excellent water privilege-eight feet head of water. Alonzo Carson was the first to utilize and improve this power, purchasing property in section 20 in 1855 and erecting a saw-mill. In April, 1866, a freshet washed the mill away, and he at once rebuilt.

In 1870, A. H. Avery became sole proprietor. In 1871 he built a grist-mill, at a cost of about \$5,000, equipping it with two run of burrs. ... Samuel Yeager owned an interest in this property for several years and operated a chair-factory in connection with it. The Ellsworth Mills were erected on section 6, by J. S. Ellsworth, in 1856. They did general sawing, planing, matching, and band-sawing, the principal products being material for wagons and agricultural implements.

In 1867 Thomas J. Ellsworth erected a tannery near Ellsworth mills, and operated the same for about ten years. In 1848 Melendeth Whit settled on Byrd's creek and put in shape a device for crushing hominy. *{Hominy is whole kernels of dried field corn}* It was so arranged that by the use of a water-wheel a weight would be raised and let fall into a wooden mortar. In the mortar about a peck of corn could be placed, and this would be crushed to meal in a day's time. The only trouble Mr. Whit complained of was that the crows would occasionally carry off the corn before it was ground. Adam Byrd came to Richland county in 1844 and settled on section 25,

in the town of Richwood, near the creek which bears his name. He erected the first saw-mill in the town, and had the same in operation in 1845. ... The post office was originally established as Bird's Creek [spelled with an "i"] in March 1890 and was changed to Byrd's Creek [ spelled with "y" as how Adam Byrd spelled his name] some two months later ... In 1879 H. B. Ellsworth leased the water privilege which Knapp's creek furnishes on section 17, and set a carding-mill in operation. He afterward added a saw-mill and general wood-working department, manufacturing broom-handles, table-legs, sled-runners, etc. ...

In 1854 ... in the vicinity of Excelsior – W. H. Haskins ... purchased the southwest quarter of section 16, at which place Knapp's creek furnished an excellent water power, and there he erected a saw-mill. The first blacksmith at Excelsior was

William Haskins, who opened a shop there in 1867, and Henry Couey also opened a *blacksmith* shop in 1869.

The first harness shop was opened by R. Buchanan, Jr., in 1870.

C. J. Moore opened a wagon and carriage shop there in 1879. ...

Excelsior is located – to the north of Knapp's creek– in a beautiful agricultural district and is surrounded by the most fertile and highly prolific lands.

# 31 – week 2 of August 2023

The heading on the postcard read as follows:



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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → card cow dot com slash 5 1 4 4 1 0

***Mailed as a 4 cent postcard with a 1 cent Jefferson stamp attached  
Dated 1968 August - 9***

from the GOOD OLD DAYS OF RICHLAND COUNTY When Ginseng was gold

The back of the postcard further goes on to read as follows:

The back of the postcard features a light beige background with dark green text. At the top, the heading "MARKET LOOKS GOOD" is centered in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this, a paragraph of text describes the market for Ginseng, mentioning prices in the "THIRTIES" and offering a guarantee. The next section is titled "OTHER WILD ROOTS" and discusses Golden Seal, Mayapple roots, and Bloodroots. At the bottom, the text "PULVERMACHER'S PRODUCE" is centered in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by the contact information: "Phone 647-2244 ARCHIE PULVERMACHER Richland Center, Wis. 53581".

**MARKET LOOKS GOOD**

It looks like another good year to make plans to dig Ginseng. It is best not to dig till the seeds are ripe, then replant them to assure a future crop. As it looks now, prices should be in the **THIRTIES** as it was last fall. I have no way of knowing in advance what the price will be when you have Ginseng ready to sell because prices usually fluctuate several dollars per pound during the course of the season. But you have my unconditional guarantee that you will always get as much or more from me for your Ginseng than you can obtain anywhere else. Whenever you have Ginseng ready to sell and want to know the latest market before shipping or bring it to me. All you have to do is drop me a line or call me personally and I will gladly quote the day's market.

**OTHER WILD ROOTS**

Golden Seal looks like it will bring about \$2.75 per lb. as market is now. Price is subject to change. I now also buy Mayapple roots and Bloodroots. At today's market these would bring 40c to 45c per lb. Have market for all of above roots you care to dig.

**PULVERMACHER'S PRODUCE**

Phone 647-2244      ARCHIE PULVERMACHER      Richland Center, Wis. 53581

# 30 – week 1 of August 2023

Early history of the local library 125 years ago and the Carnegie Library  
*... 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 1906- chapter 22](#)

The nucleus of the present city library originated in 1898, when the cultured ladies and gentlemen of Richland Center took hold of the matter in earnest and organized the Richland Center Free Library Association.

They were materially encouraged in the project by a donation of a fund of \$1,000 by J. W. Lybrand, which, supplemented by other contributions from public spirited citizens, enabled the library board to procure a good assortment of books at the very beginning.

The books were first kept in the building now occupied by L. H. Bancroft as a law office, and later in the building where is now located the office of Grant L. Miner, the latter place being used until July 5, 1905, when the library was removed to its present elegant home.

The first librarian after the association was organized was Mrs. G. H. Hardenberg, who was followed in that capacity by Mrs. O. F. Black, and finally Miss Vera Eastland, was given charge and has continued to serve as librarian since.

In 1903, negotiations were opened with Andrew Carnegie, looking toward a donation by him to Richland Center for library purposes.

The effort was successful, the steel magnate agreeing to give \$10,000 upon condition that the citizens of Richland Center would furnish an annuity of \$1,000 to support the enterprise. The board of aldermen of Richland Center invoked the power, which is given them by statute, and levied an annual tax of \$1,000 dollars upon the property valuation of the city, and thus guaranteed the satisfaction of Mr. Carnegie's proposal.

The Carnegie library building was located on the corner of Park and Seminary streets, and is a popular resort, much appreciated by the studious citizens of all ages.

**Richland Center may well be proud of her public library where over 2,000 choice volumes await the call of its patrons.**

**WRCO Tuesday Quiz Day                      June 20th 2023                      7:20 ish**

1. ***Richland County was created in 1842 as a part of the Wisconsin Territory and according to Genealogy Trails History copyright 2023 when was it organized?  
A. 1848 B. 1850 C. 1860***
2. ***How many Civil Towns are there in Richland County ?  
A. 10 B. 12 C. 16 D. 20***
3. ***Who is considered the founding father of Richland Center who coincidentally has two streets in the community intersecting identified by his first and his last name?***
4. ***The short line railroad in 1876 was established from Richland Center to which destination in the county connecting access with the main line along that Wisconsin River route ?***
5. ***Who was the notable suffragette in the early 1900's from Richland Center whose father was a local minister?***
6. ***Richland County has several state highways running through it.  
Which State Highway in Richland County connects Highway 60 to its south with Highway 80 to its north?***
7. ***Frank Lloyd Wright is notably born in the Richland Center area yet disputed as to the specific location of his birth. What is the name of his home he established near Spring Green which translates from his boyhood hill as "Shining Brow"?***
8. ***TRUE or FALSE – Richland City is listed as one of 5 "Ghost Towns" according to community census information and Genealogy Trails History copyright 2023?***
9. ***The Hidden Valleys region for tourism includes Richland County and all but one county that borders Richland. Which county bordering Richland is NOT a part of the Hidden Valleys region?  
A. Iowa B. Grant C. Crawford D. Vernon E. Sauk***
10. ***EITHER / OR – The Little Willow Creek watershed from Loyd to Neptune to Ithaca and passing Aubrey Corners flows directly into which of the following:  
the Pine River                      or                      the Wisconsin River to the south?***

\*\*\*\*\*

1. ***C. 1850***
2. ***C. 16 actually a four by four grid***
3. ***Ira Haseltine***
4. ***Lone Rock***
5. ***Ada James***
6. ***State Highway 193***
7. ***Taliesin***
8. ***False – the five are Henrietta which is a Township but identified as a "Ghost Town" is listed along with four others Ashford, Corwin, McGrew and Mill Creek***
9. ***E. Sauk***



