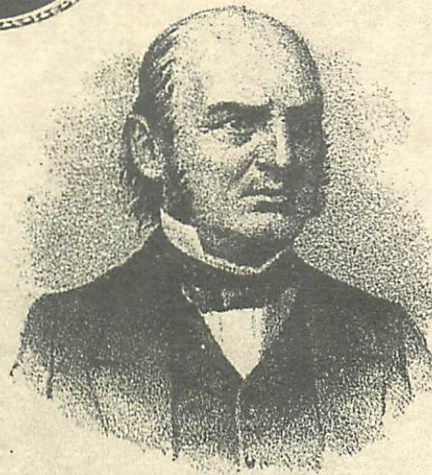


HISTORY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LESSOR

Dated back to the 1850's



JAMES BUCHANAN
FIFTEENTH PRESIDENT
1857 - 1861



ALEX W. RANDALL
GOVERNOR OF WISCONSIN
1858 - 1862

Researched and compiled by Ray Brusky 1996

Lessor Town Hall Today



INTRODUCTION

The Lessor history that I have put together is with a lot of help from a lot of people that I was able to talk with - some by mail, some by phone and most by just talking. One person that helped me the most was Ralph Erickson. Ralph was a historian that loved his work. His ancestors were among the first settlers in the township. He started some of his work on this history about 30 years ago, talking to all the old folks back then gathering a lot of stories and pictures. Ralph wrote several other books about this area such as "Walking Through The Our Savior's Church Cemetery", a history of each of the gravesites, and "Bright Patches", a lot of stories about the area, as well as other books.

I got to know Ralph in 1992 when I was trying to find the history of Elm Dale (my corner as I call it as I farmed it for 45 years). I found several pictures and stories. Then someone told me to call Ralph so I did and he sent me some pictures of Elm Dale and a long letter telling me about the manuscript he was working on about the Lessor history. I never got to meet Ralph but I did talk to him by phone four times. Ralph had a problem with cancer and had gone for treatments several times. After being in

remission in 1993, the cancer acted up again. But before he died, Ralph sent me the manuscript saying "Ray, I hope you can do something with this."

Although most of that history pertained to the area of the Norwegian settlement (Welhaven and Landstad), it had a lot of interesting stories to there are many pages printed from that manuscript. However, most of the pictures are from my collection that I copied from a lot of people.

Some of the stories and dates might seem conflicting depending on who is telling it - like the old school houses that were built before records were kept. Some of the earliest records at the Town Hall go back to 1872 and are very interesting so I copied some of them. Some of the clerks had very good handwriting, some were very hard to read, some very descriptive and some very short and brief with four meetings on a single page.

Thanks to some of the other people that helped me put this together - JoAnn Thiede doing all the typing onto a computer disc and the BCA helping to put it into book form.

SOME EARLY HISTORY OF LESSOR & SHAWANO COUNTY

In the year 1843 Samuel Farnsworth made the trip up the Wolf River looking for a spot to locate a sawmill. This area around Shawano had a lot of good forest. Later that year he brought machinery and equipment and started his mill. This area grew fast. In 1844 a steamship on the Wolf River brought people and supplies. By the year 1854 State Legislature passed a formative act naming this Shawanaw after a Menominee Indian chief - Chief Shawneon. It wasn't until 1864 that the name was changed to Shawano.

About January 1856 the county was divided into three townships - Shawano, Waukechon and Richmond. It wasn't until 1874 that the statutes were revised naming all of the townships individually. This is why at one time Lessor was a part of Waukechon. The Shioc River that branches into Lessor was named after a Menominee War Chief (Chief Shioc). It means "force of wind".

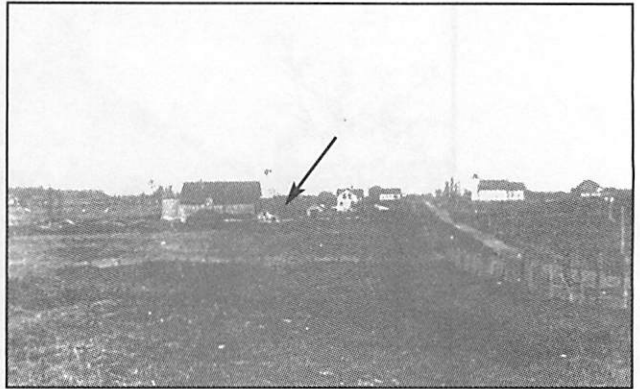
One of the people that came with Farnsworth was Charles D. Wescott. He also built a sawmill in the area, thus the Town of Wescott was named after him.

LESSOR

The Town of Lessor first became a township in the year of 1854 when Shawano County organized on February 27, 1854. It is said that a part of Lessor was attached to the Town of Waukechon for a couple of years but later detached. The towns of Washington, Maple Grove and Lessor organized in 1870; the others organized some before and some after that.

The first settlers in the township were Thomas Jefferson Lessor (1828-1876) and William Pearl. Tom Lessor came from Vermont and William Pearl (born in 1816), his wife Getty and son William Jr. came from New York state. These two men both served on the Town Board many times. They were neighbors, one on each side of road 1/4 mile south of Our Savior's Lutheran church in the early 1950s. This picture of Welhaven taken from the south will show the Church on the east side of road and the school on the west. The farm in the picture was owned by John Swenson. Now it is owned by Joe Brusky. The small white building in the very front of the picture is said to have been the home of Tom Lessor. It is also said that the grave of Mr. Lessor was on a small knoll just south from there along the road. In 1976 the Cemetery Association placed a monument in the cemetery in his honor. A story is told that these two neighbors were not

always the best of friends when the surveyors came to stake the road through there. One neighbor would help one day - the other the next - each trying to do the other out of some land. That road south of the church has a bend in it yet.



View of Welhaven and Thomas J. Lessor Farm. The small white building in the foreground was the home of Thomas J. Lessor.

LANDSTAD

Some of the other early settlers in the town were in the Landstad area in the year 1869 - Tollof Olson Oien, the Bergsbakens, the Breckens, the Reitans. Peder Johanson Oien built a log home in 1870 on the south shore of White Lake which was still there in 1985. The John Reitans built the house on the hill on the east side of White Lake. That log building stood for many years in back of the brick house owned by the Leon Stuewer family.



Tollof Olson Oien home - the earliest home still in existence.

LANDSTAD STORY

(As told to Genevieve Boerst by her father, Oscar Peterson - 1970)

"Back in 1870 just east of Landstad was a Norwegian settlement. In the year of 1882 Our Savior's Lutheran Church was built in what is known as Welhaven. (Congregation organized in 1872.) The church was where the cemetery now is. The pastor would come from Green Bay once a month at first. In 1928 it was moved to its present location.



Our Savior's Church shown on the East side of the road before it was moved in 1928.



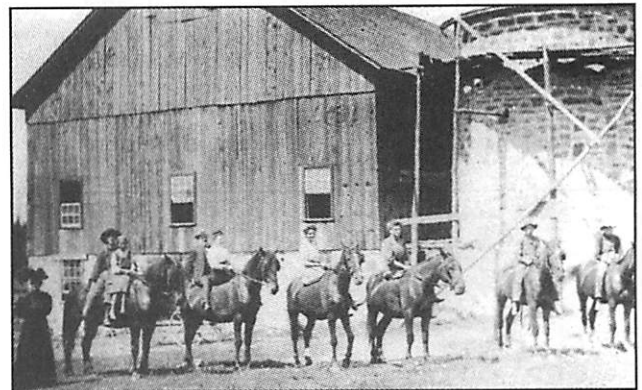
Lutheran Church at Landstad was called the German Lutheran Church. This church was started by a small group of people from Our Saviour's Church that had a misunderstanding about the way it operated so they started this church - 1904 - 1950.

"Just a mile east of Landstad in 1890 in the John Hovie home was the Landstad post office, today known as the James Gruenwald farm home. There was a stagecoach

that came from Shiocton and picked up the mail in Navarino and Landstad and took it to Angelica where another stagecoach took it to Green Bay.

"The first road north of the John Hovie farm (Frazer Corner Road) led to a Tom Hovie that now is the Clarence Jeske farm. Between those places was a beautiful hard woods and families would gather for picnics there. Tom Hovie had built the children a big swing that had four swings and would have to be pushed by an adult. It would swing out and around like a merry go round. It was quite the place for recreation in those days.

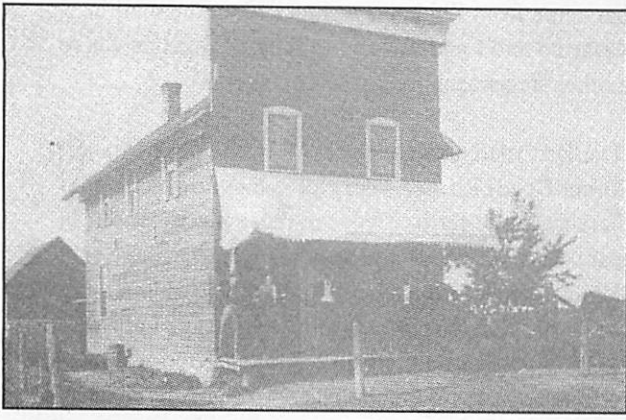
"It was in these years from 1900-1908 that Landstad grew with a Lutheran Church being built just south of the store in 1904. The church no longer is standing. It was torn down around 1950. In those same years just north of the store a saloon and dance hall was built by Charles Eckert



John Hovie farm. Note: The "H" in the silo of different colored stone - about 1912.



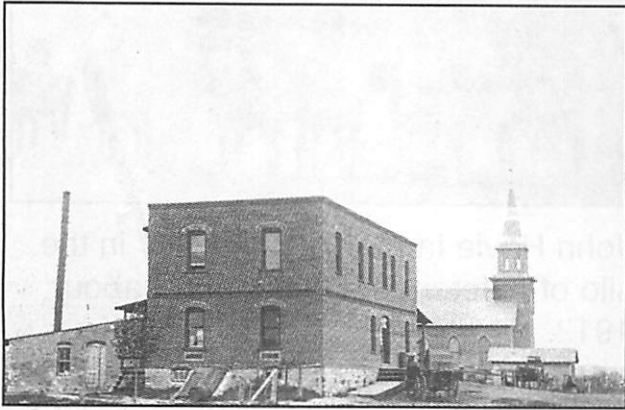
Landstad - 1908 Raddant Brewery Company started converted to cheese factory in 1919. Themer's Tavern under construction and school in far background.



Themer Tavern built in 1907.

and in 1907 Wm. Wagner and family moved here from Angelica and built a home and blacksmith shop which he operated until his death in 1969. The shop is now closed. That same year 1907 Ollie Themer built a saloon across the road from Wagner's blacksmith shop. Some years later Wm. Richter ran a hardware store in that same building. Today the building is again 'Themer's Tavern'.

"Around the year of 1918-1919 Mr. Ganschow sold his cheese-making equipment but remained in the store



Ganschow Cheese Factory and store. Picture taken in 1908.

business until April 1, 1944, when his daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Ed Simonson took over the business until 1969. This past year the building has been made into an antique shop owned by James Irish. In 1919 the saloon and dance hall was turned into a cheese factory. The factory has been closed about 10 years ago. Today that same building is a private home owned by Louis Barkhaus.

"Sometime in the early 1880s the Landstad school house was built, the land being donated by John Hovie. It still remains and until two years ago the 4-H Club held its meetings there, although it has not been operating as a school since 1954.

"In 1926 Palmer Simonson built the triangle garage in Landstad of which he is still the owner.

"There are still a couple other old landmarks, one is across the road from the Osborne Bergsbaken farm. Erick Fredrickson lived there back in 1880 and the oldest home still being used in the town of Lessor is the Oscar Hovie home just 3/4 of a mile east of Landstad."

CHARLES GANSCHOW CHEESE FACTORY (LANDSTAD)

In 1900 Charlie Ganschow started his own cheese factory and in one small room, sold flour and tobacco. This large brick building was located on the east side of highway 47 in Landstad. After a few years of steady growth, he built onto the east end of the building; moving the cheese making (American cheese) operation into the new addition and using the original building for a general store. Some of the first workers were Fred Kleveshal, Osborne Bergsbaken, Ed Nelson, Albert Toellner, Elmer Robley and Oscar Peterson.

As a young man of 16, Oscar Peterson started working here in 1904; working in the cheese factory and after these chores were finished, performing other duties for the general store including hitching up the horses to the freight wagon and going to the Cecil depot to pick up grocery items for the store.

Some of the farmer patrons were Peter Senzig, Charles Popp, Frank Dingeldein, Jim Gilford, Martin Burke, Henry Richter, Wm. Richter, Ole Peterson, Fred Rosin, George Hopfengartner, Theo Meyer, Charley Levene, George Stuewer, Ervin Kaphingst, Hugo Stuewer, Joe Jareck, Robert Peterman, Adolph Stuewer, Carl Hovie, John Toellner, Herman Bohm, Ed Grunewald, John Hovie, Herman Meisner, Arnie Berswenson, Henry Knueppel, Charlie Soyek, and John Runge.

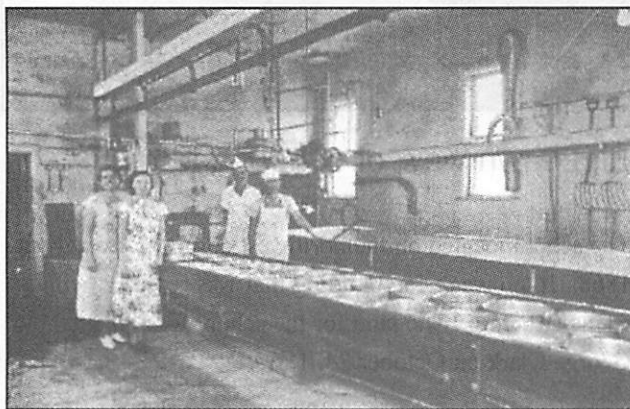
LANDSTAD DAIRY COMPANY

The land owned by the Landstad Dairy Co. was purchased from the State of Wisconsin by the Emil T. Raddant Brewing Co. on February 16, 1905.

On July 24, 1919 this brewery property was purchased for \$1,575 by Monroe Bleick. Monroe was a brother to Walter Bleick. It was then turned into a cheese factory.

On November 22, 1920 Monroe sold this property to the Landstad Dairy Company. On December 6, 1920 the Landstad Dairy Company incorporated. The Articles of Incorporation indicate that Peter Senzig, Fred Rosin and W. Richter were the incorporators. Capital stock of \$5,000 was to be secured through the sale of two hundred \$25 shares.

On June 5, 1946, this property was purchased by Oscar G. Linderman and on September 30, 1949 sold to Sunny Valley Creamery Co. This creamery stayed in operation until about 1960 and on November 7, 1963, the creamery was purchased by Delbert and Edna Thompson. The building was then remodeled and made into a residence. On December 17, 1968, Delbert and Edna Thompson sold this property to Louis and Hazel Barkhaus.



Oscar Peterson Cheese Factory. Left to Right - **Mrs. Oscar Peterson, Genevieve, Stanford and Oscar Peterson.**

Some of the licensed cheese makers and workers were: Monroe Bleick, Gust Ebel (1922), Ed Nelson, Frank Beil, Oscar Peterson (1934-1941), Melvin Zuleger, Fritz Krueger, Ernie Siegler, Dolland, and Merlin Breitzman.

At the age of 16, Oscar Peterson started his cheese making career by getting a job at the Charley Ganschow Cheese factory in Landstad. This was in 1900, one year after this factory had been built. From there he left to work at a cheese factory in Randolph, Wisconsin. He then bought a farm in Thornton, Wisconsin and farmed for 17 years.

Seeing an ad in the paper for a cheese maker's position for the Landstad Dairy Co., Oscar submitted a bid for what wages he would accept. He submitted the lowest bid and was therefore awarded the job. Having been out of the business for 17 years, Oscar relied heavily on the experience and talents of Robert Habighorst who had worked for the previous cheesemaker. Oscar was the

licensed cheese maker for this farmer-owned operation for seven years (1934-1941). After he left, Ernie Zeigler and Merlin Breitzman filled the shoes of the cheese maker.

More about the Landstad area as told by Jim Grunewald. He tells about the post office that was located at the Grunewald farm in the late 1800s. The people that came to pick up the mail would open and read it. Then they would exchange all the news with each other. Then on the way home they would tell the neighbors of the latest news from the relatives back home.

Jim also tells of the early road or trail that went from Landstad to Frazer Corners. It went cross country the way the crow flies just back of the Grunewald farm. Jim says that evidence of that trail through their hardwoods was there for many years. Even back then they would cut short logs and lay them side by side through the low spots (this was called cord). This trail was used for many years while the other roads were being laid out on the section lines all through the 1870s.

Jim tells about the grist mill on their farm. It was located at the intersection of Old 47 and Landstad Road. I had never heard of this before but Jim said oh yes and showed me this picture of it.



Grist Mill on James Grunewald Farm - corner of Landstad Road and old 47.

FRAZER CORNERS

In the Frazer Corner area: George Frazer 1869, Ole Erickson 1872, Erick Olson 1874. Mr. Frazer was the Town of Lessor's first chairman. He held offices for many years - clerk, treasurer and justice of the peace. When Ole Erickson came in 1874 he was just 20 years old; was married in 1877. He also held offices most of his life - treasurer 10 years, supervisor 2 years, chairman



George Frazer Home today.

2 years, school treasurer 14 years. Ole Erickson's land was just south of Frazer Corner on the Kleczewski farm. It was 80 acres at that time. The George Frazer property was just west of Frazer Corner on the Harry Hylok farm, then 150 acres. The Frazers had a daughter born in 1869 that was the first white child born in Lessor (Anna). In the year 1895 George was building one of the most sightly and commodious farm houses in the country (it is still there). The store at Frazer Corners was first owned by Wellington Brown (1869), Clauson Knutson (1874) and by M.O. Sorenson (1875). He sold it to Martin and Torvald Johnson who operated it until Torvald's daughter, Louise, married Michael Lyons in 1927. Then Mike Schoen owned it until W.B. Schroeder 1939. While W. B. Schroeder owned it he also bought the Elm Dale cheese factory 1941 and the Welhaven factory in 1947. W.B. Schroeder then sold to James Blom in 1962. James ran it until it closed in 1967. Jim then sold to his nephew, Larry Blom, who leased it to Norman Weed who operated a furniture store there from 1975 to 1980. The Bloms also operated a TV repair and sales shop during the same time. When George Frazer served as Justice of the Peace for many years he would hold court in the front room of his house.