10. *The Little Willow flows into the Pine River near Sextonville*

*then the Pine River flows into the Wisconsin south and west of Gotham*

**# – EXTRA week 5 {one was omitted in the WRCO sequence} PLEASE INCLUDE THIS**

**Davis B. Ostrander — a Richland County pioneer**

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

*MOMENT" Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → genealogy trails. Dot com/ slash w i s / slash richland/ slash bios **Source:** *History of Crawford and Richland Counties, Wisconsin, Illustrated (1881), transcribed by Mary Saggio.*

**D. B. Ostrander [as he was known] opened a hardware store in Sextonville in 1880, the first in that village.**

**He keeps a general stock of hardware and agricultural implements.**

**A tin shop, furnished with the necessary machinery for making all kinds of tinware is connected with the store.**

**Mr. Ostrander is a native of Oneida County, New York.**

**He was born on August 12th, 1823. When he was ten years old his parents removed to Cattaraugus County, New York.**

**There he attained his majority, spending his time working on the farm and in attending school.**

**At the age of twenty-two he went to Oriskany Falls and worked in a woolen-mill. Three years later he became a partner in the business, and remained there, in all , seven years; then he sold his interest and returned to Cattaraugus county where he engaged in farming and afterwards as a carpenter and in joiner's trade, remaining there until 1864.**

**In that year 1864 he came to Richland county and purchased a farm in Little Willow valley, section 18, town of Ithaca, which, four years later he sold, and bought a farm in the town of Richland where he remained two years, then went to Ithaca and engaged in mercantile trade for two years, after which he purchased his old farm on section 18, of Ithaca, living there until 1878 when he removed to the village and sold his farm soon after. In 1880 he came to Sextonville, as before stated, purchased land and erected a commodious frame house.**

**Mrs. Ostrander was formerly Margaret German, a native of Wales.**

**They were married in 1848 and have three children -**

**Eugene E., Edward G. and Cynthia M. [whose married name was Eastland]**

**Davis B. Olander died in 1898 and is buried in the Willow Valley Cemetery at Aubrey in Richland County, Wisconsin according to Ancestry dot com**

# 29 – week 4 of July 2023

**THE TOWN OF FOREST – RICHLAND COUNTY WISCONSIN**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to →the ***SOURCE: HISTORY OF CRAWFORD AND RICHLAND COUNTIES, WISCONSIN ILLUSTRATED (1881) TRANSCRIBED BY: RICHARD RAMOS***

The town of Forest forms the northwest corner of Richland County, being composed of congressional township 12 north, range 2 west. It is bounded on the north and west by Vernon county, and on the east and south by the towns of Bloom and Sylvan respectively. The surface of this town is very broken and uneven, the Kickapoo river is traversing the northwestern portion.

Some portions of the valley of this river is excellent farming land, having a soil of rich black loam, made up chiefly of washings from the surrounding hills.

It is well adapted to raising all cereals common to this latitude, and being well watered it makes excellent pasturage for stock.

The Kickapoo river enters the town by way of section 6, and passing through sections 6, 7, 18 and 19, then leaves through the latter section 19.

This stream furnishes splendid water power privileges, which have to a large extent been improved. South branch of Bear creek has its source on section 2, and flowing northward leaves the town by way of the same section.

Camp creek enters the town from the east and flows across the center of the town to empty into the Kickapoo.

These streams have many spring tributaries, some small, while others are of considerable size.

The first settlement in this town was made in April, 1854, by Daniel and William Bender, two brothers who came together from Pennsylvania. Daniel entered 160 acres of land on section 32, where the first house in the town was erected and where he still lives circa 1884. William entered 160 acres of land on section 29.

In the following June (1854) the Bender brothers were joined by Laal Cliff, who entered forty acres on section 7 and William Cliff, who selected eighty acres on section 8. William later moved to Minnesota. The Cliffs were natives of Vermont.

Jeremiah D. Black came during the same year and entered eighty acres on section 15. He is now dead.

On the 17th of September 1854, quite a party of pioneers arrived, those consisting of Cyrus D. Turner, Salma Rogers, Hartwell L. Turner, William Turner, J. L. Jackson and John Fuller. Cyrus Turner having entered 320 acres of land on sections 18 and 19.

**THE TOWN OF FOREST WAS FIRST ORGANIZED IN APRIL, 1855.**

**# 28 – week 3 of July 2023**

**The Role of Steamboats in early Richland County history**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to the following sources of information including but not limited to → Facebook from the Richland County History Room on the 2nd floor of the Brewer Library and Page 182 thru 184 of The Wisconsin River An Odyssey through time and space by Richard D. Durbin

***Steamboats from the rock formation to the Island so named to the transportation on the Wisconsin river along the southern shores of Richland County. So the importance of that term.***

***As a side note it is interesting the number of coincidences between Washington State to Wisconsin and Richland County.***

***Rock formations are important landmarks according to the Richland County Parks Commission identifying spectacular geologic formations in the county like Elephant Rock, Natural Bridge, and Steamboat Rock.***

***Steamboat rock is located just east of the road on County SR just northeast of the intersection of Steamboat Hollow Lane jutting out as a western extension as it was so named circa 1904***

***Steamboat Island is located just southeast of where Byrds Creek flows into the Wisconsin on Richland Counties southern border***

***And of course steamboats that were traveling up the Wisconsin River from Prairie du Chien as far north as Portage during the mid 1800's.***

***Commonly travel as far as Helena which is just east of present day Spring Green as the journey was challenging.***

***It eventually became perilous with the River's shifting channel and rapidly changing water level ( which was considered to be three feet higher back in those days). Ships named the Enterprise and the Northerner as well as the***

*twin stacked Ellen Hardy – which was the last big wooden steamboat to regularly ply the river. It is now harbored at the present site of Prairie du Sac.*

*There is a rich history of the importance of Steam boat travel and all that was transported along the southern shores of Richland County.*

# 27 – week 2 of July 2023

**Twylah Kepler remembered for her contributions to local history**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → from the Pratt Funeral Service dot com obituaries

Twylah L. Kepler, age 93, of Richland Center died Friday, March 28, 2014 at Pine Valley Healthcare. She was born July 14, 1920 in the village of Loyd, Willow Township the daughter of William Benjamin Shaw and Leona (nee Borchardt) Shaw.

She married Theron L. Kepler. They farmed in Sylvan Township near Sabin where they developed a herd of high-producing Registered Sabinview Holstein cattle.

After her husband's death in 1973, she earned her Associate Degree at UW-Richland. She served as Richland County Fair Secretary for six years.

Later she became historian of the Richland County History Room, at the Brewer Library, for 21 years.

Her hobbies were reading both historical and political books, sewing, cooking and playing cards with friends.

She loved history, especially local history, and the genealogy of Richland County people.

She was a member of Colonial Dames XVII Century (Edward Jackson Chapter) proving an ancestor who came to America before 1700, and a life member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (Black Hawk Chapter) proving four ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War.

She was a member of the Richland Center Historic Preservation Committee and notably on the Richland County Historical Society Board of Directors among several other organizations.

One of the highlights of her life was discovering the grave of her great-great-grandmother, Polly Eggleston Plant, in the Viola Cemetery. This ancestor was a daughter of a Revolutionary War soldier, and the first grave so marked in Richland County.

# 26 – week 1 of July 2023

**Independence and later the hamlet of Waunoma will be replaced by Lone Rock with the coming of the Railroad in the mid 1850's**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → Page 179 of The Wisconsin River An Odyssey through time and space by Richard D. Durbin

About one - half mile beyond the eagle nest, Robert Hurst established a ferry around 1851 which he operated for some fifteen years.

One June, several years after he had been in business, both Robert Hurst and William McCloud, an early pioneer of Bear Valley, laid out the hamlet of what was to become Waunoma located to the east of Bear Creek.

They must have thought it was going to be a real success, for they submitted a plat consisting of thirteen blocks replete with grand - sounding streets like Washington, Main, Water, High, Walnut and Wisconsin.

But this seems to have been close to the high point.

Nothing more is recorded about it except that a few of its buildings were later moved to Lone Rock. so it's doubtful if many people settled there.

The reason probably lay in the fact that several years earlier another settlement called Independence had been established not more than one- half mile farther down river by the mouth of Bear Creek.