ELM LAWN

Another area of the town was Elm Lawn. It too had some early settlers - George Clark, Joseph Wickborn, Richard Bermeister, Ruben Irish, Muellers, and Kitchenmaster. The first land was bought from the state by George Clark. The area at one time had a church, school, cheese factory, and a tavern/store/dance hall combined. The story is that the state passed a law saying that a tavern could not be within so many feet of a school. The tavern owner had to buy another 1/2 acre of land and move the tavern back. That is when the store and hall were added on. This was

located on the southeast corner. It burned down in 1916 or 1918.

The cheese factory located on the northeast corner was first built one mile south of here then it was moved to this location in the year of 1918.



Elm Lawn view of school and factory.

The school located on the northwest corner started about 1868. It too was a log building that was replaced with a frame structure. The land for the school was donated by George Clark on October 24, 1867.

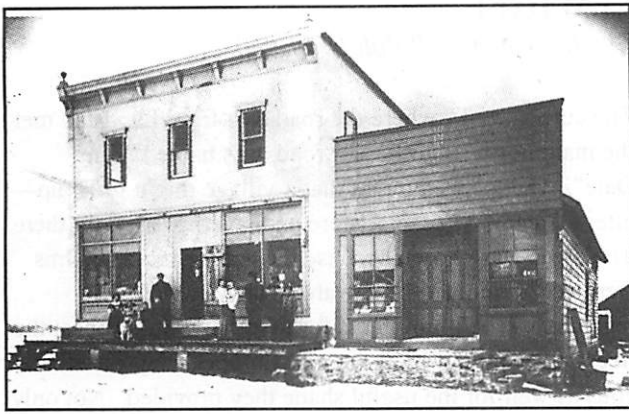
Reinhold Mueller tells how his mother went to the school in the old log building sitting on the wooden benches and writing on the slate board. Reinhold lives on the corner where the tavern stood.

Elm Lawn church and cemetery located 1/4 mile east of the factory was a methodist church.

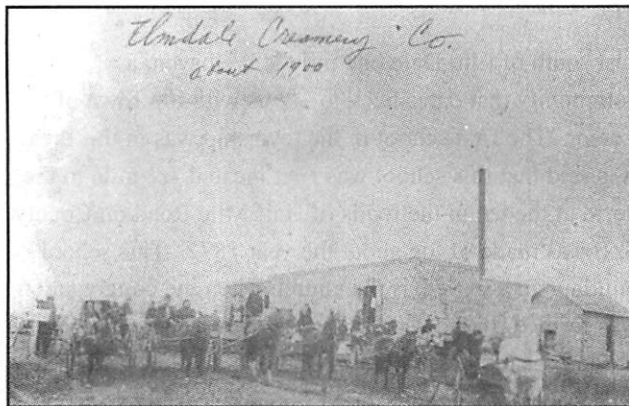
Elm Lawn also had another church one mile west on the corner of Silver Lane and Hwy 156. It is believed to have been a Seven Day Adventist Church. There is not much history on this church.

ELM DALE

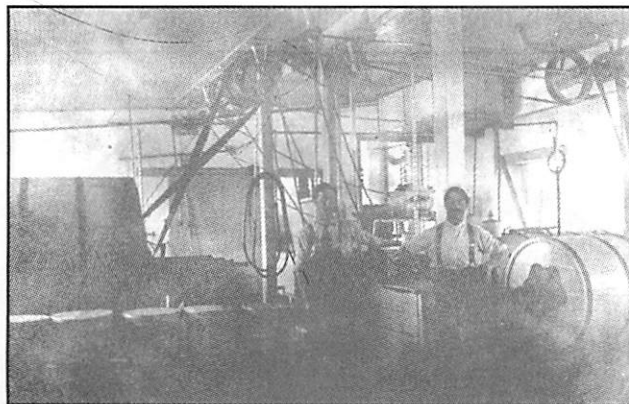
Elm Dale was another part of the township that was a very interesting spot. It too had a cheese factory, store, dance hall, tavern and horse barn. This not being a crossroad but a tee where Landstad Road met County S. The store and dance hall along with the creamery on the northeast corner - Elm Dale Creamery Co-op. This was called a creamery because in early days the farmers did not have much milk. They would run it through a separator, take the cream to the creamery where it was made into butter and feed the skim milk to the calves and



Thompson Store in 1915 - Elm Dale. The building on the right was believed to have been the first store at Welhaven owned by Swenson. He moved it to Elm Dale and added the bigger store and dance hall upstairs, then sold to Tom Thompson. Moved before 1900.



Elm Dale Creamery Company about 1900.



Inside the Elm Dale Creamery showing the two butter churns. Chris Christonson & Carl Hovie - 1909.

pigs. This creamery is believed to have been the first in the township (1879 or 1880). They made butter there until about 1912 when it switched over to a cheese factory because the farmers had too much milk to put through the separator. They would haul milk to a cheese factory for making cheese. This factory closed about 1941 and was bought by W.B. Schroeder.

The store was located first at Welhaven and was owned by John Swenson. He then moved it to Elm Dale about the year 1888, added on the living quarters and the dance hall upstairs. He then sold the building in 1915 to Art Johanes. He did some remodeling then traded the store to Tom Thompson for his farm that was located on the southwest corner of Elm Dale. The store was sold one more time to a Moss until it burned down in 1932. This store was also operated by Ole Severson in the year 1925. It is not known if he owned it or just worked there. The Elm Dale store burned in 1929.

This dance hall was a very important part of the community. It not only had many dances but school programs, church gatherings, "acts and plays" put on by the local people.

The tavern located on southwest corner about the year 1890 was owned by Ed Markuson. He operated it until about 1914 when it was closed down by pressure from the Women's Christian Temperance Union. There seemed to have been a lot of discussion about this in the area at that time, but there was also many things that happened because of the men's drinking. Mrs. Markuson lived in the building after that until about 1928. Themer's tavern at Landstad became a hardware store during this period and the tavern that Elsners had closed for good like the Markusons.



Karine Hayjem Markusen (Mrs. Ed) owner of the tavern where she lived many years after its closing about 1917.



Bergsbaken sawmill at Elmdale. Men working are - Ted Thompson, Harry Adamski, Oscar Rudie on log, Harvey Ebert, Art Erickson, Harold Rudie and Melvin Zuleger.



Elm Dale - Oscar Rudie, Ted Thompson, Ole Rudie, Art Erickson, Harvey Ebert and Harry Adamski.

Town records show how the vote went when the Town went dry April 4, 1914: dry 129, wet 96. The vote again in 1916: dry 139, wet 104; in 1917 - dry 119, wet 104. 1919 prohibition started. The Town Board at that time was: Chairman Fred Porter, Supervisors Peter Erickson and Otto Raether, Clerk Oscar Onson, Treasurer Henry Richter, Assessor Elling Peterson, Justice of Peace Ira Jeffers, Constables Joe Ebert, Kendal Hovie and E. C. Kvale.

Elm Dale also had a horse barn on the northwest corner so that people that came to the dance hall had a place for their horses.

The last building in Elm Dale was the factory. It was a storage shed for Jared Bergsbaken who operated two threshing machines and a clover huller. He also operated a sawmill from this location in the years 1941 - 1957.

ELM DALE

(As described by Ralph Erickson)

The corner, a "T" where the road east from Landstad met the main north/south Lessor road, was named "Elm Dale". The locals thought that a village might grow up—after a creamery, general store and tavern were built there. The name was chosen because the great American elms were very prominent in the area. They were highly regarded by the immigrants for their beautiful shapes; the trees were not known to them in Europe. They prized the elms as well for the useful shade they provided. Not only did they often spare elms when they found them along proposed fence and road lines, but they also frequently left lone elms standing in open fields to provide shade for the animals. The cemetery of Our Savior's was left with only elms. Thus the name Elm Dale was a very appropriate name for the locals and visitors today would never realize, because of the elm blight of the 1960s and 1970s, that the area had once had large numbers of these elegant trees.

WELHAVEN

Just south of Elm Dale one mile is Welhaven, a community that dates back to 1850s with the Town of Lessor. The first school in the township was in this area. It is said that this school was first located 1/2 mile to the north at the tee in the roads of Half Mile Road on County S. It was made of log about the year 1872. This school building also served as the church when the congregation was formed. In the year 1888 the school was rebuilt at its present location April 21, 1888. Land was bought from Nils Anderson 3/4 acre for \$13.00 and leased to School District #1.

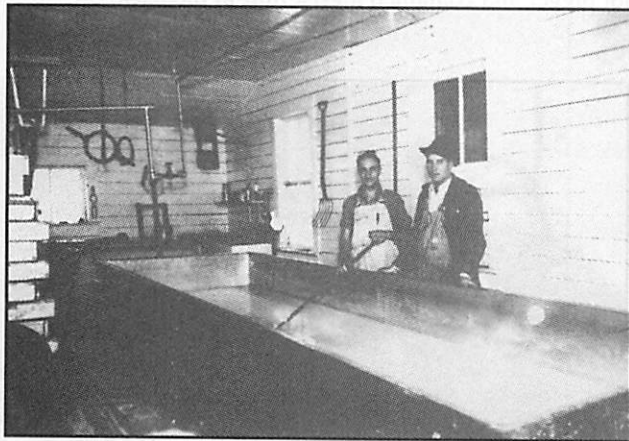
The church was the hub of this community. The Norwegian people were very religious people and most of the activity revolved around the church. It was organized



Welhaven School about 1890.

December 26, 1872 and built in 1882 on the east side of the intersection where the cemetery is located. The corner where the first school house stood was known as school house corner for many years. Glen Kvaley told me his Dad, Ed Kvaley referred to it as such many times.

Before the church was built at that spot, the organizers of the congregation thought that a better spot for the church would have been on the hill on the east end of Landstad Road. It would be closer for the people from the Landstad area and tradition says always build a church on a hill. But because of the great rock ledge in this area, no basement or foundation could be dug. After a lot of discussion it was built at Welhaven. That hill was known as church hill for many years after that. That church stood at that spot until the year 1928 when it was moved to its present location as there was a need for a larger parking lot and the area was too wet for a basement. A basement was added at the new location.



Welhaven Cheese Factory 1939. Martin Johnson Cheese maker and Meril Amen.



Welhaven Factory showing whey tank and can truck. Arlin Johnson with dog. Ray and Vernon Brusky on bikes.

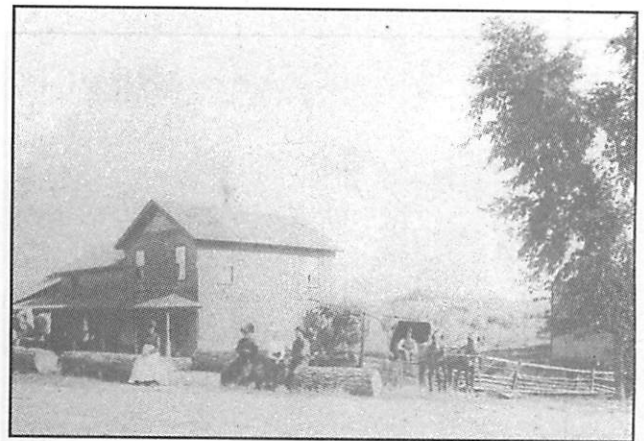
The story of how the church was moved is very interesting. It took 5 or 6 days and one horse did all the work.

When the store was at Welhaven it was also the post office. The earlier post offices were at Landstad 1875 and Frazer Corners before Welhaven 1885. One of the first mail carriers in this area was Mrs. Oscar C. Olson in the early 1890s. Most post offices closed down about 1910 with rural delivery out of Pulaski.

The cheese factory at Welhaven was a farmer's factory that organized in 1912, operated with many cheese makers. The last was Martin Johnson. It then was sold to W.B. Schroeder in 1947. This factory stood on the southwest corner close to the road. The house is still there.

BRIARTON

Briarton on the southeast part of Lessor was probably the biggest hamlet in the township, started in the late 1870s. Some of the first settlers were Henry Hoeff, Bill Gear, George Wagestor, William Mielke, Charley Bergmister, Herb Ruechel. The most prominent one came in the year 1884 by the name of Joe Becker. Joe first worked in a sawmill at Black Creek for five years, then came to Briarton and bought a sawmill that was built in 1880 by Joseph Pleckam on Herman Creek. This sawmill burned in 1888 when he rebuilt it - this time much bigger. It was also a shingle mill, planing mill and feed mill. This stood just east of the house and hotel that stood on the southeast corner. The hotel and house are still there. It is owned by Donald Heagle.



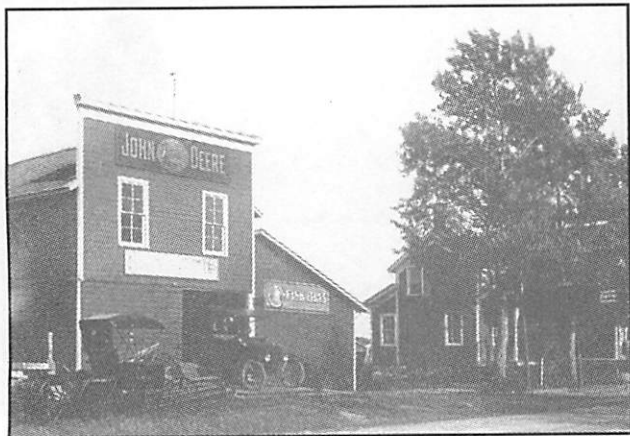
Briarton hotel in 1895. Showing the sawmill from left the tavern and hall to the right.

Just south of the hotel across the creek Becker owned a tavern that also had a dance hall. Melvin Zuleger told me that when you walked in to the left, go down 3 steps to the tavern, go right into the hall. The hall was a square room with a very large post in the center with a spiral staircase to a balcony. This is where the band would play from. Melvin said "Man, could you hear the music."

The Becker family of 3 boys and 2 girls helped the empire grow. They owned 2 threshing machines that were powered by steam engines, pulled to the job by horses. Later Joe and son Frank converted one of these into an all-wheel drive power unit. It is said that this was the forerunner of the FWD of Clintonville.



The funeral of Mrs. Joe Margreta Becker on July 18, 1906. Left to right sitting down Emma, Frank Joe Jr. Joe Sr. Mary, Albert. Note: Hotel draped in black.



Frank Becker Implement and shop - John Deere Plows, Clark Vehicles and Fisk Tires when its time to retire.

Frank Becker owned the implement shop that sold John Deere implements. Later he sold buggys, then cars. Frank sold Ford cars and at one time this was the largest Ford dealership this side of Milwaukee. Frank Becker also made his own car from a steam engine. It was slow and very noisy. His shop also sold sewing machines.

The store and cheese factory in Briarton was built by a Fred Jeske. The store first 1891 on the northeast corner then the factory 1892 on the southwest corner. Fred sold the factory in 1912 to Frank and August Hanke. They sold to Frank Flynn. He sold to Art Schneider. He sold to Earl Robinson. He made a garage of it about 1960. They tore down the factory with the store in 1987. The store first was owned by Jeske then by Charley Denio, then owned by Dalton and White for many years. Then it was operated by White's daughter and son-in-law. Lloyd Ebert then operated it last. Some place in those early years it is said to have been owned by George Goldrick, the first owner or operator. The first store of Briarton was destroyed by fire. When it was rebuilt it was built a lot bigger and contained a grist mill in the back.



Briarton Store.



Briarton Cheese Factory in the early fifties.

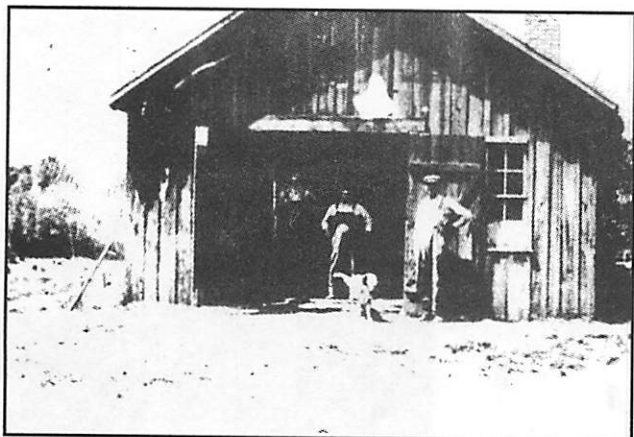
A blacksmith shop built by Henry Hoeff stood just north of the Becker garage before most of the Becker family enterprise had gotten this big. Then after Henry got older sold his shop to Frank Becker. Becker later made this shop into a house for his employees after he built a new garage. This house is still standing on the hill. People that lived in the house - Harry Mroczynski, Barney



Interior of Briarton Store: John Dalton, Antone Kleczewski and Ernest Westerfield.



Grist Mill in back of store in Briarton.



William Hoeff standing in front of his Blacksmith Shop.

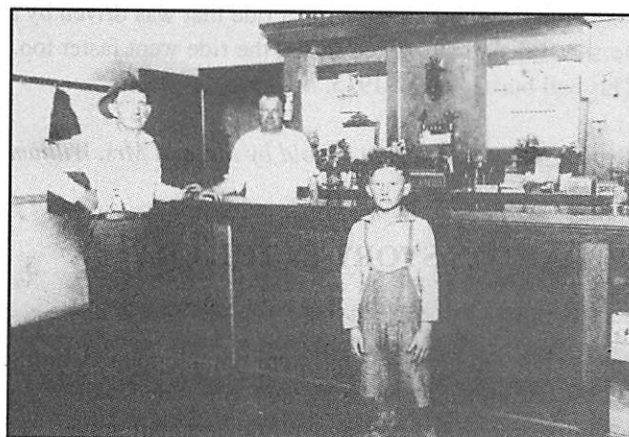
Czoykowski, Alvin Cheslock. From this new garage Frank sold Ford cars and later on he sold Kaiser-Frazer cars.



Early view of Briarton looking north. Left side of road cheese factory and right side of road store, tavern, hotel and dance hall.



The Schoessow brothers, from left, Don, Jim and John, in front of their Briarton plant.



Ed Eisch Tavern - Left Joe Ebert, Ed Eisch-bartender, Delbert Eisch-boy.

The Hoeff blacksmith shop first stood on the northwest corner. He owned the land at that time and moved it to the east side of the road later.

A second blacksmith shop was built just east of the store. It was built about 1921 by Herbert Ruechel and Leonard Schoessow. This shop developed into a very large feeder wagon business that is still owned by the Schoessow family. The feeder wagon business has since moved to Portage, but the shop is still in the steel retail sales business.

The tavern and dance hall that burned in 1921 was then owned by Becker and Ed Eisch. Ed was married to Emma Becker. Ed later built a new tavern in the year of 1930 on his farm just north of Briarton. He operated this tavern until it was moved to its new location on the new Highway 47-55 in 1950 when it was bought by Ray and Jane Olszewski. That tavern is still in operation - the only tavern in the township.

The first post office in Briarton alternated between the store and hotel in the years of 1883 to 1904. The first post master was Conrad Coon.

The school in Briarton was a log building started in 1884. The first officers were J.W. Steinker, director; G.H. Goldrick, treasurer; Edwin Dean, clerk. The school built by Albert Dean and George Williams. The first teacher of the school was Ida E Tubbs. A new school was built in 1898 by Joseph Becker just east of Briarton on the north side of the road. The school operated until 1956 when it consolidated with the Bonduel School District. The land for the first school was bought from Otto Raether for \$10.00.

Melvin Zuleger tells this story: Another dance hall that was built in Briarton was called Picnic Hall. It was located about 1/2 mile to the south at the bend in the road. It was only used in the summertime under the shade of all the tall trees. They celebrated the 4th of July here with the children enjoying a ride that was driven by a horse. If the horse walked faster, the ride went faster too. This hall burned about 1915.

Another story of Briarton as told by Mr. and Mrs. William Ruechel:

"BRIARTON STORY IN THE ERA OF 1900"

Joe Becher and his son Frank were running the saw mill. The logs were hauled there by the farmers and were mainly hemlock and pine and a little beachnut timber. This lumber was used to build homes and barns. Cedar logs were used for shingles which were also made at the

Becher saw mill in the early 1900s. Becher also donated the lumber for the new school. I still remember when Becher put on the fancy woodwork on the porch and the dovetail siding on the west side of the house. The saloon and dance hall was across the creek from the home.

In later years he built a car by himself. The wheels were large, like top buggy wheels, and steel tires were used. On the two back wheels he welded small pieces of iron for traction. The wheels were driven by two chains from the motor, like a bicycle chain, only larger. I remember him driving this thing that he called an automobile to Seymour and back. We called it a horseless buggy.

Becher and his son Frank built the large dance hall one mile south of Briarton in the woods which was called Picnic Hall. The 4th of July was always a big celebration for young and old alike. They also had a merry-go-round and the power for this ride was a horse. It was slow in getting started, but after it got going, the horse would trot and both young and old enjoyed it. They would charge five cents a ride.

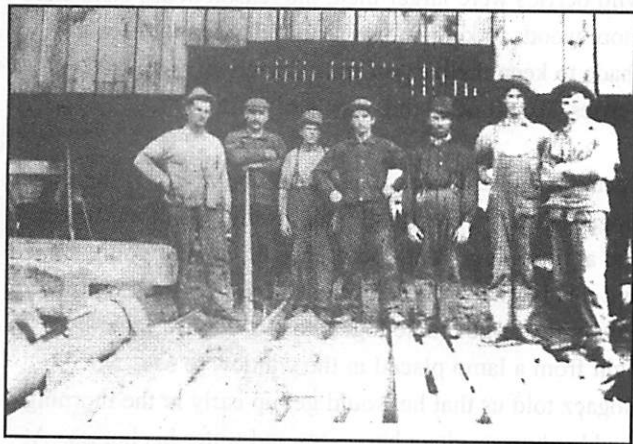


The Briarton School in 1884.



This Briarton School was built in 1898.

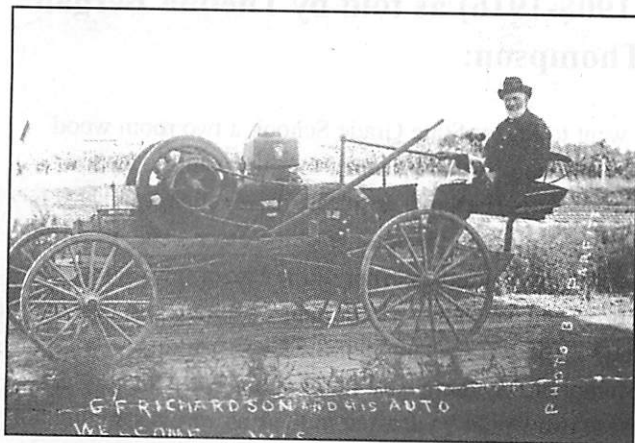
In the year 1900, when I first started school, it was a log school house. The benches were ten feet long, and the desk to work on was fastened to the back of the front bench. Another ten inch board was fastened below for all of your working materials. Of course, we only had the first reader, slate and slate pencil. If you dropped the slate on the floor, you would have more than one slate and the same with your slate pencil. The first grade girls



Sawmill at Briarton



Briarton Hotel at its finest in 1910.
Emma, Albert and Mary Becker.



This auto built by Frank Becker.

and boys were placed in the first seat, boy, girl, boy, girl so the teacher could watch the girls more closely so they would not disturb the little boys from doing their school work. I don't recall the teacher's name in my first years of school, but I do remember the older boys and girls such as Nellie Frank, Flora Croner, Bill Krohlow, Walter Mielke, Rob Krohlow, Albert Mielke, Albert Dettman, Bill Hoeft, Henry Hoeft, George Wagester, Frank Wagester, Emil Raether, Frank Drier, Bill Drier, Carl Frank, Fred Frank, Edward Ruechel, Gustave Ruechel, William Bogacz, Ida Butzlaff, Marie Raether, Lillie Mielke, Emma Butzlaff, Helen Ruechel, William A. Ruechel and Antone Bogacz.

One of the best-liked teachers in the first years of our new school was Miss Hannah Shannon. Miss Shannon taught us a poem and wanted us all to remember this poem and take it with us through life. Permit me to repeat this poem:

"If you are asked to do a thing and mean to do it really, Never let it be by half, but do it full and freely." I am very proud of this poem.

Mr. Hoeft's blacksmith shop was across the street from the Briarton Store. Mr. Hoeft did a lot of hard work shoeing horses, shrinking steel tires on the wooden wagon wheels so the farmers could haul gravel on the road, sharpening plow points and welding broken irons. This welding was made by placing the iron in a bed of hot coals until the iron was red hot. Then the broken parts were pounded together to make the weld.

The cheese factory was built by Fred Jeske so the farmers could dispose of their milk. Cheese was made and the farmers took their turn to haul the cheese to Seymour for storage. This was a great help to all of the farmers.

There was no mail delivery in the early days. The mail was delivered as far as Shawano and once a week it was brought to the Briarton Store. This was a distributing place for the people around Briarton to come and pick up their mail.

I remember there was one weekly German newspaper called 'The Vochen Blot'. I think of all the little boys and girls going to public school to learn to speak English and our parents having a German newspaper. We could talk German, but we could not read German.

My parents both came from Germany. Both were single when they met in Oshkosh in the year of 1880. For some time they lived in Oshkosh and then in 1894 they bought

a farm southwest of Briarton in the Town of Lessor, Shawano County. My dad built the large barn 40' by 80' in 1903 and it is still there today. The living quarters was a frame building. The kitchen was log and the floor was made of wide rough boards with small openings in between the boards. Mother would say, 'Willie, sweep the kitchen floor'. That was easy, because I didn't need a dustpan; the dust would fall through the narrow openings between the floor boards so there were no backaches to hold the dustpan to sweep the dust in.

William Mielke was a very handy man in the neighborhood. He made many items such as axe handles, hammer handles, spinning wheel wool carding tools, walking canes, rolling pins and ironing boards. We still have our ironing board and rolling pin. He also did carpenter work and filed saws. Whenever you saw Mr. Mielke, he always had a red handkerchief tied around his neck, winter or summer. Mr. Mielke told us of his first years on his forty acre farm 1/4 mile south of Briarton. There were no roads, only trails through the woods. If he needed supplies, such as flour and groceries, he would start out at an early hour in the morning with a lantern in his hand so he could find his way through the woods. Black Creek was his first stop. If that store had no flour, he walked to Appleton. He would carry his fifty pound bag of flour and groceries on his back all the way home. Before he would get home, it would be dark. His lantern was his best friend. If wild animals, like bear or wildcats, would see fire, they would not attack.

I also remember when the first automobile was driven from the south going to Briarton. We were all by the roadside to see the automobile, as they called it, but we all shouted horseless buggy. If there were cows, horses, sheep or chickens along the road, the noise from this automobile frightened everything. This was a Model T Ford. It had a horn, and by pressing on the rubber ball, the air would blow through the key in the horn to make a loud noise. Curtains were on both sides in case of rain or snow. The roads were poor; and if it would rain, you would find mud holes in the road bed, and many times we helped cars out of the mud holes. Sometimes the motor would stop, and a crank was used to start the motor, as there was no starter.

Briarton today has many worn out cars standing around. These cars show they either were used cars or misused cars. You don't see a lumber wagon, platform buggy, top buggy, surry or big sled or cutters standing around that has lost its value. I am sorry to say, but I feel that today Briarton has lost its beauty.

The store at Briarton was a great service to both the young and old alike. As school children we didn't have money like the children have today. We would get a penny's worth of candy at a time or a couple sticks of gum. It was not that our parents didn't want to give us children money, but because the parents didn't have much income. As children, we would pick wild strawberries and sell them at the store or we would take them to Mrs. Joe Becker. She would give us 7 or 8 cents a quart. The wild berries were larger then; the reason being there were more woods to keep moisture in the ground and more shade to keep the hot sun from drying up the plants and berries. To all of us this was hard work.

Speaking of hard work, I can't help but think of the Bogacz family. As a small boy, I would visit their boys; and at times it got dark before we thought of going home and this is what I would notice. Mr. and Mrs. Bogacz would saw large maple logs into firewood at night by light from a lamp placed in the window to see. Mr. Bogacz told us that he would get up early in the morning, feed his horses, clean harnesses and water his horses. At an early hour in the morning he would leave for Seymour to sell the wood and be back home by noon. He would repeat this same routine day after day. This was very hard work and I don't remember how much he would receive for a cord of wood.

In the year 1936 the high power line was built through Briarton. Everyone along the line then had electricity and was happy to receive it.

This is the end of my line. Mr. and Mrs. William A. Ruechel are happy to be of help you you, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ebert and son, trying to piece all of this information together in a book form.

Another story about going to school (1908-1916) as told by Thelma Bergan Thompson:

I went to Frazer State Grade School, a two room wood frame school at the corner of four townships. To the northwest is Hartland, northeast is Angelica, southeast is Maple Grove and the southwest is Lessor. The lot for the school was from the corner of the Frazer farm. George Frazer and Mr. James Gordonier, who lived just east of the school, were veterans of the Civil War. Every year on Memorial Day there was a program at the cemetery and these two would be dressed in their uniforms standing tall and erect. They looked to us like heroes should look.

(The cemetery Thelma refers to was north of the Frazer School in Angelica Township. Both Mr. Frazer and Gordonier are buried there).

I have the picture below of the school taken in 1890 when my mother, Clara Bergan was in the first grade, and her sisters were there too. The school looked much the same when I went, only bigger. There were two classrooms and they each had two cloakrooms. In the room for the upper grades there was a shelf in the back where we kept our dinner buckets. There was a big earthenware jug that held our drinking water, and a sink in the corner to wash in. In the front of the book shelf stood the organ. It made a little room for the library. The lower grade room was the same except for the organ.

There was a hallway between the rooms and a stairway to the basement where the furnace was. We always started with a big pile of wood on the south side of the building. Sometimes we had to take turns throwing the wood into the basement. By Spring the pile was almost gone.

In the fall when school started, we often had our lunch in the shade outside. We all had two quart syrup pails or empty lard pails. One girl often brought her pail full of fresh eggs, then she'd go across to the store and exchange for store cookies, or bananas or oranges, or anything else



Frazer Corners School about 1890. Teacher far right with hand bell is **Louis Colson**. This was a one room school before the addition on the right. **Lena Blom** back row sixth from the left. **Henry Erickson** tenth from left center row. **Anna Bergen** fourth from left arms folded. **Clara Bergan** - sitting fourth from left from row one.

that caught her fancy. I don't know if her mother knew what she was doing, but she always gave her sister a share.

When the weather was nice, we played lots of games outside. The boys liked to play baseball, and we had our favorites too. 'Drop the Handkerchief' and 'Lose Your Partner', involved forming a circle and running behind to see who could get back first. 'Long Goal' was for a long narrow place in the yard where we batted and ran bases. The favorite was racing around the schoolhouse, one going each way, the first back being the winner.

When the weather was bad there were blackboard games. In the winter time we had a great place to slide down hill, so as soon as there was snow we all brought our sleds. No matter how much fun we had in the winter, we looked forward to spring. Arbor Day in May, and that meant cleaning the play yard and planting trees. Everyone helped. Someone even had to give George Washington a bath. There was a marble bust of him in the upper room. After that we would have picnic and go to someone's woods to pick flowers.

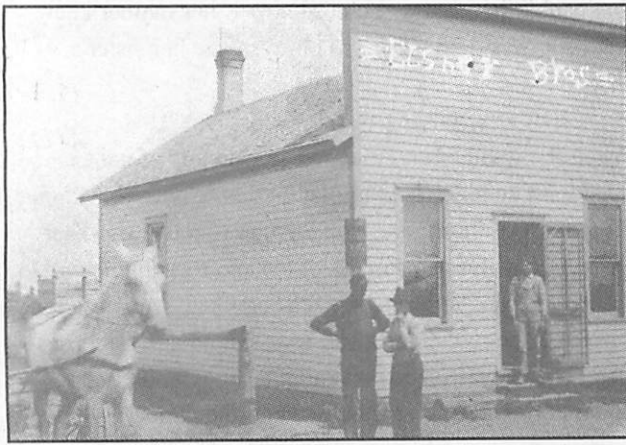
School brings back many memories and someday I'll write more.

HISTORY OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER

The Union Cemetery never had a church. This was the town cemetery for the people that did not go to any of the churches. This cemetery was always known as the McCoy Cemetery for the people that lived there at the time - Simon McCoy. The first person buried in that cemetery was Mary McCoy; the second a child named Willy Williams. They were buried under a large pine tree.

In that same area in 1893 was the great Navarino fire that came into Lessor and burned over several sections of land. Some people fled to the river for safety. One family ran to the center of a plowed field and covered themselves with blankets. They thought the world was coming to an end because the whole sky was bright red. That fire burned all buildings on Nils Pederson farm (now Pashouwer).

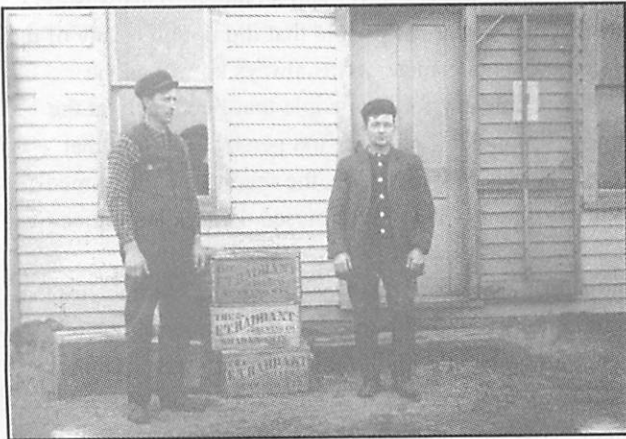
This area is said to have had a cheese factory on the south end of Nichols Road on the county line. It might have been over the county line.



Elsner tavern was located across from our new fire station.



Clifford Porter sitting at Elsner's Tavern.



Elsner left and Bill Luniak on right.

The Gold Mine was located on the Jack Herb farm and the area around the Union Cemetery. They mined for gold there several times. Not enough gold was found to make it practical so the mine was abandoned. This was in the 1880s. Netty McCoy Blom tells the story that her parents told her to be careful when walking to school

through the fields and not go too close to the holes because they were big and deep. Gail Cole wrote a book about his gold mining days.

Netty Mcoy also tells that as a child she can remember that the school house was very small and didn't have room for a library so the library was in their house right next to the school. They would stay up until 9 o'clock every night so people could use the library.

Their house was also the post office for that area and she remembers a mailman by the name of Tonn carrying the mail on horseback from Leeman to Angelica and dropping off the mail. He often would change horses at their barn too.

In the year 1883 there was a place called Vang's Place because the sawmill of that name. This area grew to where it had a post office and needed a name. The crew at the mill named it Galesburg after a much-liked farmer, handyman and mill worker by the name of Gale Cole who lived in the Town of Lessor. In the late 1920s Galesburg was called Navarino because the post office got mixed up with too many towns with names similar to this including Galesburg, Illinois.

THE BLACKSMITH SHOPS in Lessor were very important to the people—the two in Briarton, Hoeffs, Schoessows, the Ole Rudie farm and the George Tillison farm east on Hofa Park Road, and Juel Anderson on his farm at Elm Dale that is now Dan Bonnin's place. Mr. Anderson, a very handy man, was also a shoemaker and fixed shoes for horses as well as for people. His son, Palmer, ran the farm; after that he was a pilot and made the blacksmith shop and farm into an airport and hanger for his plane in the 1940s.