It, unlike Waunoma, developed into a small settlement consisting of a store, some warehouses, a lumberyard, several houses, and even a small furniture factory.

Most of its inhabitants farmed, and some served as guides for the many settlers who crossed on Hurst's Ferry making for the central and northern parts of Richland County.

But once this migration slackened Independence began to fade.

... The river cut away at the shore line ( much like what happened to Richland City ) and the hamlet of Independence was taken over by the Wisconsin. ...

The only evidence that Independence ever existed is a dusty plat preserved at the Richland county courthouse.

# 25 – week 4 of June 2023

## **Earlier examples Richland County's Fourth of July celebrations**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → u s gen web 1906 version

*"The first general celebration of the Fourth of July held in Richland County was at Laws' Landing in 1851. Ira S. Haseltine was the orator of the day. Delegations were in attendance from Franklin (now Highland), Peddlers' Creek (which became Linden), Muscoda, Orion, Richland City, Rockbridge and intervening territory as aggregated several hundred people.*

*A cannon, cast on the ground out of two pigs of lead, shipped from Galena for that purpose, this voiced the patriotic sentiment of the day and heralded the approach of arriving delegations. A notable event promised as an attraction of the day was the arrival of the steamboat 'Enterprise,' a flat bottomed stern wheeler that tried to make weekly trips between Galena, Illinois, Dubuque, Iowa, Prairie Du Chien and Portage, Wisconsin, carrying both passengers and freight. The steamer arrived, but not until the morning of July 5. A day later ... She blew her whistle, made her landing and put off a sack of sugar, and what else is not stated. Perhaps the great attraction of the day's celebration was the dance which began early in the afternoon and was not interrupted until the arrival of the 'Enterprise.'*

*The music for the dance was furnished by a quartette from Madison at an expense of \$50.*

As a News Article about a later event taken from the Richland Observer, dated 2nd of Aug 1979: From the Richland County History Room in the Brewer Library... Old Pictures were Identified By Twylah Kepler ...

This proved to be a picture taken of a practice session of a "Sham Battle" for the Fourth of July celebration in Bloom City, ... the year 1917. The men in uniform purchased their costumes with their own money for the performance.

Within the year, most of the participants were real soldiers in WW I .  
Pete Schaffer's house is in the background.

The celebration was held at Jacecek's Grove at the head of Tar

Hollow. The “Sham Battle” was highly advertised resulting in an estimated crowd of 1800 spectators. Photographer Rockwell took moving pictures of the performance which took place across from the grove. Some of the ladies even pretended to faint when the boys fell during the presentation to make it appear more realistic. The hat was passed to help defray expenses for the day.

# 24 – week 3 of June 2023

**What was it like back in the day tilling those fields in the Richland County area ?**  
*... and now for a Richland County Historical Society “HISTORY MOMENT”*

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → Portraits of the Past A Photographic Journey through Wisconsin 1865 to 1920  
Wisconsin Trails Fourth Printing 1998 pages 28 and 29

**Southwestern Wisconsin was the first region settled. Farming picked up as the lead boom fizzled out prior to the Civil War. Pioneer farmers chose land that contained some woods for building material and fuel as well as some prairie for easy planting. The earliest farm homes were of unhewed logs, chinked with mud roofs with shakes or hand split shingles and floored with rough planks.**

**The furniture was scanty and crude – homemade benches and stools, boards laid across four barrels and port barrels for tables, platforms covered with straw or weaves for beds. Alex Smith’s farm at Bear Creek near Lone Rock about 1875 was typical of these pioneer farmer steads. As viewed in the picture a two story log home with a loft area and summer kitchen attached a barn with two additional outbuildings and split rail fences surrounding the cleared land.**

**..... And what was it like preparing the fields in those days ?**

**As written by Samuel Freeman in 1851 quote “ The farmer in Wisconsin will find prairies as fertile as the richest river bottoms. The labor of cultivation is but trifling. A heavy plow and a strong team are required the first year to turn over the soil. Corn is dropped into the furrow and covered over. No other labor is bestowed upon it until it is fit to be gathered. The crop thus raised is not abundant, nor is the grain very good, but by the ensuing spring the roots of the wild grass is found to be completely rotted and the plow is put into a rich light mold for all the purposes of husbandry.” end quote**

As the second picture on the page conveys a farmer with a team of three horses turning sod and his wife in the distance riding a plow pulled by 2 horses and their children are out in the field with them seen peeking over the prairie grasses.

Farming today with no till planting of crops and hay forage is noticeably different than in those early days of fields of wheat and later corn.

# 23 – week 2 of June 2023

**The Hilltoppers Color Guard Richland Center's Teenage Ambassadors**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → [OO cities dot org](#)

It was in 1964 that Dick Neuman recognized a need for a competitive activity for the young women of our community. At that time, the advent of girl's athletics, more school activities, and fast food restaurants had not taken place.

Boys had many activities in which to expend their competitive energies ... but the girls had nothing.

With a rather extensive background of marching unit participation --- junior high and high school marching band, university marching band, and drum & bugle corps (including the U.S. Navy Drum & Bugle Corps) -- Mr. Neuman's thought that perhaps a competitive marching unit for the girls would fill that void.

Sending out an invitation to the young women of Richland Center to meet to discuss and organize such a unit, 19 eager girls met the challenge.

On that day the HILLTOPPERS COLOR GUARD was born.

Their first parade was the June Dairy Days parade in Viroqua it was the summer of 1965. By that time, the Guard had grown to 22 members, and it was a very anxious group of young ladies standing on the starting line.

When it was their turn to move, move they did!

It was their performance during that first parade that set the standard that was to be followed for the next several years.

And, so it began . For 34 years, the Hilltoppers Color Guard served as "Richland Center's Teenage Ambassadors," serving with honor and distinction throughout the upper Midwest and to more distant places in the U.S.

Two of the "crowd pleasing" lines brought thunderous applause in parades both near and far. We are very proud of our flags and rifles.

And What would a marching unit be without a percussion section?



**Drummers provided a good, solid marching cadence and the jazzy "beat" for the routines performed by the flags and rifles.**

**You can read more about The Hilltoppers Color Guard in a book available in the History Room on the second floor of the Brewer Public Library**

**# 22 – week 1 of June 2023**

## **Vilas Craig – in memoriam**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → a s w news 4 U article titled – spring fever 60 years later

<https://www.swnews4u.com/local/southwest/spring-fever-60-years-later/>

Sixty years after what's been called southern Wisconsin's first rock and roll band started playing, its founder and members of the band are holding a concert in Avoca dated June 8th 2017.

The band started by Vilas Craig of Richland Center was called the Kollege Kings when it was made up of members of the Richland Center High School band cornet section.

What's being billed as Vilas Craig and the Nu ViCounts — includes besides Vilas Craig,

Doug Bachelor of Fennimore on guitar, Roddy Dull of Boscobel on bass, Bill Becker of Mount Hope on piano, and Gordon Glass of Richland Center on drums

The Kollege Kings began in 1957 with four members ... — Vilas Craig on vocals, guitar and saxophone, bass player James Chitwood, piano player Steve Prestegard and drummer Bill McCorkle. Their first performance was in Readstown Wisconsin.

Craig changed the group's name to Vilas Craig and the Vicounts in 1960.

The claim of the Kollege Kings or Vi counts being southern Wisconsin's first rock and roll band comes from Craig himself and from author Susan Masino, writer of *Famous Wisconsin Musicians*.

The Kollege Kings and the Vicounts would be described today as "rockabilly"

in the style of Johnny Cash and Elvis Presley, ... Craig's voice sounded similar to Buddy Holly's on those Kollege Kings and later Vi counts records.

The Kollege Kings recorded their first two records, "Spring Fever" and "My One My Only Love," at Kay Bank Studios in Minneapolis in April 1958. The Vi counts once were the backing band for Bobby Darin for a concert in Madison, and then backed Bobby Goldsboro for concerts, along with Jackie DeShannon in Rockford, Ill. They also played the Grant County Fairgrounds in Lancaster with the one-hit group The Rivieras, and a UW–Platteville concert sponsored by its men's basketball team with Gene Pitney.