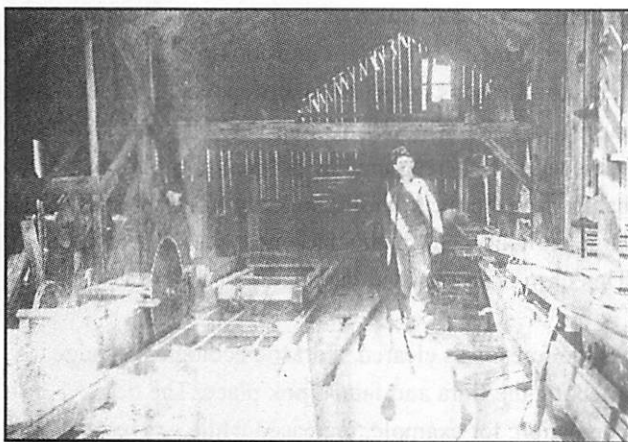
The Wagner blacksmith shop (Andrew) in the late 1880s was the first one in the Town of Lessor and was located 1/2 mile north of Elm Dale. Mr Wagner owned 80 acres then sold to Hans Erickson in 1893. The farm is still owned by the Erickson family (Homer). There was a blacksmith at Landstad in the 1890s owned by Knut Langedal Olson. He was famous for his prized knives. He made them by forging together three layers of steel. It was a trade he learned from many generations of making knives. I was shown one of these knives at the Homer Erickson farm on March 27, 1996. I could see the three layers of steel. How they were forged together, I don't know. It also had a bone handle. They used it regularly and said it was very easy to keep sharp.

Ole Rudie is the father of Harold Rudie. On their farm was one of the biggest sawmills in this area. Most of the buildings built in this part of Lessor were built with lumber from the Rudie Mill. This mill was located on the Owen farm. The Rudie's then built a second mill on property that was just back of Harold Rudie's present house. Harold can tell many stories of when he and his brothers sawed lumber and shingles on the Rudie farm.

Like blacksmith shops, there were several other mills in the area — a big one in Briarton that not only sawed lumber but ran a planing mill and a shingle mill that made some of the best shingles in the country which took first place at the Shawano County Fair.

Other mills in the area that still operate are owned by Andy Able, Jim Kleczewski, and Mike Eisch. Alfred Tillison had one of the older mills.

Jared Bergsbaken operated a mill at Elm Dale since he bought the factory in 1944. In 1948 he replaced this mill with a new one that he and his helper Hjalmer Rudie, operated until 1950 when Jared had an accident. A log bumped him and he lost his footing, falling backward on the blade. The blade cut into his neck, severing the optic nerve and leaving him blind. Hjalmer operated the mill for Jared until it was sold in 1957.



Rudie Sawmill. Ole Rudie 1903. This mill stood where Dennis Rudie Barn stands now.

Another person that was well liked and played an important part in Lessor was Ole Ramseth, born in Lessor in 1872 and died at age of 49. Ole was a very good man with figures. He was treasurer of Elm Dale Creamery; treasurer for the church, and treasurer for Town of Lessor, served on the board of directors for the Bonduel Telephone Co. He was a good carpenter. He built the

home of Bob Behnke, Elmer Erickson, the top of Elm Dale creamery (1903) and others. He built the church at Landstad and when the church was torn down in 1950, a rafter was found with his name on it.

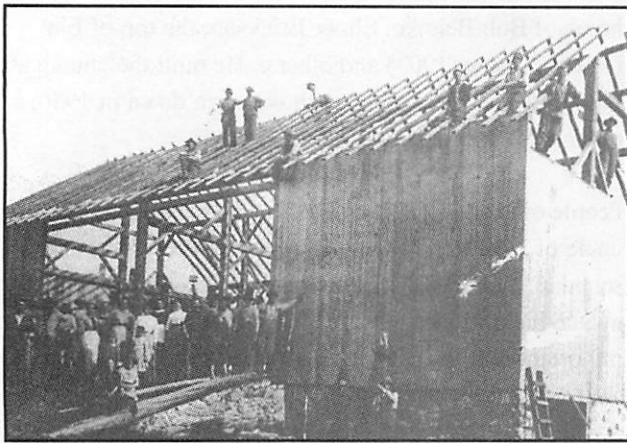
People of interest: A man by the name of Ray Herb, uncle of Jack Herb from Lessor, was a very good scientist. He taught science in universities, and later owned his own lab. It was his lab that had played a very important part in the smashing of the atom.

Annie Bersvendesen achieved a sort of notoriety when she reported that John Dillinger, the Chicago gangster, spent a night in her barn. Dillinger, born in Indianapolis in 1903, gained fame and public imagination in 1933 and 1934 for his daring and impudence. Made mobile by the automobile, he would rob a bank and then flee, usually across a state line. He was captured twice, escaped jail twice and fought his way out of numerous traps. It was frequently rumored that he was in Wisconsin. He was shot down outside the Biograph Theatre in Chicago by federal agents on July 22, 1934. Annie owned the farm where Gary Boerst lives now.

Annie Bersvendesen herself was an eccentric. She operated her farm by herself, dressed in a man's overalls, and drove her horses for plowing and harvesting alone. Her constant companion was a faithful dog, a big black retriever, which she trained to do several tricks, one of which was to go to the basement to fetch firewood when the fire was low. Once, when Annie was entertaining the Ladies Aid, she told the dog to go for firewood. He came back without any. Annie scolded him and again told him to go for firewood. The dog returned with the axe thus telling her that there was none cut.



Ann Bersvendesen Home. Anna standing in center of picture next to car.



Bersvendsen Barn

John Dillenger was known to have traveled through this area quite often on his way to his northern retreat. One of the reasons was to stop at the home of John Brusky. It is said that during the prohibition days the Bruskys made some of the best moonshine in the area. Not only did Dillenger buy some but most of the young men from far and near would come on a Saturday night and stop on their way to a dance or just an evening of frolicking.

These were also the days of depression and money was hard to come by so many of the men would trap gophers, crows, and hawks. They would take them to a town board member and be paid a bounty. Some of the men would save them for a special occasion like the 4th of July or church picnic. Bounty was 5¢ for gophers, 10¢ for rats and crows, 25¢ for hawks.

In 1900 Einar Ramseth wrote about Lessor in an eighth grade school essay which he called "My Native Town" —

Lessor is situated in the western part of Wisconsin, and in the southern part of Shawano County, 20 miles northwest of Green Bay.

Lessor is named after one of the first men that settled there, his house is still to be seen. He was a Yankee by birth and place. The first minister was Rev. Olson, who lived in Green Bay. He had to use a compass to find his way up there through the wilderness at that time. The church they used was a log school house, which served for all purposes at that time. Lessor received her first settlers in the year 1850. They had not only the wood to clear, but the Indians were plentiful, at that time, so they had to watch out for everything they had, else the Indians would steal it from them. The farmers took their turn to go to town, it being so far and difficult, and helped each other in every way, just as brothers.

Their chief occupations at that time were lumbering and hauling their logs to sawmills. From the logs they got lumber. The chief industries, at the present time, are farming and dairy, and cheese making. The cheese factory receives about four or five thousand pounds of milk daily. There are many people that would like to see the interior of a cheese factory, and, if I could describe it, I would, but as I am not a cheese maker, cannot very well describe it. There is but one creamery and one saloon in my town. The people don't seem to like either one, as both of them are nearly starved out.

The forest fire of 1893 confirmed their fears. Thelma Ramseth Thompson was told by her aunt Anna Bergan that "in September of that year a terrible forest fire raged through this area. The pastor and confirmation class were at the church on Saturday preparing for the Sunday service and the wind and storm were so severe they feared the structure would collapse. But as they waited and prayed, the wind calmed down and the settlers got the flames under control. However, the barn on the Peter Olson Rudie farm was burned and one family (Nils Peterson) less than a mile from the church lost their home and all their possessions. Two members of the confirmation class were Aunt Anna and Mary Kvale Erickson who lived to be 100 years old.

The Nels Peter Rudies lost their farm home, barn and out buildings, crop and much of their stock. Nels, his wife Sigrid and their ten children moved into old Tom Jefferson Lessor's home on what was then the Svendsen farm and which was vacant. Here they lived for two years while Nels recouped by going into the woods, hauling logs to the sawmill, building a brick home and a large barn 42' x 70' with a basement for the livestock. This farm is now owned by Harvey Pashouwer.

As the forest was cleared, a drastic ecological change affecting the flora and fauna took place. The deer population, for example, increased while wolves and bear, once common, disappeared. Grouse also disappeared while pheasants were seen. In the cut over sections left by the lumber companies, the land became overgrown with raspberries and blackberries. The changes occurred gradually and largely went unobserved. Elmer Erickson, however, clearly remembered the arrival of meadow birds and in particular the first time he saw a phoebe. Robins and bluebirds became plentiful shortly after he noted. The water table dropped and some little creeks on which they had counted for water for the cattle disappeared.

(Most of the history from here on is from the manuscript of Ralph Erickson. Some of the stories are repeated but interesting.)

One of the first Norwegian settlers of the township was Tollof Olsen Oien. In 1869 he had faced a dilemma. His relatives from Norway arrived expecting that he would be able to show them where they could purchase land. He had been in Wisconsin since 1852, knew English and was well acquainted. His solution was to purchase a fairly large tract of land for himself and his family and them in eastern Shawano County.

As he wrote later, "In 1869 several of our relatives arrived from Norway and then the papers stated that here in Shawano County could be found 12,000 acres of the best land. The state owned it and it was sold as government land for \$1.25 an acre. I came up here and bought 300 acres and later some more to help my relatives find homes. In 1870 we moved into this wilderness with all my relatives who had come."

Tollof Olsen Oien and his relatives, the Clement Bervendsens, Jorgen Pedrson Oiens, and Tollof Pedrsons settled in the western part of the township later called Lessor in the area now known as Landstad. Because they were all from Tynset in Osterdal, the area was known for a time as "Little Tynset".

George H. Frazer, for whom Frazer Corners was named, was born in New York City May 30, 1844, of Irish immigrant parents. After several moves his family settled in Stephenville, Outagamie County. In 1864 George enlisted in Company A, First Wis. V.C. and was sent with his command to Nashville, Tennessee and further south. His regiment and the Fourth Michigan had the honor of capturing Jefferson Davis. Mr. Frazer was wounded at Hopkinsville, Kentucky but returned home after the war. In 1869 he married the 19 year old Lomanda Clark of Vinland, Winnebago County. Lomanda and George Frazer came to what became Lessor township shortly after their marriage. Mr. Frazer later recalled that "the journey took five days. There were no roads. When I arrived there were only four settlers in the township which was then a part of Waukechon and at the first vote in the township there were only 17 voters." The Frazer's eldest daughter, Anna, was the first white child born in the township. Lomanda and George had a large family and some of their children married Norwegians of the township. Mrs. Frazer died in 1913. The post office at Frazer Corners also honored George Frazer as first settler.

Mr. Frazer was a staunch Republican and served in several local offices, town chairman, town clerk, town treasurer, and justice of the peace. He participated in Fourth of July celebrations for many years easily recognizable with his distinguished white beard. He died in 1924 and his family erected an impressive memorial in the Hillside Cemetery in Angelica Township. As befitting his standing in the community, Mr. Frazer was included in Beers' Commemorative Biographical Record of the Upper Wisconsin.

In the spring of 1874, the Erick Olsons and the Thor Tostensons moved northwest to Shawano County. The older boys, Ole (20), Helge (19), and Niels (13) went ahead to make a clearing, start a garden and build a cabin. The others were to wait a decent interval and then follow. A pair of oxen pulled the wagon in which all their belongings rested. The smallest children rode while everyone else walked. Erick carried a plowshare on his back the entire distance of 60 miles. As they neared their destination, there often was no other road than that they chopped out themselves. It was slow going, oxen are known to be slow moving even on good roads where they can average about 10-12 miles a day. Ingeborg and Helene had the help of Kjersti (15) on this journey and between them they had seven children to care for: Hans (10), Peder (5), Caroline (2), Hannah (9 months), Tosten (6), Caroline (4), and Helge (1). They also have brought their cattle with them.

"When they arrived at Ingeborg and Erick's land, a cabin, complete with greased paper "windows", was waiting for them. Ingeborg, nearsighted all her life, caused great hilarity that first evening when she complimented her sons on their fine flock of sheep in the new clearing. the "sheep" were large stones which they had been unable to move. The word for sheep became a family euphemism for boulders the rest of their lives. That first summer was a busy one. A log barn was built for the cattle in anticipation of the winter and more land cleared. In addition, assistance was given Helene and Thor in building their home and barn and starting a clearing in Maple Grove. At first they obtained water at a spring a little south of the house.

"Ole Erickson later wrote that this new settlement had but eight Norwegian families and three American families and referred only to those who settled near Frazer Corners and not those near Landstad. The Norwegian families were those of Peter and Helge Bergan, Ole Christianson, Markus Ericksen, Erik Helgesen,

Christopher Christophersen Kvale, Nels P. Rudie, and Ole Wahl. Peder Jommen was on his land in Maple Grove. The Americans Ole referred to were the Frazers, Thomas Jefferson Lessor, and the Pearls.

"Erick Olson engaged in general farming but also speculated in land, owning as much as 640 acres in different tracts at one time. By general farming was meant growing enough food for the needs of the family and raising crops to maintain some animals through the winter. They kept a couple of cows for milk, pigs and chickens. The cows and pigs were allowed to roam the woods through the summer and when they were rounded up in the fall those they did not want to keep through the winter or butcher for themselves to eat were sold in Angelica, Seymour or Green Bay. Simen Peterson, near Landstad, often told his children how he drove pigs to Green Bay as a boy. The pigs were herded along by tying a rope to one of the pigs' hind legs. It was, he recalled, a terrible job because the pigs were not very cooperative.

"One reason for engaging in this trade was to obtain cash for taxes and commodities they had to purchase. Cash was in very short supply. Thorvald Johnson wrote about how he once took a wagon load of hemlock bark to Angelica in hopes of receiving some cash but received only a little secondhand chair for his trouble. Most of the men left their wives and children in the winter and went north to the woods as lumberjacks. Erick did not work as a lumberjack but all his sons, the Bergan boys and Tosten Tostensen did.

Walking long distances for supplies was the rule. Many walked to Appleton, 25 miles to the south, to buy flour and salt pork. On their return some would stop and fish for sturgeon at the Fox River outlet of Lake Winnebago and then arrive home with a fish in each hand and a sack of flour on their backs.

The first school appears to have been built at Elm Dale mentioned by Ole Erickson in his history of the church. A one room log school later was built at Welhaven on the northwest corner. Other schools in the township were the Landstad School, the Frazer Corners School, and the Porter School (in the south end of the township) near Briarton, the Briarton School and the Elm Lawn School.

Anna Erickson, a graduate of Scandinavia Academy (1903) taught at the Welhaven School from 1909 to 1912. She boarded with a Mr. and Mrs. Uecker the first year. (Mr. Uecker worked at the Elmdale creamery.) The

following two years she lived with Caroline and Gunder Broen at their place west of the school and church. Happily she has provided us with an impression of what it was like to be a rural schoolteacher at that period:

"I had 76 in school at Welhaven, all eight grades. Not all 76 would come all the time though. But on the first day of school I had all 76 there and some who had graduated before. I suppose they didn't have a lot to do, and they'd all liked school and wanted to learn so they wanted to continue. Well, I told them I appreciated their coming but I just didn't have time to teach them too besides my eight grades. I told them they could stay and listen if they wanted. Some of them helped me with the little ones. I didn't have much room either.

"Oscar A. Olson was on the school board along with Otto Anderson. And there was another Mr. Olson too. Rachel Blom was one of my graduates. She was a number one pupil and later taught there too. When she took the eighth grade examination I gave her 99. I told her she had a perfect paper, but I just didn't feel that I could give her 100. But then when I sent the examinations in to the superintendent he changed it to 100 anyway. She was good. Harold Anderson was also one of my pupils. His mother Julia was one of my best friends.

"When I had my school programs we held them at Elm Dale Hall—at John Swenson's store. They'd fix up the hall and do everything there for me since they knew I couldn't do it alone. It was always so pretty. They were so nice to help. One year I remember I had a sunflower parade with heads of sunflowers pinned on the children in front and back. They all thought that was so funny. I enjoyed teaching in Lessor. They were all so nice to me. Any party they had, they always invited me."

As Anna mentions, the school teachers were usually included in the community affairs. And, they provided new stimulus. Anna reported that shortly after she arrived in Lessor in 1909 she was already included in community activities:

"Well, it was only on my third school day—you see I was there Monday, then Tuesday, and on Wednesday after school suddenly a team of horses came up to Mrs. Uecker's house where I was boarding. The driver said that 'Miss Erickson should come.' The Ramseths had sent a team for me. Oh my! I was so surprised! But I got ready and went. The Ladies Aid was at the Ramseth's that afternoon and all the ladies of Lessor were there so I

got to know everyone right away and that was good. Mrs. Ramseth, Ivar and Einar's mother, came out of the house to meet me and, in English, but she didn't know a lot of English, said, 'You know my sons, you are welcome here.' And always after that the Ramseths treated me just as if I was their relative. I could always get along with Norwegian. I could understand it even if I couldn't speak it. When I stayed with the Broens I got to know the Ericksons. Anton and Hannah Blom would come to the Broen's place every week. We'd have such a good time. Anton was a perfect joke. Such fun. Hannah's mother, Mrs. Erick Olsen, would come along too. I remember she smoked a pipe. My, how she trained those children in the Bible. She gave them such good religious training. I had Erling, Ludvig and Harold in school. My brother John Erickson went with Hannah for a while. 'Uncle' Ole Erickson was always all over the place, always visiting. He was such fun. One time I knitted a cap for him. He liked to sleep with a cap since he didn't have much hair. The first time he came over after I'd given him the cap, he wore it. It was so funny. Niels Erickson had a daughter Helen who was in my school. Well, I felt that Helen and I weren't getting along. You know there wasn't a good situation at home there. Niels' wife was dead and there was a housekeeper. So I kept Helen after school one day and I talked to her. 'Helen, there's nothing wrong with your work—it's very good, but I think you could do even better and I don't think you're giving me your full cooperation', I said. Well, she had two great big tears in her eyes and always after that we got along just fine. I reminded her of that the last time she was here visiting me. She became a school teacher too."

One of Anna's triumphs was the staging of a play at the Elm Dale Hall called "Mrs. Briggs of the Poultry Yard", a situation comedy using dialect and advertised as a "Home Talent Play". Helen Dunn, the teacher at Frazer had the lead part of Mrs. Briggs, "A Woman of Character". Anna Erickson took the small part of Daisy Thornton for herself. Other players were Rudolph Johnson, Andrew Erickson, Tora Sorenson, Viola Sechrist, Oscar A. Olson, Elmer Erickson, Lizzie Sechrist, Johanna Johnson, and Laura Johnson. Admission was 20 cents for adults and 10 cents for children under 12. A dance was held immediately following. The play, first performed Friday, December 9, 1910, was immensely popular and repeated several times.

There was some competition between the schools. The merits of various teachers were debated. The scores achieved on state tests were public knowledge and

HOME TALENT PLAY!
Mrs. Briggs of The Poultry
Yard.
At Elm Dale Hall.
DECEMBER 9, 1910.
 Commencing at 8 o'clock sharp
CAST OF CHARACTERS:

Mrs. Briggs, A Woman of Character	Helen Dunn
Ralph	Rudolph Johnson
Jimmy	Andrew Erickson
Almira	Tora Sorenson
Melissa	Viola Sechrist
Miss Green, A Neat Relation	Oscar A. Olson
Mr. Lee, A Wealthy Neighbor	Elmer Erickson
Virginia Lee, His Daughter	Lizzie Sechrist
Daisy Thornton, Her Friend	Anna Erickson
Mrs. O'Connor, With No Likings for Gossip	Johanna Johnson
Randy Balow, Whose Tongue will Stumble	Laura Johnson

DANCE AFTER PLAY
 GOOD MUSIC WILL BE FURNISHED
 Admission: Adults 20 Cents. Children under 12 10 Cents.

comparisons were made. Sometimes there were contests such as spelling bees or sports activities. Christmas programs and commencements were closely compared. The Niels Ericksons, Rudies, Bloms, went to the Welhaven School while those at the north end of the settlement, the Andersons, the Bergans, Christophersons, the Hans Ericksons, the Helge Ericksons, the Ole Hovies, the Johnsons, Jommens, Ramseths, Sechrists, and Thompsons went to Frazer Corners. The Reitans, the John Hovies, the Peter Hovies, and the Petersons attended Landstad. At these schools Norwegian was discouraged and some teachers punished pupils caught talking Norwegian. The students made friends with those of other nationalities fairly early. A list of 35 pupils attending the winter term of 1905-06 at Frazer Corners includes several non-Norwegian names—one Gordenier, two Lathrops, two Tychkowskis, a Moerick, a Singbush, and an Adamski. The teacher was Mr. H. J. Ninman.

A group of men met in the home of Marcus Erickson, Town of Lessor, Shawano County, Wisconsin, on the 26th day of December 1872, with the express purpose of organizing a church to carry on the work of the old mother church and to give these hardy pioneers a place where they could commune, in common with their god. Not unlike the old Pilgrim fathers whose first thought was a place of worship, these men too thought of the welfare of the soul.

Out of these meetings came an organization which has continued to grow and develop and which today stands as a mighty monument to the faith of those pioneer fathers.

Rev. Johan Olson acted as the chairman of the meeting and T.O. Oien was elected Secretary Pro Tem. The officers of the newly formed congregation elected at this meeting were: Trustees, Tollof O. Oien for a term of 3 years, Christopher Christopherson for a term of 2 years; and Clement Bersvendsen for term of one year. Tollof Pedersen and Ole Wahl, deacons. Jorgen Pedersen Secretary and Bersven Bersvenson, treasurer.

Some time previous to this date a call had been issued to Rev. T.H. Dahl, and at this meeting he was unanimously elected pastor of the newly formed congregation.

The charter members who signed the organization papers were Tollof Olsen Oien, Tollof Pederson, Christian O. Sherbeck, Bersven Bersvenson, Clement Bersvenson, Jorgen Pederson, Sven Johnson, Edward Markusson, Erick Helgeson, Christopher Christopherson, Ole Wahl, Marcus Erickson, Lars Larson and Ole Laerfald.

Admitted voters to this meeting were Ole Erickson, Peder Jommen, and Ole Christianson.

At a meeting of the congregation held in October 1873, it was decided to hold half the services in the old Dist. No. 1 Schoolhouse, Town of Lessor (the location of this building was a 1/2 mile north of the present church site). The other half of the services were to be held at the home of Tollof Olsen at Landstad. Because travel at that time was difficult and the congregation was somewhat widespread, this was a more equitable means of conducting the meetings. At the same meeting it was decided to start a building fund for the erection of a chapel. On March 23, 1875, the congregation voted to adopt the constitution.

As mentioned earlier relations in the congregation were not always harmonious. There were two main factions, those in the western part of the settlement and those in the eastern part. Most of those in the west, the Clement Bersvendsens, Erick Breckens, the Jorgen Peterson Oiens, the Tollof Oiens, and Randy Ostby were from Tynset in Osterdal. (The area was called Little Tynset for a time.) John Reitan had been born near Melhus a little south of Trondheim. Samuel Onson came from the Arendal area.

A number of those in the east, the Christophersons, Ellingbo-Thompsons, Ericksons, Johnsons, Jommens and Tostensons, were from the Drammen area—Lier, Modum and Sigdal. Others, such as the Aubols, Bergsbakkens, the Langedal-Olsons, and Rudies were from Valdres. The Lökkens came from Elverum in Osterdal.

The first quarrel was about the location for the church. Those in the western end of the settlement around Landstad favored building the church on a piece of land west of Elm Dale on the north side of the road on the edge of the steep hill. The location would have been very reminiscent of church sites in Norway, where the building, set on the crest of the hill, would have been visible to most of the settlement. It not only would have been a spectacular setting but also a daily reminder of their faith. Those in the east end, however, wanted to build it on the property at Welhaven where they felt a sizeable village would grow up. They were able to line up a majority of the votes when they circulated the information that the property on the hilltop west of Elm Dale was very stony, and it would be difficult to dig graves there. The undecided were thus swayed to vote with the easterners. The losing side, which didn't find the soil all that stony, was not very happy and did not quickly forget. The piece of land which was first selected is still called the Church Hill and is a favorite place for tobogganing today. The forty acres on which the Church Hill was located then belonged to Martin Johnson. In 1902 Ole Ramseth bought it for \$800 and used the timber on it to build a new barn. Each spring Bertha and Ole Erickson made maple syrup in the maple woods on the Church Hill.

Although the Ladies Aid was founded in 1881 it was not formally organized until 1889 when it then was set up as two Aids because of the poor transportation. There was an Eastern Aid with 34 members and a Western Aid with 17. They met in members' homes twice a month knitting, making quilts, and doing fancy sewing which was all later sold at auctions to raise money for the church. The first auction was held in April 1891 and netted \$24.77. A lunch costing five cents was served. The two Aids were united in 1896.

The 50th anniversary was celebrated Sunday, July 23, 1939. The event was reported in the Green Bay Press Gazette.



Our Saviors Ladies Aid - 1930's.



Our Saviors Ladies Aid - 1950's.



Taken about 1920. Oldest members of Our Saviors Ladies Aid. Left to Right: Mrs. Helge Erickson, Mrs. Karen Christopherson-Reitan, Mrs. Ole Erickson, Mrs. Julia Johnson, Mrs. Kristi Jommen.

Lessor Ladies' Aid Celebrates 50th Year

The Ladies' Aid of Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Lessor celebrated the 50th anniversary of its organization with a special service in the morning and an anniversary program in the afternoon. The church was well filled, both occasions.

The Reverend Rudolph W. Peterson, Glenwood City, Wisconsin, preached the sermon in the forenoon. His father, the Reverend Adolph Peterson, lived in Green Bay and served the Lessor and the Owego congregation from 1880 to 1911. The guest speaker was therefore well acquainted with the early history of these congregations and his reminiscences were very interesting.

One of the numbers on the afternoon program was an historical sketch of the Ladies Aid written by Mrs. Elmer Erickson. This history showed that in addition to raising more than \$10,000.00 for the local work of the congregation, this organization had been particularly interested in promoting the missions and charity work of the church.

The only charter member of the society to be present at the celebration was Mrs. Peter Jommen. She was honored on the occasion by the gift of a Life Membership Certificate in the Women's Missionary Federation of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. Mrs. O. A. Olson, president of the local society made the presentation and Mrs. Jommen responded very fittingly with a brief address. Mrs. Karen Christopherson Reitan is also a charter member of the local society but she is at present visiting in Michigan.

The Reverend A. T. Blom of Navarino gave a short address at the afternoon meeting and the Reverend T. S. Hanson of Green Bay brought greetings. The following former pastors of the congregation sent greetings: The Reverends P. E. Bongsto, Ishpeming, Michigan, K. J. Wang, Northfield, Minnesota, and Theodore Bergee, Glenwood, Minnesota. Mrs. Ole Ellertson read a poem she had written for the occasion.

About 1881 a summer religious school was instituted using Norwegian. When the church was available for classes that was used but most of the time the Welhaven School was put into service. Teachers, naturally, had to have the approval of the church board, and there were two requirements: the teacher had to be a professing Lutheran and be able to teach in Norwegian. This summer school was continued at least until 1928 although English was used after 1914. The pastor appeared occasionally during the summer school lessons and gave instruction.

Elmer refers to the first church services in the summers of 1882. Mary Kvaley Erickson recalled that the first service was held shortly after the roof was in place. "The walls were not covered and the floorboards not laid, but," she said, "we were so anxious to have a service in our own church that a few planks were laid for the pastor to walk from the altar to the pulpit. We crawled over the floor joists to get inside and sat on them during the sermon. We stood on the ground during the hymns." Church services at first were held on Mondays. Anna Erickson, the schoolteacher at Welhaven from 1909 to 1912, recalled taking her 76 pupils of all eight grades into church. "On Monday when the pastor came, all of Lessor went to church. You see on Sundays Pastor Peterson would preach in Green Bay and go to Glenmore. On Mondays he'd come to Lessor. So I would march all the children over and we'd all sit together. Never had any trouble. Pastor Peterson didn't come very often though."

Most country churches of the period had horse barns, sheds with three sides so that horses with wagons, sleighs, or carriages could be driven into them and remain there unhitched but still be out of the sun, wind, rain or snow. Usually horse barns were built with the openings facing south and the closed end facing north. They were built close to a road so that during heavy snowfalls the drivers could turn their animals in without encountering snow that wasn't packed down by the traffic. Our Savior's horse barns were immediately west of the Welhaven School on the northwest corner of the junction.

Most country churches also had a "grove", a patch of woods adjacent to or near the church for use during the heat of summer months. Our Savior's grove was directly behind where the present church and parsonage stand. A permanent platform, food tables, benches and toilets were built to accommodate church services, conventions, Ladies Aid auctions (where Chris Blom was auctioneer), Sunday School picnics and so forth. The Kvaleys who had the closest farm took care of the grove, keeping the brush and grass cut back. It was a pleasant spot in warm weather with the tall trees providing shade. Baseball games were held on an adjacent ball diamond.

Dancing was enjoyed by many, but it was frowned on by the ministers. When the barn lofts were empty they made excellent dance halls and the dancing would often go on through the night so that when the parties broke up people went home to do the morning chores. Early in 1930 a group decided to form a Norwegian dance group

in response to a plea from Shawano County officials for various ethnic groups to perform at the Shawano County Fair that summer. Mrs. Anton (Andrine) Jommen who had been born in Norway and worked as a maid in Chicago knew Norwegian dances well enough to teach others. There were about a dozen couples in the group and they spent long hours practicing and singing the songs as they danced. They made their own costumes with Andrine's help. They were based on the Hardanger costume without any beadwork or jewelry. They wore the shoes they had.

Luella Erickson wrote to her sister Selma Thorson, June 7, 1934, describing the group's most recent outing and providing a little of the group's history.

"Last Saturday Elmer and I had a nice trip. Am enclosing a clipping which will explain the reason. There were two other couples instead of Iversons and Antons. They were Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rudie and Mr. and Mrs. Ole Elertson. Well, we hired a truck so all went together. We were 21 in all as there were some extras. We left before 5 o'clock Saturday morning and reached Madison at 10:30. Made several stops enroute. It wasn't so hot Saturday so we enjoyed our trip. It was cold riding so we needed extra wraps. I have to laugh at the clipping. I am the 'leading lady'. Isn't that rich? We first came to notice at the



The Elm Dale Dancers, Shawano County, Dressed in Native Norwegian Costume for the Weaver's Dance, Which they will present at the State Fair. From left to right: Palma and Eric Erickson, Bessie and Ed Kvaley, Mr. and Mrs. Anton Jommens, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar K. Olsons, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Elertsons and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Rudies.

County Pageant at Shawano four years ago. Since then we have been in demand. The rest of the bunch were at the Sate Fair in Milwaukee last fall. We are asked to come again this fall. Our travelling expenses are paid. Some troupe. It is only a Norwegian game. But of course our costumes add much to it. We received many compliments. Were even broadcast."

Death and Burial

The first recorded death in the township was that of Thomas Jefferson Lessor on March 9, 1876. It is also the first death recorded in the Shawano County death records. Before funeral directors made themselves known, bodies were prepared for burial in the home and caskets were made by family members or neighbors. Barbro Ramseth and Mary Kvale Erickson were often engaged to prepare bodies for burial before funeral directors appeared. Harvey Muehl of Seymour and Fred Freimuth of Bonduel were the first funeral directors engaged in the community. Freimuth opened his funeral parlor in 1908 and was succeeded by Robert Wendt in 1937. Muehl was favored by the Lessor folk more often than Freimuth. Muehl was a very friendly and unpretentious man. When he officiated at a funeral, he wore formal mourning clothes (a cutaway coat, gray pin-striped trousers, white gloves and a Derby hat) which was quite unusual for a village-country undertaker. People felt it lent a special tribute to the deceased. Muehl was very well-liked if not beloved. He modestly maintained that his one claim to fame was that he knew the given names of all the Bloms and Ericksons in Lessor. He, like other funeral directors of the time, prepared bodies for burial in the home in a bedroom or parlor, sometimes even on the kitchen table, while the family waited in another room or outside. He brought a coffin with him when asked. Bodies were displayed or "laid out" for visitation in the parlor. Family members would sit up with the bodies through the night before burial. The casket was opened in the church and then sometimes again at the grave for a final farewell. The first deaths in the Norwegian colony were those of Mrs. Marcus Erickson and her son Carl; they were buried on the Marcus Erickson farm in Section 12. Two acres for the church cemetery were purchased by the congregation shortly after the congregation was formed in 1872 but burials continued to be made on the farms for several years after because the cemetery land was not ready for burials. Thor Tostenson (Helena Naevra's husband) who died in 1879 and their daughters Hannah

and Caroline who died in 1880 were buried on the Tostenson farm in Maple Grove. (Their bodies were moved to the cemetery later.) The cemetery may not have been ready until 1882 or even 1883 when construction on the church was completed.

Doctors and Dentists

In 1909 a general practitioner, Dr. J. DeCock settled in Seymour. Dr. DeCock also opened an office in Angelica where patients could meet him at fixed times. He spent a lot of time travelling to his patients. For a time Henry Erickson was one of the several men who drove for him. Thora Thompson Horstmeyer relates, "Dr. DeCock (he was Belgian) had a fine pair of horses. If he was out making a call during the night he would stop at our place. We would get up and Dad (Tom Thompson) would take his horses to the barn and hitch his horses to the Doctor's buggy. Mama would fix something for him to eat. When he finished his call he would stop back and switch horses. One time he got me out of bed and carried me downstairs and said I should make pancakes for him. Later he had a big car and when Aunt Bertha (Erickson) would see dust on the road, she would wonder where Dr. DeCock was going. Dr. DeCock loved lefse. He would stop at Ladies' Aids meetings or wherever he thought he could get some good food." Another doctor was a Dr. Vernon Hittner (Sr.) from Seymour who kept an office in Bonduel.

Also in 1909, in May, the dentist Dr. J. F. Goss of Kaukauna set up an office in the Martin Hotel in Bonduel where he would see patients on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. He was succeeded 1912 by Dr. Arthur Dettmann. However, it was common for people to pull their own teeth when they had toothaches even after dentists were available.

Farming

With the establishment of creameries (which made butter) and cheese factories, the shift to dairy farming commenced. With this change, the daily trip to the creamery or cheese factory was a morning ritual. Without refrigeration the milk had to be transformed quickly into butter or cheese and shipped to market. Although butter gave a better profit, it is more volatile, more susceptible to spoiling than cheese.

The Railroad

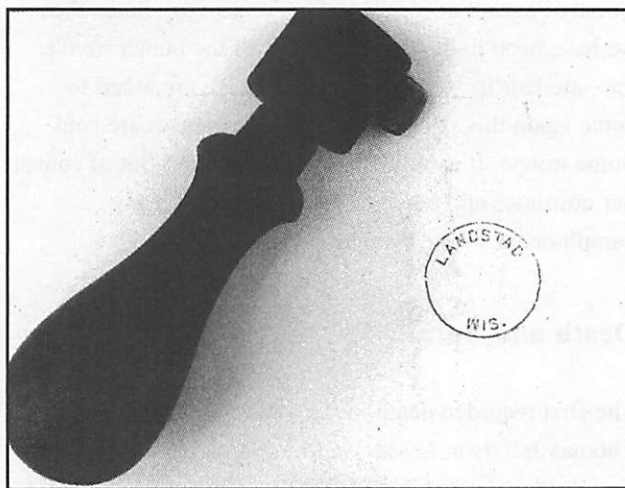
The first, closest railroad service for Lessor residents was available in Seymour, Outagamie County, to the south where the Green Bay and Western Railroad built a line connecting Green Bay with Stevens Point and point west. In 1884 the Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railway extended its line from Clintonville to Oconto with a stop at Cecil in Washington Township about nine miles north of the Lessor Township line (four miles north of Bonduel). In 1905, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad built a line from Green Bay to Eland which had a station just north of Bonduel. The presence of a train depot at Bonduel meant there was a more accessible market for farm products. Rates on one railroad differed widely from another so it paid to shop around for fares when shipping cattle and goods to market. The Wisconsin and Northern Railroad had a line from Appleton to Shawano passing through Galesburg (later Navarino) and Lund. This was a freight train with its caboose fitted up with passenger seats for about six people. Few shipped goods from Galesburg, however.