They also played on a cerebral palsy telethon broadcasted by WISC-TV in Madison.

Craig's playing days were far from over, however. He has played for decades at various jobs. Quoting Vilas Craig "It gets in your soul," "If I didn't have music with me — I don't care if it's Beethoven or if it's hard rock — I don't think I could function. And I love playing jobs, because of the people you meet ...."

**Vilas Craig born December 21, 1938 in Richland Center - passed away May 28, 2023**

**# 21 – week 4 of May 2023**

## **The ride of Frank W. Burnham**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → The Good Old Days in Richland County

arranged by Margaret Scott and Dorothy Gault

printed by the Brewer Library in 1972

and available in the second floor history room

as this was excerpted from the Richland County Republican dated May 23 1878

**One day in May 1875, Frank W. Burnham mounted Bill Jones's famous running horse Gray Eagle and raced to Lone Rock in an attempt to get there before the engine of the narrow gauge could make the same point from Richland Center.**

**Old Timers never ceased telling about the "Wild ride" of Frank over the sandy Lone Rock Plains through the dark and murky night.**

**The distance of six miles ... more or less ... was made in a little short of twenty minutes.**

**He beat the engine**

**It had backed out of the turntable but refused to go forward.**

**Frank claimed he was the winner**

**and from that day forth had nothing but praise for Gray Eagle**

From richland center W I dot gov Frank W. Burnham was a past mayor of Richland Center from 1893 to 1894

also included in a related research from U S Gen Web 1906 in Chapter 10 Frank W. Burnham is on a list of those who have held the office of district attorney in Richland County with a distinguished career in the law from the latter 1800's to 1900

# 20 – week 3 of May 2023

Little is known of Corwin which is a ghost town listed in the township of Westford ... the prominent community in the north east quarter of the north east town of Richland County is 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 town of Westford was organized in April, 1857, It was at a meeting held at Lincoln's store, in the village of Cazenovia.

In the earlier days it was a great hardship to go within a mile of Baraboo to mill, a distance of thirty miles, and many tell of taking six and seven days to make the trip, having such poor cattle from want of fodder, that was that no faster time could be made. Wild grass, and that of a poor quality, would not make cattle strong enough for hard work, and it was all the hardy pioneers had to give them.

In 1858 breadstuffs became scarce in this region. Allen Tinker and Cyrus Stowe, both members of the school board, took money from the school treasury, giving their notes for the same. They then employed a man to go to Spring Green for corn, which was then selling for eighty-seven cents per bushel.

This relieved the wants of the people and all was settled up satisfactorily. The first mass for the German Catholic Church in Westford, was held at the house of Jacob Marts, and said by Father Gaertner, then a resident of Sauk City, who had charge of several counties in this part of Wisconsin. The first resident priest was Father Bernerd. He was succeeded by Father Beau, then came Father Metzler and finally Father Grosse. For a time the German Catholics worshiped in the Irish Catholic Church; then quit in 1858 and by 1859 they erected a church on section 14.

In 1883 the society was making preparations to build a frame structure, with brick veneer, 40x90 feet in size, to cost about \$5,000.

In 1868 William Duren erected a saw-mill on the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 14, on the Little Baraboo river. The mill is equipped with an up and down saw, a circular saw for cutting off, a rib saw and a felly saw, this making three circular saws and a band saw. A turning lathe was also put in. The mill manufactures stock for wagons, sleighs, harrows, etc.

A dirt and stone dam was thrown across the river, giving eight feet fall of water. Upon the completion of the saw-mill, Mr. Duren put in one run of stone for grinding feed.

# 19 – week 2 of May 2023

**The Richland County Fair Sesquicentennial ~ from 1857 to 2012**  
... Now 150 years since the fairgrounds current location was established  
... and now for a Richland County Historical Society *"HISTORY MOMENT"*

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → [fair.co.richland.wi.us/fair/committe-member/history/](http://fair.co.richland.wi.us/fair/committe-member/history/)

The Richland County Agricultural Society was organized May 15, 1857.

One of its objectives was to improve "the character and operation of agricultural, mechanical, and household arts." In order to achieve this objective, later that year, in October, the Agricultural Society sponsored a "cattle show and fair" at Thompson's Hall on Main Street. The 1858-1860 and 1866-1868 fairs were held on the Courthouse Square. The fairs were not held from 1861 through 1865 because of the Civil War.

Revived in 1866, by 1868 the fair had grown to overflow the space by the Courthouse, so the Society decided to purchase a fairground area. The 1869 fair was held on four acres purchased from Caleb and Nancy Waggoner for \$400.00.

This fairground was located in the present 600 block of Haseltine Street. By 1873 the fair had outgrown the Haseltine Street fairground. Notably in 1873 The Society sold that land for a profit and purchased 20 acres of what is now the current fairgrounds on County Hwy AA. Admission that year in 1873 for the fair was 25 cents per person, 15 cents for a single riding horse, 25 cents for a horse and carriage, and 35 cents for 2 horses and a carriage.

The Fairgrounds expanded again in 1875 when the Society purchased an additional 11 acres adjacent to the fairgrounds. In 1877 a resolution was made to purchase 2000 ft of lumber to build an open air shed to shelter vehicles, machines, poultry, and the like.

1880 brought with it J.W. Smith who was allowed to build an amphitheater to accommodate spectators during the races held at the fair. The Society reserved the rights to purchase the amphitheater at any time and admission was not to exceed 10 cents per person. A one mile bicycle race was featured at the 1895 fair with a purse of \$25.00 for the winner of the best 2 out of 3 races. Ever expanding in 1904 the Society purchased another

nine acres. In 1905 the fair featured a floral parade and a football game between a Richland Center team and a team from Madison. 1919 another two and a half acres was purchased. 1921 a grandstand estimated to seat 3,000 people was constructed and the fair was then held on the second week of September. And in 1922 yet another 1.25 acres was purchased to build a new racetrack.

Then during the 1930's A.V. Miller, Richland County's first Extension agent, began to organize Richland County's 4-H program; clubs and membership grew and the 4-H influence in the county became even more pronounced.

# 18 – week 1 of May 2023

## **HERE THEY SLEEP Narrative – RICHLAND CITY**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → research by David Thompson about Richland County cemeteries

**Old burial ground reviewed April 30, 1975 by Mervin Banker and H. A. Dieter.**

**The nearest access to this "lost cemetery" is by following U. S. 14 through Gotham to Sawmill Road, thence about 4 tenths of a mile just south of the railroad crossing and immediately to the right at the high line clearing. It was reported that a number of grave stones were left standing after the exhumation of certain burials and their removal to Button and Sextonville cemeteries. There are no visible markers in the described area. It was also reported in 1954 that the last stone to remain standing was that of one Rev. Solomon Chaffee, a circuit pastor of the regional Presbyterian churches. A relative, John B. Chaffee, a one time resident of Richland City, served with the 4th Wis. 6th L. A. Battery, Civil War. The total abandonment of this cemetery is matched only by the death of this history-making river town. Many factors, such as pioneers moving on to better things, routing of a railroad south of the Wisconsin River and a nation divided by war with a dwindling economy to follow, were responsible for the passing of a brave community.**

**As if this were not enough, a new village to be named Gotham, was soon to spring up just to the north. It was surveyed June 3-4, 1891 by L. L. Appleby under the direction of M. W. Gotham. The new era of the 90's**

had come in to supersede its fading neighbor the south. History had again created, in retrospect "A Tale of Two Cities". The total escape has carried with it data of much historical value. Somewhere, hidden away, may be a mere scrap of paper telling us of the missing events left unrecorded. Plat books will guide us to that portion of history. Sand and pine trees will lend their cover to the scenes while man must stand forever in the offing. P.S. A letter of May 26, 1975 from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, states there are no Richland City cemetery records on file there nor at the Archives Department in our Area Research Center at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville, Wisconsin. Thus the mystery deepens from year to year even as we grope for some light to illuminate the darkness backstage.

# 17 – week 4 of April 2023

## **The history of the Outdoor Theater east of Richland Center** *... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"*

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → [richland\\_movies\\_dot\\_com](http://richland_movies_dot_com)

Jake Eskin was literally an example of the making of a "rags to riches" American business man. He and his wife Sarah came to America in 1914. They got their start in Milwaukee as rag and junk dealers, advanced to a dealer in furs and then owned a neighborhood grocery store on North Main Street in Richland Center.

They purchased the Richland as well as theaters in other southwestern Wisconsin communities for a total of nine. Richland Center had been supporting three theaters; the Orpheum, the Richland and the Eskin Theater. The Elite Café Building housed the Richland Theater within a block from the new Eskin Theater on South Central Avenue. The Orpheum was located near the intersection of East Mill and North Main Streets

The Eskin Theater opened on March 4, 1937, and on March 29 less than a month later a divorce was granted to Mrs. Sarah J. Eskin from Jacob Eskin. Sarah J. Eskin continued to operate the Eskin and Richland Theaters, which she received in the divorce settlement. Notably opening a drive-in theater she started east of Richland Center on Highway 14. On Sept. 24, 1951, Sarah Eskin acquired land east of Richland Center to be used as a drive-in theater. She was not able to purchase the land outright, but was

granted a lifetime lease on 20 acres. The deed stated that the premises were to be used for a drive-in theater, provided that when such time the land ceased to be used for this purpose the title would revert to the grantor, his heirs, or assigns. The Hi-Way 14 Outdoor Theater opened on May 6, 1952. It is now known as Starlite 14.

At one time in the 1950s there were 79 drive-in theaters in Wisconsin.

She passed away at the age of 70 on June 4, 1953, after 25 years in the theater business in Richland Center.

The Starlite 14 Drive In Theater is a county treasure; one of only 11 that remain in Wisconsin and the last one in the southwestern part of the state.

**# 16 – week 3 of April 2023**

**100 years ago – a 1923 PICTURE OF THE Normal School Graduates in Richland Center, Wisconsin**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → what was posted on facebook from the Richland County History Room

The Photographer was Albert Simeon Rockwell, of Richland Center & Viola  
In this 1923 picture with the Principal L. C. Johnson and three assistants as well as a music teacher there were nearly forty young people graduating.

The Normal School was the place where teachers were trained for all those one-room country schools scattered around the county every 3 to 4 miles.

The tradition of higher education in Richland County has deep roots. By 1903, the first college was established in Richland Center.

Through various changes and incarnations—from the Normal School, to a Teachers College, from the Wisconsin State University System to the U W Center System to the University of Wisconsin-Richland Campus

Apprentice teaching with an instructor at the Richland County Normal School in Richland Center was just another picture that was featured in an article from the Richland Democrat the 7th of June 1956.

NOW From the 1906 History of Richland County page 160

An important adjunct to the educational interests of Richland county is the county training school for teachers. The Richland county training school opened Sept. 8, 1902, with C. R. Thomson principal, and Winifred Edsall, assistant. During the summer of 1903 a third member, Mabel Palmer, was added to the faculty, and she has since had charge of the department of music. In the spring of 1904 action was taken by the training-school board and the city board of education which resulted in the establishment of a model school of four grades in which the observation and practice work

A gratifying fact in the school's history has been the success of its graduates in securing many of the best positions in the county.

# 15 – week 2 of April 2023

### **The thriving community of Excelsior**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → [genealogy](#) [trails](#) [dot](#) [Com](#)

The first man to cut brush for the purpose of improving in the vicinity of Excelsior was W. H. Haskins. In 1854 he purchased the southwest quarter of section 16, at which place Knapps creek furnished an excellent water power, and here he erected a saw-mill. The place was named by W. H. Coates on the same day on which the framework of the grist mill was erected. In 1857 Knowlton & Coates kept a general store, but there was not much of an impetus given to the growth of the place until 1867, in which year the village was platted. The first school in the village of Excelsior was taught by Elder Harvey in the winter of 1867-68. The post office at Excelsior was established in 1857, with D. C. Stewart as the first postmaster. Mail was received once each week from Orion. Later mail was received three times each week from Muscoda, and once a week from Sugar Grove.

In 1878 a newspaper was started at this village by Ira D. Hurlburt.

This paper was called The Excelsior Press.

It was not a successful venture, and collapsed after about ten month time. Mr. Hurlburt is now connected with the Prairie du Chien Union.



In 1880 the people of Excelsior, needing more school room, erected a two-story school house at a cost of over \$1,000, and have since employed two teachers. The first principal was Professor Keys.

The Excelsior Cornet Band was organized Aug. 25, 1881.

The following are the members thereof: C. S. Hamilton, E flat and leader; George Hamilton, 2d E flat; Myron Noble, B flat; Oscar David, alto; Myron Brown, alto; Homer Winton, baritone; Harry Ellsworth, tuba; J. Pierson, tenor drum; and Velours Coates, bass drum.

Notably at one point the village had a public hotel called the Excelsior, a wagon shop, a drug store, a general merchandise and dry goods store, a harness shop, a blacksmith, and a furniture dealer

# 14 – week 1 of April 2023

***Ryne Duren, Yankees Reliever Who Made Batters Nervous ... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"***

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → [N Y times dot. Com](#) in an **Article By [Richard Goldstein](#)**

Ryne Duren, the star relief pitcher for two Yankee World Series teams who stared down batters through thick-lensed eyeglasses and then delivered fastballs that might go just about anywhere, died Thursday January 6th, 2011 at his home in Lake Wales, Fla. He was 81.

Ryne Duren was an All-Star for the Yankees in 1958. Pitching for the Yankees from 1958 to 1961, the right-handed Duren would sometimes deliver at least one warm-up pitch high against the screen, presumably to intimidate the batter soon to face him.

Duren led the American League in saves with 20 in 1958 and was named an All-Star three times. He pitched for the Yankees in the 1958 World Series against the Milwaukee Braves, striking out 14 batters in nine and one third innings, and also appeared in the 1960 Series against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

He struck out 630 batters in just over 589 innings during his 10-season career. Duren's penchant for wild warm-up pitches came about by accident.

Sportswriters wrote that I wore glasses that resembled the bottoms of Coke bottles, Duren recalled in his 1978 memoir "The Comeback" written with Robert Drury.

But for all the stories about Duren's fastballs delivered from a 6-foot-2, 190-pound frame, there was a dark side to his life.

Excerpted from Wikipedia.org

In 1983, Duren was presented with the Yankee Family Award for his conquering alcoholism, and for service as an alcohol abuse educator

**He was Born:** February 22, 1929 in [Cazenovia, Wisconsin](#)

– according to a minor league scouting report "Big guy. Throws like hell. Hitters can't see it. But he can't see you either. He's practically blind. He can't hit, field or run. Curve not much. Neither is his sinker. Just throws the fast one. Unpredictable where it'll go."

Duren was the inspiration for the character Ricky "Wild Thing" Vaughn in the movie *Major League*, according to author and director David S. Ward

# 13 – week 5 of March 2023

## **The McClouds of Buena Vista**

*... 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 chapter 21

The first settlement within the limits now comprising the town of Buena Vista, was made in the fall of 1845 by Robert and William McCloud. They emigrated to Wisconsin from Hardin County, Ohio, in 1844, and stopped with their families in the village of Muscoda.

In the fall of 1845 Robert McCloud located a farm on the east bank of Bear creek, the northeast quarter of section 35. He began improvements at once.

At the same time his brother, William McCloud, located a farm about one half mile further south.

In the spring of 1846 they removed their families to the new homes, from Muscoda.

**In regards to cemeteries,** There are two public burial places now in use in the town of Buena Vista. One is located on the northwest quarter of section 34.

This cemetery was laid out in the fall of 1853. There are others buried here who died in the town at an earlier date and were removed here from other burial places.

Among the latter is Eliza, wife of John Seaman, who died Oct. 15, 1853. She was accidentally shot by William McCloud. The first burial place in this town was on the farm of Robert McCloud.

Whether it be URBAN LEGEND or stories true to history most Notable though would be Judith McCloud the Daughter of William & Martha (nee Dille) McCloud.

"Documented by State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Burial sites Preservation Program 1987"

Her remains are actually at the original burial site, the first cemetery in the Town of Buena Vista. It is at the intersection of Hwy 130 and eastbound Cty Hwy B.