Post Offices

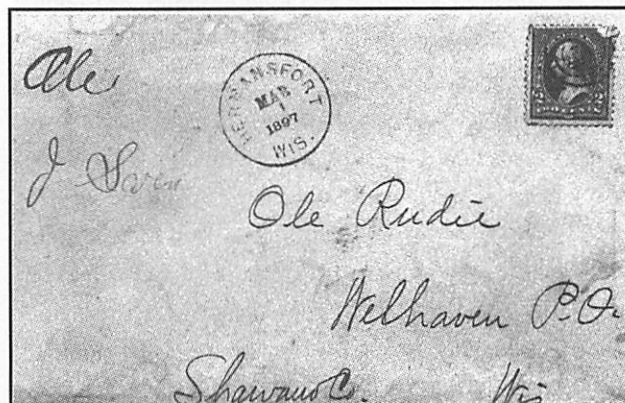
The first post offices in the community were at Landstad and at Frazer Corners. The Landstad post office operated out of a room at the back of Peter Hovie's home. But these two did not serve all the community. The people of Welhaven, for example, had four miles to go to pick up mail at Frazer, the closer spot. Nels Peterson Rudie was one of those who felt this was an inconvenience and, eager to improve their community, he organized his neighbors to petition their congressman to get a post office set up at Welhaven. When it was done, Nels was one of the first men to take the mail contract of delivering the mail daily (except Sundays) from Frazer Corners to Welhaven.

Hilda Christensen, daughter of Ole and Hannah Christensen, born in 1881, carried mail as a sub-mail carrier in the early 1900s. Hilda later married Oscar C. Olsen.

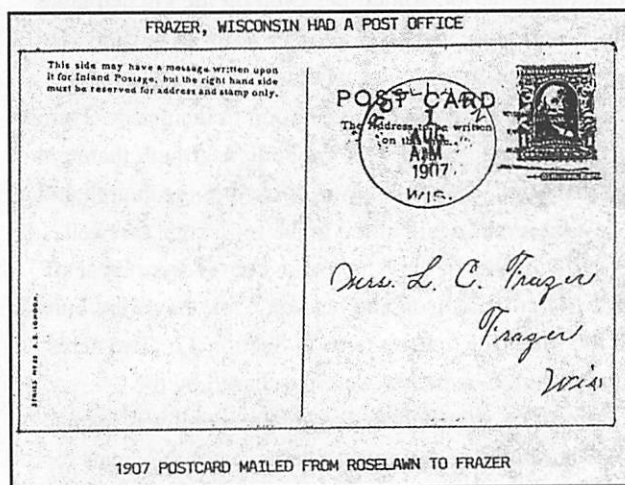
Before people in Lessor had telephones, the mail service was a means of communication within the settlement. And all the people didn't install telephones when the service was available. People learned the routes of the mail carriers intimately. Bertha and Ole Erickson, for example, knew that the mail carrier would pick up their mail and go around the section to deliver mail on the



Stamp and postmark of Landstad Post Office.



Post Office at Welhaven March 1, 1897.



Postcard mailed from Roselawn to Frazer.

other side to the east where their son Henry and his family lived. They would put a penny postcard in the mail box and it would be delivered within the hour. They, and their neighbors, regularly used this method to communicate with friends and relatives. The mailman who could let the horse manage on his own so he had time in the buggy to cancel the stamps

TELEPHONES

By Harold Rudie

When the telephone line was built from Welhaven to Hofa Park Road in 1911, I believe both the Bonduel and Pulaski Companies had wires on the poles

My father, Ole Rudie had built his own line from the intersection of Welhaven and Hofa Park roads to his farm one-quarter mile west. The Pulaski Company connected its wires to his. He wanted service from the Bonduel Company so he climbed up and cut the connecting wires. He then wen to Madison and filed a complaint with the Railroad Commission. The problem was settled when the Pulaski Company gave up its claim to the line.

I have two letters from the Railroad Commission of Wisconsin addressed to Ole Rudie, one dated November 2, 1911, in which they explain the settlement of the controversy.

Selections from "The Bonduel Times" 1909

March 5. The Elm Dale creamery has received a new churn. Otto Olson of Wauchekon was down Monday. The Ladies' Aid Society met with Mrs. O.P. Rudie, Wednesday. Miss Anna Erickson called on friends in Galesburg Monday. Fine photographs are taken in Waldo Krueger's Picture Gallery. All work guaranteed.

March 18. Landstad. W.J. Richter will build a hardware store in the spring. The roads are drifted bad north of the Elmdale creamery.

March 25. Mr. and Mrs. Hans Hanson attended the funeral of Ole Hovie in Lessor.

April 29. Landstad. Henry Erickson has rented the farm of Mrs. Meisner.

May 6. Galesburg. Mr. and Mrs. G.L. Broen and son Harris visited at the home of H. Erickson Sunday eve.

May 13. Galesburg. There will be an auction held on the farm of Oscar Onsen.

Saturday May 17. Everything must be sold and all are invited. H.W. Oehlman of Sheboygan bought the Oscar Onsen farm in the town of Lessor. Consideration \$11,000. Mr. Onsen and family have moved to New London.

June 3. Mr. and Mrs. Ole Erickson called on Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Anderson Sunday.

June 24. Erick Erickson's house was struck by lightning Sunday. The lightning entering the chimney killed the dog that was standing near the stove and burned John Bergan who was standing near.

July 1. William Knoppsie bought eighty acres of land of Ole Hansen in the town of Lessor. Consideration \$2,200. Galesburg. Mrs. G.L. Broen and son Harris are visiting with relatives in Wittenberg.

July 15. A fishing party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. O.E. Brecken and daughter Hannah, Mr. and Mrs. Dalms and son Louis, Mrs. J.O. Hovie and the daughters Hilda and Alma, Miss Ida Richter and Miss Lizzie Searing and Messers Oscar Hovie, Will Gangchow, Charles Seering and Will and Rob Krause enjoyed a very pleasant time at Shawano Lake last Sunday. Stanley Ramseth of Lessor was seen on our streets last Saturday. J.O. Hovie left Bonduel last Thursday for an extended trip through the south and west. Some places of interest he will visit are Memphis, Tenn., New Orleans, La., Houston and San Antonio, Tex., Oakland and Los Angeles, Calif., Portland, Ore., Seattle, Spokane, Butte, Mont., and Denver, Col. Galesburg. Mrs. Olsen who has been visiting with her daughter Mrs. G. L. Broen returned home Sunday.

September 16. Dr. DeCock of Angelica was in town Sunday. Our new MD, Dr. DeCock is kept quite busy visiting his patients.

September 30. The grist mill will start running next Tuesday or Wednesday with a man from Green Bay as miller.

October 7. Galesburg. Mr. and Mrs. C. Blom visited at the home of G. Broen, Sunday.

1911

June 15 Ed Markusun will give a farewell dance at the Elm Dale hall on Saturday evening - June 17 - Good music will be furnished. Everybody cordially invited.

TOWN OFFICIALS

THE FIRST TOWN HALL

On April 4, 1882, a vote was taken to build a town house (that's what it was called then). They voted to set aside \$50.00 to build it. It was to be built of lumber and the vote passed unanimously. Location of the first town hall was on Old Highway 47 which is close to the center of the town. At one time prior to the building of it, discussion was to locate it on Herman Creek Road, but decided the center of the town would be better.

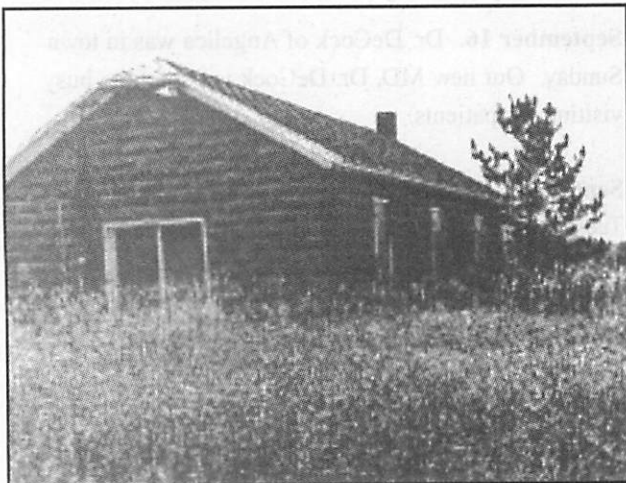
The new town hall contract was signed May 10, 1983 and built that same year at Landstad.

Some early labor for road building in 1920 was 30¢ per hour for man; \$1.25 per hour for man and team.

Electricity came to this area in April 1936. Ethel Ramseth said that the night the switch in Bonduel was thrown on all the people were told to leave their yard lights on. She said it was a wonderful sight to see - all the lights in the neighborhood.

The telephone came from Bonduel and from Pulaski about the same time (1909). The Bonduel line, when all the connections were made, had 55 customers.

The phone companies had some disputes in some areas. In some places there were two sets of wires on the poles. In some areas the phone companies hired local labor to install the poles.



The First Town Hall of Lessor.

1872

George Frazer, Chairman
Tollof Peetersen, Supervisor
Tom J. Lessor, Supervisor
William Pearl, Clerk

1876

G. B. Cole, Chairman
Ole Erickson, Supervisor
Lars Larson, Supervisor
G. Frazer, Justice
Edwin Dean, Clerk
Erick Olson, Assessor
Simon McCoy, Treasurer

1881

M. M. Porter, Chairman
Peter Marknson
J. L. Johnson
Wm. Pearl Jr, Clerk
Ole Erickson, Treasurer
M. O. Sherbeck, Assessor

1885

M. M. Porter, Chairman
S. C. Onson
J. F. Krueger
T. K. Haave, Clerk
Ole Erickson, Treasurer
C. O. Sherbeck, Assessor

1890

G. B. Cole, Chairman
Wm. McCoy, Clerk
M.O. Sherbeck, Treasurer
P.O. Hovie, Constable

1812

M.O. Sherbeck, Chairman
August Bishop
John Reitan
E. C. Dean, Assessor

1894

O.E. Evenson, Chairman
B.T. Brown
O. Erickson, Clerk

1895

H. T. Porter
O. Erickson, Clerk
Thos. Thompson, Constable
O. Severson, Chairman
Halvon Johnson, Supervisor

1897

O. Swenson, Chairman
H. Johnson
August Frank
Hilge Erickson, Assessor
A.C. McCully

1898

O.E. Brecken
J. J. Nays, Clerk
A. C. McCully
Ole Severson, Chairman

1900

G. H. Frazer, Chairman
Al Dean, Supervisor
Peter Rudie, Supervisor
John Jacobson, Clerk
Hans Andreson, Assessor

1905

M.M. Porter, Chairman
Fred Popp
August Frank
Wm. McCoy, Clerk
Henry Richter, Treasurer
Elling Peterson, Assessor

1920

Oscar Onson, Clerk
Peter Rudie, Supervisor
Wm Newman, Supervisor
Henry Richter, Treasurer

1930

Fred Porter, Chairman
Peter Senzig, Supervisor
Henry Heling, Supervisor
Albert Weisnicht, Clerk
Henry Richter, Treasurer
Anton Anderson, Assessor
John Dalton, Justice of Peace
Peter Bergsbaken, Justice of Peace

1940

Henry Heling
Andrew Prestrude
Art Rather
James Grunewald, Justice

1950

Peter Bergsbaken, Chairman
Andrew Prestrude
Irvin Able

1960

Peter Bergsbaken, Chairman
Maynard Heling
Andrew Prestrude
Clark Kvale, Clerk
Harold Rudie Sr., Treasurer
Ed Dean, Assessor

1970

Stanley Rudzinski, Chairman
Ray Jarek
Lyle Peebles
Clark Kavey, Clerk
Art Olson, Assessor
Harold Rudie Sr., Treasurer

1980

Stanley Rudzinski, Chairman
Lyle Peebles
Walter Hoppe
Pearl Kvale, Clerk
Harold Rudie Sr., Treasurer
Harold Rudie, Jr. Assessor

1990

William Letter, Chairman
Ray Brusky
Randy Hagel
Chris Zellner, Clerk
Harold Rudie, Sr. Treasurer
Peter Tubbs, Assessor

1995

Delmar Zernicke, Chairman
Ray Brusky, Supervisor
Jerry Jarek, Supervisor
JoAnn Thiede, Clerk
Harold Rudie Sr, Treasurer
James Krueger, Assessor

CHEESE FACTORIES

TOWNLINE 1905:

1905Xavier Ciescilczyk
 1908Albert Eucher
 1910Andrew Adamski
 1912Adolph Denscher
 1915Xavier Ciescilczyk
 1920Leo Lepak
 1922Jos. Adamski
 1924Alvin Tillson
 1927Albert Rudie
 1930Lyle Brunner
 1950Leonard Glocke
 1960Harold Boerst
Sold to Alto Dairy after fire 1/5/89

BRIARTON 1892:

1892Fred Jeske
 1912Frank & August Hanke
 1930Frank Flynn
 1945Art Schneider

LANDSTAD DAIRY CO.:

1919Monrow Bleick
 1922Gust Ebel
Ed Nelson
 1933Frank Bill
 1934Oscar Peterson
Melvin Zuleger
Fritz Krueger
Ernie Siegler
 1941Doll & Merlin
 1934-1941Oscar Peterson

ELM DALE 1879:

Buttermakers were:

1913Chris Christenson
Carl Hovie
 1920Hans Christenson
Cheesemakers were:
 1926Ray Cook
 1930Richard Bergsbaken
 1935Hubert Koch
 1941Leonard Erickson
 1912Albert Eucher

FRAZER CORNER CHEESE FACTORY AND STORE:

1869-74Wellington Brown
 1874-75Clason Knutson
 1875-1922Torvald Johnson
 1922-30Mike Lyons
 1930-1939Soule Schoen
 1939-62W.B. Schroeder
 1962-69James Blom

WELHAVEN 1912:

1912Ernie Melchert
 1922Henry Brusky
 1928Art Clarkson
 1930Stanley Maciejewski
 1934Ray Larson
Lyle Gyger
 1938Walter Raasch
 1938Marten Johnson
 1947 W.B. Schroeder bought the factory

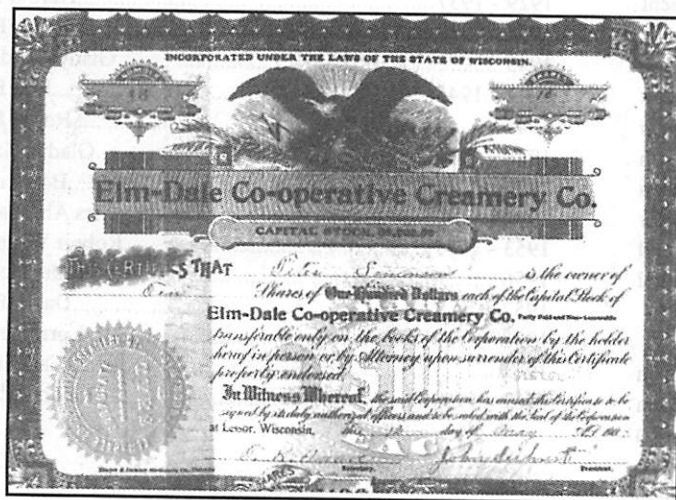
GANSCHOW, LANDSTAD:

1900-1919 Cheesemakers were:

.....Fred Kleveshal
Osborne Bergsbaken
Ed Nelson
Albert Tollner
Elmer Robley
Oscar Peterson

ELM LAWN:

1918Kitchenmiester
Pautz Bros.
Jack Wagner
 1924Joe Adamski
Tom Vandenhovel
Louis Dastmer
Henry Milberg
 1940Earl Schreiber
 1955Frank Radetski
 1966Closed



**Elm Dale Co-operative
Creamery Co. Stock certificate
worth ten shares. Dated May
12, 1904.**

TEACHERS

LANDSTAD:

1890	Paulene Bersvenson
1892	Hannah Gullikson
1894	K G Hutchenson
1896	Mayme Thompson (Jan.)
	Julia Thompson (Oct.)
	Katie Sechrist (Oct. - Jan 1897)
1897	Randy Bersvensen (Oct.)
1898	Julia Thompson Anderson (Jan.)
1898 - 1900	Mrs Randy Brecken
1902 - 1904	Clara M Hovie
1905	Arthur Kollath
1906 - 1907	Anna L Larkin
1907 - 1908	Anna L Larkin
	Hilda Erickson
	Edith Larkin
	Edith McCauley
1912	Alma Hovie, Nettie Sorkin
1913	Julius Wenstadt, Martha E Alhers
1914	Florence Weniger, Julius Wenstadt
1915	John Reiton, Lydia Schneider
1916 - 1917	Orma St Thomas
1918	Lydia Schneider, Emma Abel
1919	Lydia Schneider, Viola Anderson
1920	Lydia Schneider, Leona Mushinski
1921	Lydia Schneider, Loren Lurcke
1922 - 1923	Ellen Hansen, Juanitta Prey
1923 - 1925	Albert Wudtke, Rose Wege O'Brion
1925 - 1926	Dorothy Volland
1926 - 1927	Hazel Jeffers, Dorothy Volland
1927 - 1928	Ruth Gehrmann, Kathryn Dodge
1928 - 1929	Ike Thompson, Marion Olson
1929 - 1930	Inga Bergsbaken, Marian Olson
1930 - 1931	Inga Kohn, Borghild Ramseth
1931 - 1932	Elmer Papendorf, Borghild Ramseth
1932 - 1933	Elmer Papendorf, John Kaphingst
1933 - 1934	Elmer Papendorf, John Kophingst
1934 - 1935	Elmer Papendorf, Ethel Ramseth
1935 - 1937	Helen Tomashek, Ethel Ramseth
1937 - 1938	Helen Tomashek, Ethel Haeuser
1938 - 1939	Raymond Wolf, Ethel Haeuser
1939 - 1941	John H Pingel, Helen Habek
1941 - 1942	Joyce Bersbaken, Mrs George Klement
1942 - 1943	Alice Tomashek, Marion Polinski
1943 - 1944	Mrs George Frank, Meta Heling
1944 - 1945	Mrs George Frank
1945 - 1946	Mrs George Frank, Ike Thompson
1946 - 1947	Helen E Kopet, Gladys Anderson
1947 - 1948	Ike Thompson
1948 - 1950	Roger Porter
1950 - 1951	Marion Barrand
1951 - 1952	Marion Barrand, Ella Manthei

WELHAVEN DIST #1:

1893	Lenna Michelson
1895	Julia Thompson
1899 - 1902	Abigail Olson (40 pupils)
1903	Emma Johnson (67 pupils)
1904 - 1906	Ivar Ramseth
1907	Anna Siep

WELHAVEN DIST #1: *continued...*

1908 - 1909	Leola Zuelke (Fisher)
1910 - 1912	Anna Erickson
1913 - 1914	Edith Kobs
1915 - 1917	Margaret Sambs
1918	Gertrude Ainsworth
1919 - 1920	Grace Findall
1921	Matilda Johnson
1922	Julia Olson
1923 - 1924	Rachel Thompson
1925 - 1929	Harold Blom
1930 - 1931	Adilade Habighorst
1932	Arthur Kolath
1933	Ralph Schroeder
1934 - 1935	Olga Wagner
1936 - 1938	Glen Kvaley
1939	Pearl Severson
1940 - 1942	Gladys Anderson
1943	Eleanor Jahnke Olson
1944	Mrs Benson
1945	Clark Kvaley
1946 - 1950	Harold Rudie
1951 - 1953	Joan Schroeder Krause
1955 - 1957	Rose Mary Stengle
1958 - 1963	Susan Kornaus

ELM LAWN DIST #2:

1900 - 1907	Jim Shepard
1923 - 1913	Evelyn Phillips
1914	Barbara Fisher
1915	Agnes Ruddy
1916	Elis Mullarkey
1917	Helen Kilpinsky
1918	Marie Shallows
1919 - 1922	Rachel Blom Thompson
1921	Sadie Anderson
1923	Hilda Laschinski
1924	Magdelin Anderson
1925	Sara Marohl
1926	Ester Erickson
1927	Ray Anderson
1928	Lena Robaidek
1929 - 1937	Harold Blom
1938 - 1939	Roger Porter
1943	Gladys Anderson
1944 - 1945	Etta Brady
1947	Roger Porter
1948 - 1950	Gladys Krolow
1951	Bob Euclide
1952	Mrs Abrahamson
1953 - 1955	Robert Wenninger
1956	Lulu Melchert
1957	Dawn Pothry
1958 - 1960	Lorraine Scott
1961	Earl Euclide
1962 - 1963	Robert Adamski

TEACHERS

MAPLE VIEW DIST #3:

1880s.....	Ervin Larken
1899.....	J P Ramseth
190s.....	Edith Larken
1908.....	Nettie Larken
1912 - 1914.....	Edith Larken
1915 - 1916.....	Johanna Johnson
1917 - 1919.....	Eugenia Kolensky
1920.....	Ellen Seymour
1921 - 1923.....	Nora Kroll
1924 - 1925.....	Merl Frank
1926.....	Rose Wegl
1927 - 1928.....	Freda Sohr
1929 - 1931.....	Ike Thompson
1933 - 1936.....	Gladys Krohlow
1937 - 1938.....	Exora Sousek
1939 - 1940.....	Ruth Hafferman
1941 - 1943.....	Lucille Murry
1944.....	Doris Landsverk
1945.....	Edna Benson
1946 - 1950.....	Clara Luniak
1950 - 1952.....	Elaine Taylor
1953 - 1954.....	Laura Groskoph
1955.....	Elsie Zorn

BRIARTON DIST #4:

1884.....	Ida Tubbs
1902.....	Hanna Shannon
1910 - 1912.....	Lillian Raither Wilke
1913.....	Edith McCully
1914 - 1915.....	Lillian Wilke
.....	Estella Nesbitt
1917.....	A. Nichols
1918 - 1919.....	Sadie Anderson
1920 - 1921.....	Estell Olson
1922 - 1923.....	E H Mecker
1924.....	Dorothy Boyts
1925 - 1929.....	Rachel Thompson
1929 - 1930.....	Morton Fellman
1931 - 1933.....	Borgeld Ramseth
1934 - 1935.....	Gladys Krohlow
1936.....	Florence Bohm
1937 - 1938.....	Roger Porter
1939 - 1940.....	Odelia Brandt
1941.....	Helen Tomashek
1942.....	Leonard Wagestor
1943.....	Kathleen Ryan
1947.....	Ester Albright
1948 - 1949.....	Mrs Baron
1952 - 1953.....	Hazel Schnabel
1955.....	Wm Becker

TEACHERS SALARY (PER MONTH):

1910.....	\$ 50.00
1920.....	100.00
1930.....	110.00
1940.....	130.00
1950.....	200.00
1955.....	300.00
1960.....	350.00

FRAZER CORNER GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS

Miss Jenny Muskgove taught at Frazer Corners in 1881.
School was built in 1877.

1906.....	H. J. Ninman
1911-12.....	Helen Der??, Johanna Johnson
1912-13.....	Nettie Larkin, Cora Miller
1913-14.....	Johanna Johnson, Cora Miller
1914-15.....	Minnie Laabs, Cora Miller
1915-17.....	Anna Sambs, Cora Miller
.....	Mrs Marie Schroeder
1917-18.....	Esther Meyer, Cora Miller
1918-19.....	L C Pelkey, A L Collar,
1919-20.....	George Henry, Alvinah Bennett
1920-21.....	Lucie Bartelt, Grace Dillet
1921-22.....	Lucie Bartelt, Alvinah Bennett
1922-23.....	Lorene Lueck, Lucille Lueck
1923-24.....	Myrtle Ollman, Margaret Henschel
1924-25.....	Mr E S Martinez, Margaret Henschel
1925-26.....	Ellen Seymour, Margaret Henschel
1926-27.....	Dorothy McDonald, Leona Henschel
1927-29.....	Hazel Jeffers, Olga Bergsbaken
1929-30.....	Hazel Jeffers, Grace Salzman
1930-31.....	Hazel Jeffers-Brecken,
.....	Grace Salzman-DeHusson
1931-32.....	Arval Olsen, Adeline Hobighorst
1932-33.....	Arval Olsen
.....	Adeline Habighorst-Senzig
1933-36.....	Milton Seering, Mrs Adeline Senzig
1936-37.....	Milton Seering, Ann Larson
1937-39.....	Marie Gigstead, Ann Larson
1939-40.....	George Klement, Ann Larson
1940-42.....	George Klement, Ethel Maas
1942-43.....	Arthur Spieth, Ethel Maas
1943-44.....	Irene Robaidek, Marie Schroeder
1944-46.....	Charlotte McGillivray,
1946-47.....	Clark Kvale, Gladys Anderson
1947-52.....	Marcella Tyczkowski,
.....	George Henry, Helen Erickson
.....	Gladys Anderson
1952-53.....	Frances Gerber, Myrtle Westphal
1953-55.....	Mary Ann Karcz, Myrtle Westphal
1955-56.....	Mary Ann Karcz, Charlotte Rose
1956-60.....	Charlotte Rose (grades 1-8)
1960-62.....	Maryann Schardt
1956.....	Lulu Melchert
1957.....	Dawn Pothry
1958 - 1960.....	Lorraine Scott
1961.....	Earl Euclide

SCHOOL PICTURES



Welhaven School 1941

FRONT ROW

Jean Sorenson
Cyril Swiecichowski
Lois Maass
Jim Borest
Billy Martin
Roden Blom
Art Naparella
Emagene Naparella
Dorothy Reitan

ROW TWO

Eugene Naparella
Jim Brusky
Carol Tillison
Betty Maass
Richard Moratz
Gordon Sorenson
Rose Moratz
Jeanette Boerst

ROW TWO continued...

Ray Brusky
Robert Behnke

ROW THREE

Anton Moratz
Laurence Martin
Dorothy Rudie
Constance Gigstad
Erma Davids
Verdel Sorenson
Donald Jommen

BACK ROW

Wayne Johnson
Fredrick Davids
Doris Christensen
Gladys Anderson,
Teacher
Iris Olson
Vernon Brusky
Gilbert Bonnin
Joan Van Gheem

TWO GIRLS IN FRONT OF LEFT DOOR

- 1) Clara Rudie
- 2) Rachel Blom

LADY IN WHITE BLOUSE IS:

Teacher, Anna Erickson

BOY WITH CRUTCHES

Ludwig Blom



Welhaven School Late 1890's



Welhaven School 1910



Frazer Corner School



Maple View School 1935

SCHOOL PICTURES



Welhaven School

**LEFT TO RIGHT
FRONT TO BACK**

ROW 1

David Tilleson
Julius Davids
Ted Rudie
Roger Van Lannen

ROW 2

Bobby Van Lannen
Arlin Johnson
Donald Christenson
Maxine Brusky
Barbara Olsen
Faye Boerst
David Erickson

ROW 3

Imogene Naparalla
Leonard Van Lannen
Eugene Naparalla
James Boerst
Linda Martin
Grace Thompson
Rodden Blom

ROW 4

James Brusky
Lawrence Martin
Billy Martin
Vernon Van Lannen

ROW 5

Carol Tilleson
Joyce Van Lannen
Robert Behnke

Teacher

Harold Rudie



Briarton School 1937-1938



Welhaven School late 1890's



1935 Maple View School

ROW 1

Bobbie Diemel
Iris Dingeldein
Delores Fischer
Rose Short
unknown Van Lanen
Kenneth Peebles
Mike Short
Otto Raether
Phyllis Fischer
unknown

ROW 2

June Dingeldein
Mable Fischer
Arlis Mielke
unknown Haig
Elwood Raether
Duane Blohm

ROW 2 continued...

Frank Dingeldein
Valda Smith
Kenneth Dethardt
Ester Prestrude

ROW 3

Eileen Diemel
Myrtle Peebles
Harvey Brandt
Dennis Smith
Marliss Diemel
Calvin Peebles
Clayton Van Lanen
Royal Brandt

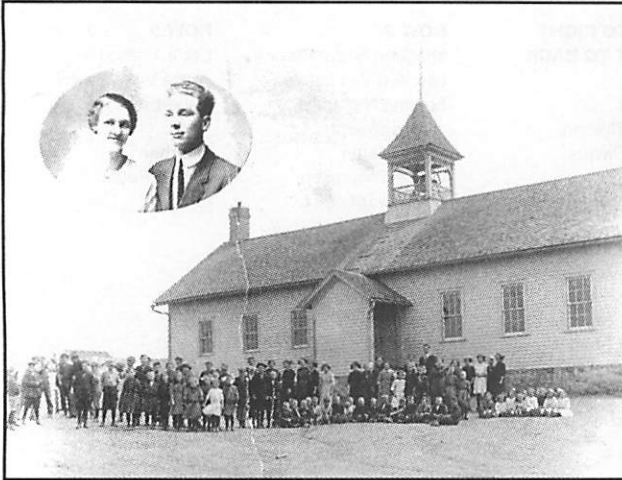
ROW 4

Ivan Mueller
Valita Raether
Virgil Tonn
unknown Haig
Jeanette Dietzler
unknown
Laura Fischer
Elroy Neuman

ROW 5

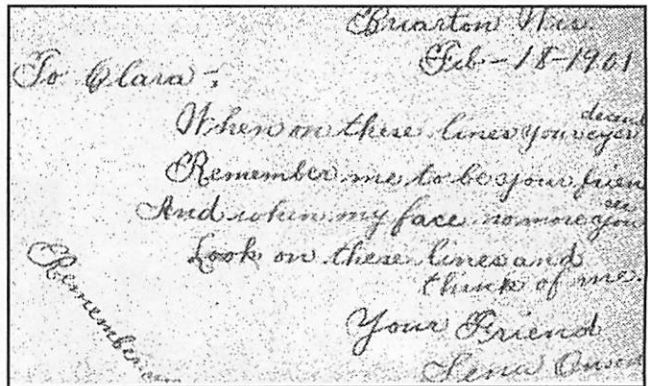
Frank Short
Maynard Dethardt
Dorothy Fischer
Miss Krohlow
Victor Mueller
unknown Haig girl

SCHOOL PICTURES



Landstad School - 1914

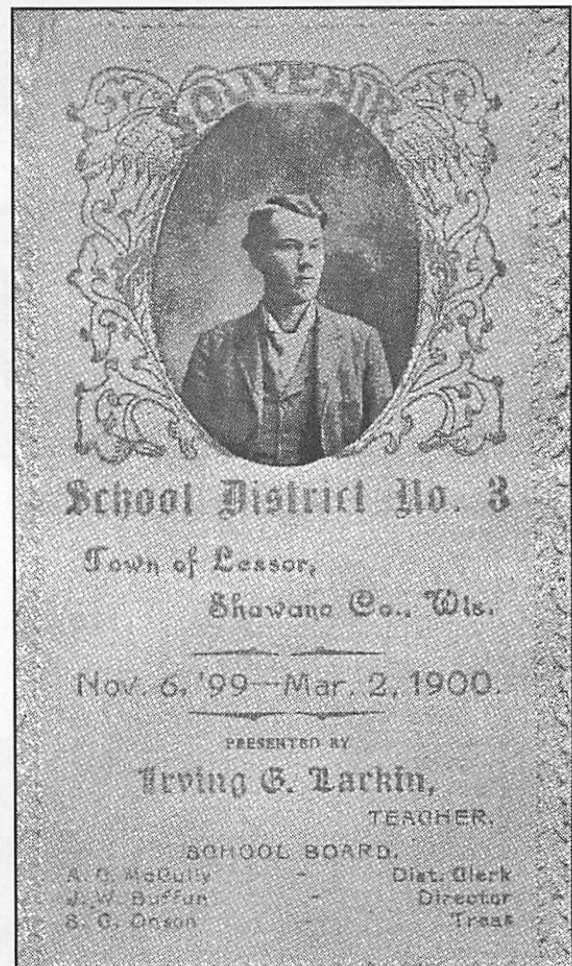
Florence Winiger and Julius Wenstadt Teachers



**One page taken from Clara
Porters Autograph book. Dated
February 18, 1901**

Teachers' Monthly Report.		
Report of <u>Clara Porter</u>		
for term ending <u>March 5th 1901</u>		
Months' Ending	<u>Mar 5th</u>	Remarks:
Attendance Days	<u>77</u>	<u>Physiology 72</u>
Times Tardy		
Absent	<u>1</u>	
Deportment	<u>91</u>	
Reading	<u>80</u>	
Writing	<u>80</u>	
Geography	<u>87</u>	
Language	<u>95</u>	
Grammar	<u>90</u>	
W. Arithmetic	<u>90</u>	
Con. of U.S. & Wis		
History	<u>85</u>	
Spelling	<u>92</u>	
"E" stands for excellent, "G" Good, "P" Poor.		
<u>Irving G. Larkin</u> Teacher.		
Printed and for sale at The Seymour Press Office.		

One of Clara Porters Report Cards



**A souvenir from Clara Porters
teacher Irving G. Larkin**

SCHOOL PICTURES

1893			Teacher's			1893			Teacher's		
For the Months of			For the Months of			For the Months of					
Lenna Michelson Teacher.			Lenna Michelson Teacher.			Lenna Michelson Teacher.					
1	NAMES OF PUPILS.	AGE.	1	NAMES OF PUPILS.	AGE.	1	NAMES OF PUPILS.	AGE.			
1	Inga Pedersen	7	19	Oliver Larsson	5	37	Therese Thompson	14			
2	Barrie Christensen	11	20	Louis Christensen	13	38	Johnnie	4			
3	Leah Christensen	5	21	Eugene Larsson	6	39	Inga Larsson	2			
4	Harriet	7	22	William Larsson	13	40	Emma Erickson	13			
5	Fredrick Pedersen	11	23	Edna Christensen	14	41	Inga Olsen	16			
6	Julius	13	24	Reson	12	42	Gertrude Erickson	15			
7	Anna Christensen	12	25	Peter Larsson	13	43	Oliver Olsen	1			
8	Julia Christensen	10	26	Alfred Christensen	10						
9	Martha Larsson	8	27	Eric Erickson	11						
10	Ala Olsen	6	28	Bernard Matheson	11						
11	Martha Pedersen	10	29	Albert Larsson	11						
12	Johnnie Larsson	7	30	Oliver Olsen	8						
13	Therese Erickson	8	31	Paul Christensen	9						
14	Walter Bakke	10	32	Martin Pedersen	9						
15	Emma Erickson	6	33	Charles	10						
16	Emma Erickson	13	34	Elizabeth Christensen	5						
17	Caroline Christensen	8	35	Anna Olsen	17						

Teacher Lenna Michelson's register of all the students in 1893 at Welhaven School.

Visitors' Register.				
DATE.	NAMES.	RESIDENCE.	REMARK.	
Nov. 3 1893	Louisa Johnson	Trager, Wis.		
" 13 "	Erna Michelson	Wells, Wis.		
" 13 "	Ed. Johnson	Welhaven	School Free	
Jan 2 1894	Ala Johnson	Trager, Wis.		
Jan. 3 "	Emma Johnson	Trager, Wis.		
Jan. 16 "	Mrs. Olsen	Welhaven, Wis.		
Feb. 1 1894	Mrs. Olsen			
Feb. 1 1894	Anna Erickson	Wells, Wis.		
Feb. 1 1894	Mama Johnson	Trager, Wis.		
Feb. 2 1894	Mrs. Erickson	Trager		
Feb. 5 1894	Mrs. O. Johnson	Welhaven, Wis.		
Feb. 19 1894	Bessie Trager	Trager, Wis.		
" 2 "	Mrs. F. Johnson	Welhaven		
" 5 "	Frida Christensen			
March 10 1894	Willa Erickson	Welhaven	School Clerk	
" 17 "	Helen Johnson		Trainer	
" "	Willa Erickson		School Clerk	
" "	Mrs. Michelson	Wells, Wis.		
May 17 1894	Lena Larsson	Trager, Wis.		
" 22 "	L. Roberts	Trager, Wis.		
" 24 "	Bessie Trager	Trager, Wis.		