There is a marker in the Sextonville Cemetery to identify the aforementioned information. This according to FIND A GRAVE MEMORIAL dot com

In the TRAGEDY OF RICHLAND CITY by James McMANUS It was that Judith McCloud, a sister of the McCloud brothers, while roaming about on the bluff near her brother Robert's home, was attacked by some Indians;

rather than be captured by them she leaped over a high sandstone cliff and was killed.

The legend says that this gave the name Point Judith to the cliff,

and also led her brothers to a ceaseless war with the Indians of this area.

Other versions question this or vary in accounts – STILL – Point Judith is a known location in Bear Valley west of Highway 130 and north of CTY HWY JJ.

#### **# 12 – week 4 of March 2023**

**Zouave [zoo-av] now what is that ? and how does it relate to Richland County History ... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"**

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → the History of Richland County, Wisconsin, 1884, page 1221:

Thomas Andrews, usually called Capt. Andrews, in 1830 came to Wisconsin and settled near Mineral Point. Here Thomas followed mining until 1841 when he crossed the Wisconsin River and settled at the port which afterward took his name.

Capt. Andrews served as a pilot on the river and afterward purchased the boat – Wisconsin.

He next built *his own boat called the Zouave,* which he *later* traded for the Minnehaha.

He spent most of his time upon the river until the time of his death, March 22, 1880.

Thomas Andrews was a good citizen and was respected by all.

He was married to Char lotta Coumbe, a sister of John Coumbe.

*In a related story from the Richland Democrat, the 30th January 1935:*

Quote “Another interesting incident connected with the October storm and subsequent terrific winter of 1847-1848 occurring at Port Andrew, then the most important point of connection for Richland County and the outside world. The very evening the storm broke, a steamboat, “The Zouave,” arrived with its cargo of goods to be distributed at points along the Wisconsin River. The boat was caught in the storm

and laid up at Port Andrew. Because the boilers of the boat had to be kept from freezing a fire was maintained beneath them throughout the winter.

For the reason of convenience or economy, the Port Andrew storekeeper moved his stock of goods to the hull of the Zouave.”

The term Zouave [zoo-av] defined are women's trousers with wide tops, tapering to a narrow ankle ALSO the name of a member of a light-infantry corps in the French army

As a side note relating to RICHLAND COUNTY HISTORY in Chapter 6 U S GEN WEB from 1906

The Zouave was the title of a paper established at Richland Center

about 1863, by E. M. Gregory & Co. It was a six-column folio, devoted to the interest of soldiers and literary matter, more than to local and general news.

NOW GET THIS – The editor was Mrs. Bloomer, whose literary *nom de plume* was "Lisle Lester".

The publication of the newspaper was continued only for a few months.

*The reason BOTH left the Richland County area;* Gregory moving to northern Wisconsin and Bloomer traveling to California

### # 11 – week 3 of March 2023

**NEARLY FIFTY YEARS AGO ... question – does history repeat itself ?**  
**The HEADLINE READS – RICHLAND CAMPUS PREPARES FIGHT FOR LIFE**  
*... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"*

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → The MUSCODA PROGRESSIVE dated JANUARY 30th, 1975

Attempting to combat news “leaks” to the effect that their campus would be recommended for closing, students on the UW Center-Richland Campus took the initiative early last Monday morning January 20th in scheduling informative meetings for

Monday afternoon and Tuesday Morning with the Tuesday meeting open to the interested residents of the area.

Wayne Emerson, a first year student from Lime Ridge, Wisconsin

met Richland Dean Marjorie Wallace as she arrived on campus Monday morning with a list of proposals for meeting the challenge facing the two year campus ...

Details regarding a Sunday Milwaukee Journal article citing proposals supposedly made by the Department of Administration. Anthony Earl head of that department stated that he had no knowledge of such a proposal and he did not endorse it.

Approximately 60 persons attended a Tuesday morning meeting

including representatives of local and state news media

Don Uzuanis, chair of the Richland County Industrial Development Association, had pledged the full support of their organization stating "We will go as far as we have to to keep the Richland Campus going.

One point emphatically stressed by the campus Dean Marjorie Wallace is that **the UW Center- Richland is not going to be closed** Dean Wallace appointed John Poole student Activities Coordinator and Dr. Jeffry Bower Student Senate Advisor to be the official consultants for the student and community groups which have been formed Groups are at this time coordinating a petition and letter-writing campaign

Lou Levy, Director of Student Services, indicated that the year's recruitment program, which had been going very well, has been somewhat hampered.

On Tuesday afternoon, also, the Education Committee of the Richland County Board met with Dean Wallace and John Poole. The committee headed by Joe Seep has pledged full and continued support of the Richland Campus.

Roger Swigart, an honor student from Shullsburg, stated "Education is a poor place to go cheap in an effort to save money"

### **# 10 – week 2 of March 2023**

**THE** City Hall & Auditorium-182 North Central Avenue Richland Center *... and now for a Richland County Historical Society "HISTORY MOMENT"*

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → richland center w i dot gov slash tourism slash our-history

Richland Center City Hall and Auditorium (a.k.a. The Richland County Performing Arts Center) was designed in a "modernized" Classical style by LaCrosse architect Percy Bentley. This red brick municipal building features an entablature comprised of a projecting cornice

and modillion ornament placed on applied brick pilasters topped with Ionic capitals. Much of the impetus for the creation of this building originated with the influence of the Federated Woman's Clubs.

Women's organizations flourished in Richland Center during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These organizations were the shakers and movers behind many, if not most, of the civic projects in the city.

After a number of tie votes were broken by Mayor Pearl Lincoln, the decision to build the first auditorium combining a theatre and municipal offices operated by a Wisconsin municipality became a reality.

This was truly a grand building for such a small city.

There were twelve dressing rooms and seats for nearly 1,000 people.

It was described as the finest show house between Chicago and Minneapolis. Many first-rate acts came to Richland Center because there were suitable dressing rooms and a sizeable stage for their shows to go on.

The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The building was acquired in 2009 by the Richland County Performing Arts Council (RCPAC) for one dollar from the city of Richland Center.

The organization plans to create a self-sufficient cultural and business center in the city of Richland Center that will strengthen the economic and artistic growth of the community.

# 9 – week 1 of March 2023

## **THE CAVES OF SYLVAN**

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → **1906 U S Gen Web Chapter 8**

**TOPOGRAPHY OF RICHLAND COUNTY –** While upon this subject of Rock Formations in Richland County, it were perhaps as well to give a description of some caves in the town of Sylvan, these are located on section 34.

One of these caves has long been known as the "Bear Den", their lair, which had been supposed to be the extent of the cavern, having been often seen.

The entrance to the cave, about two hundred feet above the level of this creek ( the west branch of Mill creek), and from a sink hole

of about ten feet in depth, is through an opening in the solid rock; the passage of twenty feet is high and wide enough for a man, followed by a wider one for forty feet further, after which, by change of direction, the Bear Den is reached.

This as a passage of ten rods brings the explorer to a small hole, just a close fit for a man's body, through which he can climb, then making his way through a difficult passage of twenty rods, which will bring him to a round room, about thirty feet in diameter, from the center of which a small stream of water is constantly dripping.

Two passages lead off from this room; the one from the left is through rock, ten rods, where a pool of pure, clear water, about two feet deep, is found; passing this, the end of that cavern is reached in about four rods: the passage leading from the right of the central room also discovers a pool of good water, larger than the other.

After passing the water, at the distance of ten rods, a small opening is found, but what remains beyond has not been explored.

On the other side of the creek, from the caves above described, on the bluff, another, equally curious, has been visited.

# 8 – week 4 of February 2023

TOWN OF HENRIETTA

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → [genealogy trails dot .com](http://genealogytrails.com)

*The History of Crawford and Richmond Counties, Wisconsin, Illustrated, Chapter 25  
circa (1881) transcribed by RuthAnne Wilke*

Henrietta is one of the northern tier of Richland counties subdivisions, and embraces congressional township 12 north, range 1 east. It is bounded on the north by Vernon county; on the east by the town of Westford; on the south by Rockbridge; and on the west by Bloom.

The surface of the town is well watered by Pine river and its tributaries, of which the principal is Melancthon creek. There are many fine farms in the town. The inhabitants as a class are intelligent and enterprising and are making permanent improvements. A large number of the farmers in the town devote a great share of

their time and energy to raising stock---improved stock, both horned cattle and sheep receiving much attention. The population of the town is mixed, including American English, Bohemian and Irish. The greater part of Melancthon creek valley is settled by people of the latter named nationality the Irish.

The first permanent settlement in the town of Henrietta was made in 1853 by William Garfield, a native of Vermont, who came here from Waukesha, in March, of that year.

Later in the same year 1853 Alexander Sires and two sons, William and Alexander, came from Indiana. They settled on the southwest quarter of section 22.

Mr. Sires laid out the village of Siresville. He died here in 1869.

The town of Henrietta was organized on the 1st day of April, 1856, at a town meeting held at the house of Heman B. Miller, on section 17.

At the first meeting it was declared that \$150 be raised to defray town expenses for the ensuing year, and \$75 for the support of the schools. It was also voted that hogs be allowed to run at large.

Henrietta post office was established, in 1857, with Heman B. Miller as the first postmaster.

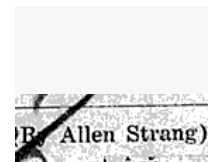
The office was kept at the residence of the postmaster, on section 17, and was on a mail route from Richland Center, mail being received twice each week.

Melancthon Creek post office was established, in 1856, with Cornelius McCarthy as postmaster

In 1856 Bronson Greaves erected a building for a flour mill, on the northeast quarter of section 17. The power is derived from East Pine river, which at this point furnished six feet head of water. Originally a timber dam was built, but this has been replaced by a substantial stone and earth dam.

**# 7- week 3 of February 2023**

**Twin Bluffs and Sextonville  
Progressive County Communities**



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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*



According to →

THE RICHLAND DEMOCRAT,

July 1, 1925

It was 'way back in '71, when prosperous Richland Center business men were subscribing fabulous amounts to have the branch line of railroad run to Richland Center, that Sextonville passed perhaps the biggest opportunity that it has ever known. The right of way had been surveyed to pass the old Thomas-McCorkle mill, situated near the present Mill creek bridge this side of Sextonville. The depot was to be on the site of the Jones barn which is on the very outskirts of the village. When all the residents of the village were set to have the line built, the right-of-way was suddenly switched to the bottom lands west of Pine River, at Twin Bluffs, where the railroad was constructed and where it passes to this day. Some say that it was because of the amount of stock asked of Sextonville residents; others avow some sort of secret deals. Which of these is the fact is not known, but the loss to Sextonville is certain.

The village of Sextonville is one of the oldest communities in the county, being settled in 1847 and platted three years later by E. M. Sexton, after whom the village was named. It was in 1851 that J. L. R. McCollum came with his parents and family from LaFayette county. Mr. McCollum is one of the oldest living settlers of Sextonville. He lives at present in Twin Bluffs, where he moved shortly after the railroad was built in 1875. This old resident knows more about the old settlers of that vicinity and the history of the community since the early fifties than anyone living.

The population of that vicinity today is divided between the villages of Twin Bluffs and Sextonville, though the larger business district is in Sextonville. At present the brick store on the corner is being run by Harry Crumbecker. There is a grocery and soda fountain owned by Walter O'Mealy and a hotel conducted by David Fry. Harry Ghastin owns the Sextonville garage and does a big business in moving for people all over the state. Miss Connie DeVoe is the present postmistress, with the office located across from the brick store.

At Twin Bluffs there is one general store run by Walter Pronold. Mr. Pronold has one of the most complete stocks of goods in that section. J. C. Rockwell does general blacksmithing at his shop east of the tracks. The Twin Bluffs post office is run by Elmer McCollum, son of the pioneer settler. Mrs. Ida Calloway is express agent at the depot. One of the worthwhile organizations in that community is the Twin Bluffs Shipping Association which has as members farmers from that locality who ship cattle almost every week.

Read about memories of Twin Bluffs by Charles "Chip" Parduhn in the January 2023 AKEY BrAKEY News

# 6- week 2 of February 2023

Now five years since her passing — Marge Wallace

and her role in education of Richland County

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

Here is the rest of the story ...

According to → .pratt funeral service dot. com

Marjorie (Marge) E. (Kolman) Wallace, age 96 was born March 6, 1921

in Muscoda, Wisconsin, the daughter of John J. and Angie E. (Sale) Kolman.

She graduated from the Muscoda High School.

She then graduated from the Richland County Normal School, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Educational Administration.

She was involved in education all her professional life. She first taught the Rocky Branch one room rural school, then the Yuba school both in Richland County.

She later taught in Muscoda.

In 1957 she joined the faculty of the Richland County Teachers College where she taught and supervised student teachers. She was responsible for the establishment of the first Self Paced Laboratory School in Southwest Wisconsin.

In 1962 she became President of the Richland County Teachers College.

After learning the Teacher Colleges across the state were to be phased out, she immediately began working with the state legislature and the Richland County Board of Supervisors for the establishment of a two year Liberal Arts College in Richland Center. This led to the establishment of the Richland Branch Campus of the Wisconsin State University Platteville – the U.W. Richland. From its beginning in 1967 she first served as Associate Dean then as Dean until her retirement.

Through the years Wallace served on numerous Educational Committees.

She was the first woman to receive the Kiwanis “Man” of The Year Award.

In 1976 she was voted the Wisconsin State Journal Leading Woman in Wisconsin.

In 1981 she received UW-Platteville’s Distinguished Alumnus Award.

She served a 20 year term on the Richland Center Library Board and many years as a director on the Wisconsin Physicians Service Board of Directors. She was the first President of the Richland Campus View Corporation Board of Directors and served on the Board of Directors of the Richland County Campus Foundation.

The student center on the UW-Richland Campus is named in her behalf.

Wallace held the distinction of being the first woman in the state of Wisconsin to serve as Chief Executive Administrator of a University of Wisconsin Campus. She was granted Dean Emeritus status in Administration by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents.

### **# 5- week 1 of February 2023**



January 30th, 1951

We are the Coldest in the Nation ...  
With the WARMEST HEART

[http://bp2.blogger.com/\\_G2dvdyIYYIA/R2iN7qrGH2I/AAAAAAAAAU/WB-UZf6Zmsl/S660/coldest+in++nation+color+postcard0001.jpg](http://bp2.blogger.com/_G2dvdyIYYIA/R2iN7qrGH2I/AAAAAAAAAU/WB-UZf6Zmsl/S660/coldest+in++nation+color+postcard0001.jpg)

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → from the Home News January/25th/2006 an Article by David Giffey

Lone Rock claimed dubious fame as the coldest spot in the nation when a minus 53-degree temperature was officially registered on a thermometer at the Tri-County Airport. Temperatures were so low that night that the official U.S. Weather Bureau thermometer couldn't handle the actual reading.

The instrument was made to measure temperatures down to a balmy minus 47.

According to a 1976 Home News' story by Don Greenwood (and provided last week by Lone Rock historian Jim Greenheck), Ben Silko was working the night shift at the airport. When Silko attempted to make the official reading, he found the thermometer's alcohol contracted into the bottom bulb well below the lowest calibrated mark on the thermometer. He then arrived at the official minus 53-degree reading by calibrating the distance from the top of the bulb upward to the minus 47-degree mark. It may actually have been several degrees colder, Silko said in 1976.

Jim Greenheck remembered that day. He went to work as usual at the Chevy garage in Lone Rock. "It was so quiet you could have heard a penny drop on the street," said Greenheck. Arriving at work, he said last week: "Everything was frozen in the garage." He received a call from the Bear Valley cheese factory where the milk truck failed to start. Driving a wrecker from the garage in Lone Rock to the cheese factory, Greenheck said the extreme cold caused some unusual physical consequences. "The paint flew off the hood off the truck," he said.

When he attempted to tow the stalled milk truck, its wheels were frozen so solidly that it skidded across the ground.

Uncle Tony Greenheck, mayor of Lone Rock, at the time, began fielding calls from media outlets around the nation as word spread of the frigid temperatures.

While wind currents flowing down a draw through Bear Valley in the direction of Lone Rock, and the Wisconsin River may have contributed to the harsh weather, Greenheck added: "We don't get the weather that we used to get."

He speculated the global warming may be responsible.

**# 4- week 4 of January 2023**

*Remembering* The Honorable Judge Kent C. Houck

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → [stafford funeral homes dot com slash obituaries](http://staffordfuneralhomes.com/obituaries)

The Honorable Kent C. Houck, retired Richland County Circuit Court Judge, age 85 of Richland Center, died on Friday, April 9, 2021 at Schmidt Woodland Hills in Richland Center. Kent was born on August 16, 1935 in Richland Center to Nelson S. and Alice (Bowen) Houck. He graduated from Richland Center High School in 1953 and from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1959.

He also received a commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the ROTC program.

Kent attended Transportation Basic Officer course at Fort Eustis, Virginia and J.A.G. school at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. He served as an officer in the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1959 to 1962 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in the Post Judge Advocate's Office, one year as Assistant Legal Officer in the United States Disciplinary Barracks

Following his honorable discharge in 1962, he returned to Richland Center where he joined his brother, Bowen D. Houck, in his law practice. Kent was elected as District Attorney of Richland County Wisconsin in January of 1962 and served in that position until May of 1965.

Kent was appointed County Judge for Richland County in May of 1965 and was subsequently elected to that post. He served as a County Judge until 1978 when, through Court reorganization, the post became a Circuit Judge position.

Kent served on the Wisconsin Supreme Court Judicial Education Committee for many years.

Kent also served as Circuit Judge in the 7th Judicial District, until his retirement in July of 1997.

Kent married Marilyn Loft on December 16, 1978 and they enjoyed over 42 happy years together.

After retirement in 1997, he continued to work as a Reserve Judge and also as an arbitrator and mediator in civil cases.

In the spring of 2002, Kent taught a course entitled "Crime and Criminal Justice" in the Sociology Department at the University of Wisconsin Richland. He served on the UW Richland Campus Foundation Board for 11 years, 7 years as President. Kent served on the Richland Hospital Executive Board, was a member of the American Legion Post, and served as President of the Richland County Lions Club.

Most notably for the historical society he was the chair of the Bi-Centennial Committee in Richland County

Community service was very important to him.

**# 3- week 3 of January 2023**

*What – Bowling pins 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 Sesquicentennial book 1855 to 2005 on pages 92 & 93

Harry Hagenough came to Viola in 1945 to buy the plentiful logs that were here and operated a sawmill. He was receiving such beautiful maple logs that he installed machinery to make blocks for bowling pins. He had a kiln to dry the clocks which were shipped elsewhere for finishing. This mill was located where the Senior Apartments are today in Viola and employed 12 men who put out 100,000 pins a year.

In 1948 Harry sold to the Columbian Pin Company of California and Ed Lepley became the manager.

Pins were fully finished and met the specifications of the American Bowling Congress. Then Wilfred Lawton became the manager when Ted retired.

Finally – The Columbian Pin Company closed in 1965

The following story was excerpted from a 1964 issue of the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News.

*To a bowler there is nothing more beautiful than seeing his bowling ball hook into the pocket and sweep all the pins off the alley.*

*Most bowlers can see a strike coming the instant their ball goes into the pocket.*

*Bowling pins behave in a predictable way because of the precision with which they are made. This precision is much in evidence at the Columbian Pin Company in Viola where bowling pins are manufactured at the rate of 500 per day during full production.*

*The Columbian Pin Company is one of the few plants manufacturing bowling pins by the original "pin block" method*

*The story goes on to cover how the pins were made concluding with the final step in manufacturing the bowling pin as described by Wilfred Lawton:*

*"Most bowling pins these days are coated with plastic."*

*Plastic coating increases life expectancy of a pin from 600 times of bowling to 4,000 times bowling.*

*Bowling pins are sold in sets of ten, each pin exact in weight within the range of 3 pounds 7 ounces to 3 pounds 4 ounces*

*Columbian Pin Company's pins are labeled Badger Pins and are mainly in the midwest*

### **# 2- week 2 of January 2023**

*As the main source of wealth in Richland county is agriculture*

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → 1906 u s gen web chapter 8

No county in southwestern Wisconsin, probably, possesses better elements to guarantee prosperity to an agricultural organization than does the county of Richland.

An agricultural society was founded about 1866, and the first meeting or exhibition of the Richland County Agricultural Society was held in the fall of the year 1867, in the streets of the village of Richland Center. The place of meeting was then for several years upon grounds in the eastern part of the city, on Haseltine street, where suitable buildings were erected for keeping the exhibits and other purposes of the society.

A few years later the society purchased a tract of land situated about one mile north of Richland Center, and since that time fairs have been held there annually.

The first efforts of the pioneers were, of course, after providing a shelter, to raise something to eat. There was game in abundance - venison, wild turkey and bear-meat. Corn was the great cereal crop, and out of it was made a coarse meal and corn-bread, and a good deal of whiskey. Wheat was grown, and in time took the place of corn as an article of human food. Potatoes were easily grown but were not so popular then as now. Fruit was, of course, very rare at first, but there was an abundance of wild berries which served very well.

Next to food the great necessity was clothing, and it was no small task to obtain it from "back east." Many were obliged to be content with what the new country afforded. The home manufacture of buckskin clothes was not uncommon, as well as the weaving of flax shirts. "Linsey-woolsey" suits were considered full dress, except for the dandies or the city men of imposing rank and station. Buckskin was considered good material for moccasins until tanneries were introduced, and then men skilled in the handling of leather went from cabin to cabin to make footwear for the people.

Following the most primitive manufactures came the production of woolen yarn and cloth, flouring and saw-mills, blacksmith shops and forges.

The pioneer farmers in some sections engaged in the manufacture of corn meal themselves, using what was facetiously termed the "Armstrong" mill. A solid stump was cut square on the top and a cavity burned out in it, and when cleaned out this became the mortar, in which corn was put and vigorously pounded. The product was sifted through sieves made by stretching deer hides, when green, over hoops, and puncturing with small holes when dry.

Coffee mills of good size were also brought into Wisconsin by many settlers.

# 1- week 1 of January 2023 – The First installment for the calendar year 2023

*The Early Village of Dayton Corners*

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

*Here is the rest of the story ...*

According to → 1983 Pictorial Atlas of Richland County in the History section near the back of the book

The Village of Dayton Corners began in 1857 when Lorenzo Woodman and James Hofius laid out lots and blocks to which they gave the name Dayton Corners. This same year the Ripley Post office was established with Lorenzo Woodman as the postmaster. He was succeeded by James Foisus, but the office was discontinued after two years. Peter Fall opened a blacksmith shop, but moved away during the war and his son opened a shop soon afterwards and remained several years. Edward Bassett built a store building in 1857 and sold general merchandise for about four years

The Dayton Corners Methodist-Episcopal Church is located on what is known as the old Black River Road and this small community spring up as it was approximately one days drive by mule team from Muscoda

The town of Dayotn Corners was rapidly settled in the years from 1852 to 1856. The land was heavily timbered and the soil was rich dark loam and running to clay on the ridges. Vegetables and grains were well adapted to this area. Boaz was the main village in the township.

From **Tales The Tombstones Tell - Republican Observer - August 8, 1957**

About the **Dayton Ridge Cemetery**

**The door to the church was unlocked when Frank Poynter and David Bender paid a visit there not so many moons ago, so they walked into the Dayton Corners Methodist church. The Dayton Corners Methodist church was organized in 1856 at the home of Lorenzo Woodman by Rev. John Walker, who lived at Sextonville.**

**There was a school there in 1857 which was taught by Eliza Bevier in a house owned by Comfort Walker, until a school house could be erected, this was used until 1881, when a frame house was built in section 15 which is, believed to be, the Berger school located on highway 14.**

**Back in the "old days" Dayton Corners was on the main road between Richland Center and Boaz. The road is still in use though the present highway 14 now carries all the traffic.**