WELHAVEN SCHOOL Palmet, Shawano County, Wisconsin May 23rd, 1921	
MATHILDA JOHNSON, Teacher	
PUPILS	
Hannah Olson	Radolph Radin
Ida Waneicht	Conrad Wang
Edna Bruck	Leah Thompson
Ruth Anderson	Orville Olson
Clarence Olson	Emma Thompson
Inga Rudie	Mervin Jesse
Clara Bruck	Harold Rudie
Lawrence Blom	Melvin Olson
Ruth Jommes	Johnnie Olson
Arthur Naparalla	Axel Blom
Ethel Waneicht	Evelyn Jommes
Edward Jommes	Johnnie Bruck
Clarence Blom	Delbert Anderson
Edna Anderson	Bernice Jommes
Edna Anderson	Irene Naparalla
Alfred Naparalla	Harvey Olson
Lester Wang	Beatrice Kvaloy
Gladys Jommes	Carl Blom
Teresa Bruck	Olga Kvaloy
Edith Jommes	Alma Rudie
James Olson	John Anderson
Lavon Olson	John Anderson
Alvin Boer	Guylar Blom
Harold Waneicht	Jennie Anderson
Edna Olson	Henry Southworth
Lawrence Boyer	Gertrude Gable
Roland Olson	Leslie Olson
Joseph Wang	James Blom
Salma Sebekay	Ole Rudie
Edna Jommes	Helen Waneicht
Olga Rudie	Ruth Waneicht
L. D. Roberts, County Sept.	
Oscar Olson, Clerk	
Helen Thompson, Director	
John Bruck, Treasurer	

This was a newspaper clipping of all of the students at Welhaven School 1921. The teacher was Mathilda Johnson.

The above is the visitors register from Welhaven School.

SCHOOL PICTURES



Maple View School 1929
Teacher Ike Thompson



Maple View School 1935



Picnic at Welhaven School 1943

BACK ROW (L-R)

Albert Brandt
Claude Peebles
Helen Tonn
Arnold Didhardt
Frank Short

SECOND ROW (L-R)

Dorothy Styhanvek
Agnes Prestrude
Dorothy Raether
Leland Neuman
Marvin Schulke
Ralph Steiner
Lyle Diemel

THIRD ROW (L-R)

Minnie Reinhardt
Helen Short
Unknown
Annie Shimakoski
Edward Tonn
Elder Gilbertson
Maynard Dedhandt
Walter Brandt

FOURTH ROW (L-R)

Valita Raether
Esther Brandt
Myrtle Peebles
Lloyd Diemel
Gordon Neuman
Unknown
Virgil Tonn
Frank Short

FIFTH ROW (L-R)

Grace Neuman
Eileen Krull
Dorothy Fisher
Jeanette Dietzler
Laura Fischer
Mabel Fischer
Harvey Brandt
Tom Gilbertson
Dennis Schmidt



Briarton School - 1932



Elm Lawn School 1907

STORIES TOLD BY HAROLD RUDIE

LIFE IN A COUNTRY SCHOOL

For those who have never been in a country school or don't know just what one was like, I'll describe the one I attended (Welhaven). Most of the country schools of that time would pretty well fit this description. It was built in 1890 to replace the log schoolhouse built about 1870. It remained in use until consolidation in 1963.

It had separate entrances for the girls and boys which led into their respective cloakrooms. On the walls were hooks for clothing and shelves on which to place lunch buckets which were usually lard pails or gallon syrup pails. In the boys cloakroom there was also a large woodbox to hold a supply of firewood for the large stove in the classroom. Keeping a supply of wood in that box was the responsibility of the older boys. The wood had to be carried from the woodshed across the playground. In cold weather that was a daily chore.

From each cloakroom was an entrance into the one classroom that served for all eight grades. There were six rows of double desks so each pupil was usually sitting with a partner. The teacher's desk was in the front of the room and in one corner was a bookcase which was the library.

On very cold days the lunches in the cloakrooms would freeze so when I was in about the fifth grade, shelves were built on the wall behind the stove for the lunch buckets. We considered that a big improvement.

As there was no water supply at the school, water for drinking and washing was carried in a pail from the nearest farm - another task for the older boys. There were two privies (outdoor toilets) at the back end of the playground.

This school had a larger enrollment than most one-room schools in the area. I believe the highest enrollment while I attended was 65 but I have an older newspaper clipping that says a teacher from earlier years claimed she had an enrollment of 72. Remember, that was in one room, one teacher and eight grades.

Of course there was seldom a day when all enrolled pupils were in attendance. Older boys sometimes stayed home to help with the farm work. On cold and stormy days the youngest children were often kept home, especially those who had one or two miles to walk.

At the time I am writing about, certification for teaching in a country school was gained by attending a normal school for one year after completing high school.

When hired to teach in a country school, one was also expected

to build the fire and also keep the school clean. Often the teacher would arrange with someone living near the school to do this.

Classes for the first and second grade were usually held separately but grades three and four, five and six, and seven and eight were grouped together. This allowed for longer class sessions which were ten, and in some cases, fifteen minutes in length.

By today's standards, the pay these teachers received sounds ridiculous. In 1915 my sister taught for \$35.00 per month. She boarded at a farm about 3/4ths of a mile from the school. As roads were never plowed then, she walked regardless of the weather - rain, blizzard or deep snow drifts. I began teaching in 1928. Teaching conditions were still very much the same but there was some improvement in the pay.

What I have written might give the impression that life in a country school was very difficult and dull for both teacher and pupils. Difficult it might have been at times but it was far from being dull or uninteresting. Nearly every day something would happen that was amusing.

There was a state-wide Reading Circle program in which the pupils were expected to read a required number of books for which they were awarded a certificate. The older pupils were sometimes asked to write a brief summary of the book, but with the lower grades I would ask a few questions to be sure they had read it.

One day a boy in third grade came to me with a book and wanted credit for reading it. On the cover was a picture of six white elephants and the title in large letters, "The Six White Elephants". I asked him how many elephants were in the story. He paused a little, looked out the window and then said he didn't know. I said, "How about reading it again and see if you can find out." I had forgotten all about that incident until over 50 years later when he reminded me of it and told me the "the rest of the story". He said he went back and sat down at his desk and said to himself, "He knows I didn't read the book. I'll never try to lie to a teacher again." I'm sure he lived up to that promise. I'm happy to say that he became very successful and that we still keep in touch.

Another former student sometimes reminds me of an incident that happened when he was in school. He had brought his capgun to school. When fired they would make quite a loud bang. While I had a lower grade class at the front of the room, I knew he was playing with his gun, keeping it hidden behind his desk. Suddenly he accidentally fired it. The room got quieter than it had ever been, everyone wondering what was going to happen now. I pretended not to notice and went on with the class. When recess time came, I suggested he take his gun

home and not bring it to school any more. He and I, too, became good friends and still keep in touch.

In one school I taught, I hired a boy in sixth grade who lived near the school to build fires for me in the morning. He did his job well all winter long. Then one sunny spring day when all that was needed was small fire to take the chill out of the room, he built fire and filled the stove with wood. When I arrived the temperature in the room was above 80 degrees and the stove was going full blast. Needless to say we all spent the forenoon outdoors. Knowing Billy, I've always suspected that's what he had in mind.

I'm sure everyone who has taught in a country school can recall many such small incidents that add up to a lot of happy memories.

Discipline was seldom much of a problem. The teacher was usually respected by both parents and pupils. I have heard many former country school pupils say that if they were punished at school for misbehaving, they caught it again when they got home. That seems to have changed.

I mentioned earlier that back then nearly everyone walked to school. However, in the 1920's I had two families who were provided transportation because they lived five or six miles from school. The father of one of the families had a team of ponies and wagon which he had covered with canvass much like the prairie schooners used by the early pioneers. In the wagon he had a small wood stove to keep it reasonably warm. Each morning he would bring the six or seven pupils and then wait until dismissal to take them home. He had moved from Kentucky as a young man when the area was first being settled so he had many interesting stories to tell.

It might seem that students graduating from eighth grade under the conditions described would not be as advanced as others. It is a fact that students entering high school from country schools were usually just as advanced, and in some cases, more so than others. That is not intended to be critical, just to give country schools the credit they deserve.

MOVING THE CHURCH

When Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Lessor was organized on December 26, 1872, the official name chosen was "Our Savior's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Lessor, Shawano County, Wisconsin", written in Norwegian, of course. Many people who visit the cemetery are surprised to learn that when built in 1882 the church was located in the middle of the cemetery and moved to its present location in 1928, especially when told that the tall steeple was still on when it was moved.

The main reason for moving it was the desire to have a basement with a kitchen and dining room and the cemetery being a rather wet area was not thought to be a very suitable place for that. I believe another consideration was the lack of parking space. As I worked on the moving project from the start until the basement floor was poured, I know pretty well how it

was done. I'll try to explain it as best I can remember.

The G. W. Kennedy Company from Green Bay was contracted to furnish the necessary equipment and oversee the actual moving. The material needed was jackscrews, timbers of various sizes similar to railroad ties, railroad rails, steel rollers about three feet long and three inches in diameter, various heavy steel plates, a windlass with a steel cable, and also two large timbers. The timbers were seventy-seven feet long and I believe they were eighteen inches square.

At that time my brother, Albert, who was cheesemaker and also had a small grocery store at "Town Line" where Lucille's tavern is now located, had a one-ton Model T Ford truck. This truck was rented and, as Albert was too busy, I drove his truck and John Johnson and I hauled some of the smaller pieces of material from Green Bay. This John Johnson was a local carpenter in charge of the work crew. Church records from 1928 show that T. H. Frank was paid for hauling the big timbers and other heavy equipment.

With all the equipment on hand, the first operation was to raise the church off its foundation which was about one and a half feet above ground. To do that we first knocked holes in the stone masonry so jackscrews could be placed under the sills. I don't remember how many jacks were used but it was quite a few, especially under the steeple. The steeple was still on when it was moved. With the jackscrews all in place, one man at each turned the jack until the sill raised off the foundation. As the church slowly rose, Mr. Kennedy kept checking the level in various places to be sure it was going up straight. It was raised gradually until the jackscrews reached their maximum height. Then one at a time was removed, cribbing built under it and the jack replaced. When all were in place again in their lower position, the raising started again. This continued until the church was about four feet above ground.

Then two rows of cribbing were built under the church from front to back on a line with the outside sills under the steeple, and extending some distance in front toward the road. On top of this cribbing was placed the railroad rails spaced about two feet apart on each row of cribbing. These rails were probably twenty or thirty feet long. When in place the two sets of rails had to be perfectly level with each other for their full length. A slight difference would have tilted the tall steeple quite a bit to one side.

The steel rollers were then placed on the rails and the big timbers on top of the rollers. Now the church was lowered on to the big timbers and was ready to be moved.

To move it, the windlass was anchored on the west side of the road directly in front of the church and the cable attached to the big timbers. The windlass had a long sweep and one horse was hitched to the end of it. The horse belonged to Cornelius Olson and was driven by his son, Myrel. As the horse walked in a large circle the cable wound on the spool and pulled the church slowly forward. It rolled quite easily on the steel rollers. As it moved we watched the rollers to be sure they were going

straight. If they got out of line we would tap them with a hammer to straighten them.

As it moved forward, the rollers would be freed at the back end and then we would carry them to the front and place them on the rails so the timbers would roll on to them.

When moved as far as the tracks had been built, movement stopped while the freed cribbing and rails in the rear were carried forward and more track built. This was all done by hand so it was quite slow and heavy work. This continued until the steeple was directly over the center of the road.

Now the church had to be turned. Cribbing was built under the steeple with a heavy steel plate on top. On this plate a number of steel balls about four inches in diameter were placed and another steel plate on top of them. With the steeple resting on these plates, the steel balls served as a pivot on which the steeple could turn while remaining directly over the center of the road.

Track was then built under the back end of the church and on an angle to the south so the church could be swung on to the road while the steeple remained in one spot. Of course, every time there was a change in the direction of movement, the windlass had to be moved and anchored.

With the church lined up on the road, track was built to the north and movement started again. The same process was repeated over and over until the steeple was directly in front of its present site. The church was again turned by the same method and then backed on to the spot where it now stands. As best I can remember it took five or six days from the time movement started until it was in place.

With the church in place, work was started on the foundation. There was no such thing as ready-mix in those days. All cement was mixed on the spot. A cement mixer which I believe belonged to Gust Johnson was brought in and cement delivered. Some gravel was hauled with horses from a gravel pit belonging to my father, Ole Rudie, and some from Pete Rudie's pit. The records also show that some timbers and shingles were bought from Ole Rudie who had a sawmill.

After the footing was poured, forms for the basement walls were built to a little above ground level. Concrete was then hauled in wheel barrows from the mixer and poured in the forms. When filled the forms were then built up to the final height of the walls. A platform was built along the wall with a ramp of planks leading up to it. Now the concrete had to be wheeled up the ramp to the platform and then shoveled into the forms which were almost shoulder high.

With the walls finished, the cement floor was poured. A plank was placed in the back door down to floor level on which to wheel the cement. Going down a ramp with a heavy wheelbarrow is no easier than going up. More than one load

was spilled before getting to the bottom.

So much for moving the church - but there are a couple of other events relating to the church that might be of interest to some and not known to many of the present members.

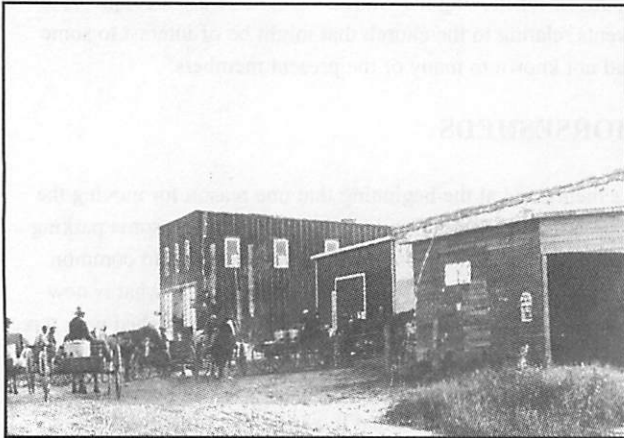
HORSESHEDS

As mentioned at the beginning that one reason for moving the church was the lack of parking space. However, some parking had been provided for horses before cars came into common use. A shelter had been built beside the road on what is now Walter Hoppe's front lawn. It was a long narrow shed with three walls and a roof and open to the south. It was partitioned into stalls, each with a manger in front and wide enough for a team of horses. I do not think that it was church property but had been built by a group of individual members, each owning a stall. The east end of the shed was at the west boundary of the Welhaven School playground, so it was a great place to play during recess. It was removed about 1922 so the schoolyard could be enlarged.

LIGHTNING STRIKES THE CHURCH

When the church was first built it had a tall steeple topped by an iron weather vane. The upright was probably eight feet high and the arrow or cross arm about five. In about the year 1915 or so lightning struck one night during a storm damaging the top of the steeple enough so that the weather vane was thrown to the ground. I can still picture how I saw it lying on the ground on the south side of the church. When repairs were made the steeple was topped by a wooden cross.

COMMUNITY SECTION



View of Elm Dale showing store and factory. The store burned in 1928.



Marit and Peter Rudie standing on Peter Rudie farm.



Store at Town Line built by John Kiblowski about 1916.

The store to the left was sold to Albert Rudie about 1925 and later owned by Bill Staszak. The picture you see here was taken in the early 1930's.

- 1) Louis Adamski holding Dick
- 2) Unknown
- 3) Leo Jaskolski
- 4) Carl Tilleson
- 5) Blanche Staszak in doorway



**Martin Blacksmith shop - Angelica.
Child in carriage is Matie Bernt.**



**Einar Ramseth and Clara Bergan
Wedding - June 1905 at the Bergan
Farm. The John Blasczyk home
today. Note: Summer kitchen in
back of home.**

**WEDDING PICTURE TO THE LEFT:
FRONT ROW**

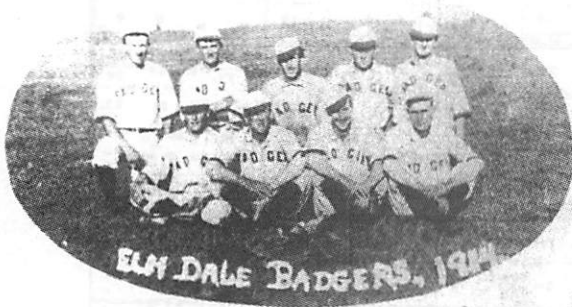
Second and third men on left are:
Anton and John Blom

Fourth from right is: Erick Erickson

Man with beard is: Paul Ramseth

COMMUNITY SECTION

Elm Dale Badgers, 1914



Front Row (Left to right)

Ed Johnson
Otto Olson
William Severson
Albert Rudie

Back Row

Edwin Erickson
Unknown
Andrew Erickson
Harold Blom
Melvin Swenson

Elm Dale Badgers of 1914.



Elm Dale Juniors
May have been a baseball team.

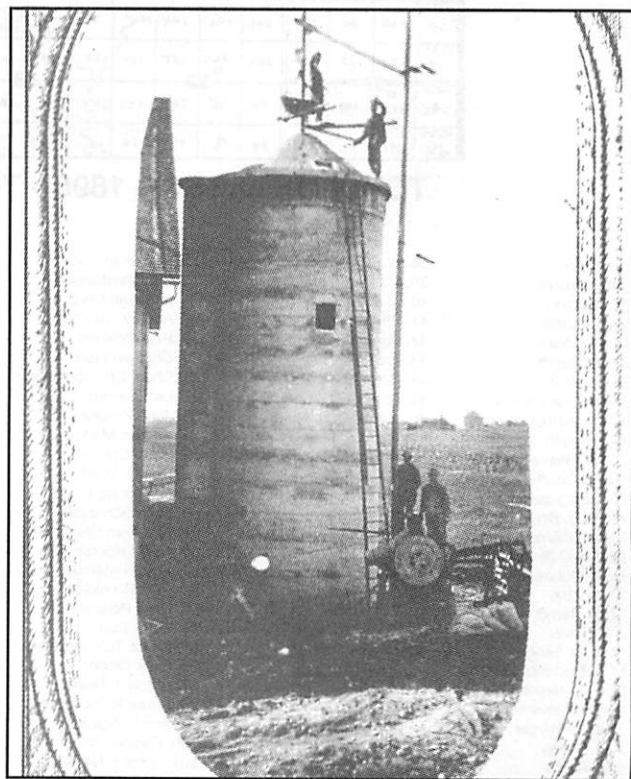


Championship team

The Landstad Champions of 1934. Back row: Archie, Felix, Archer, Oscar Nelson, manager.

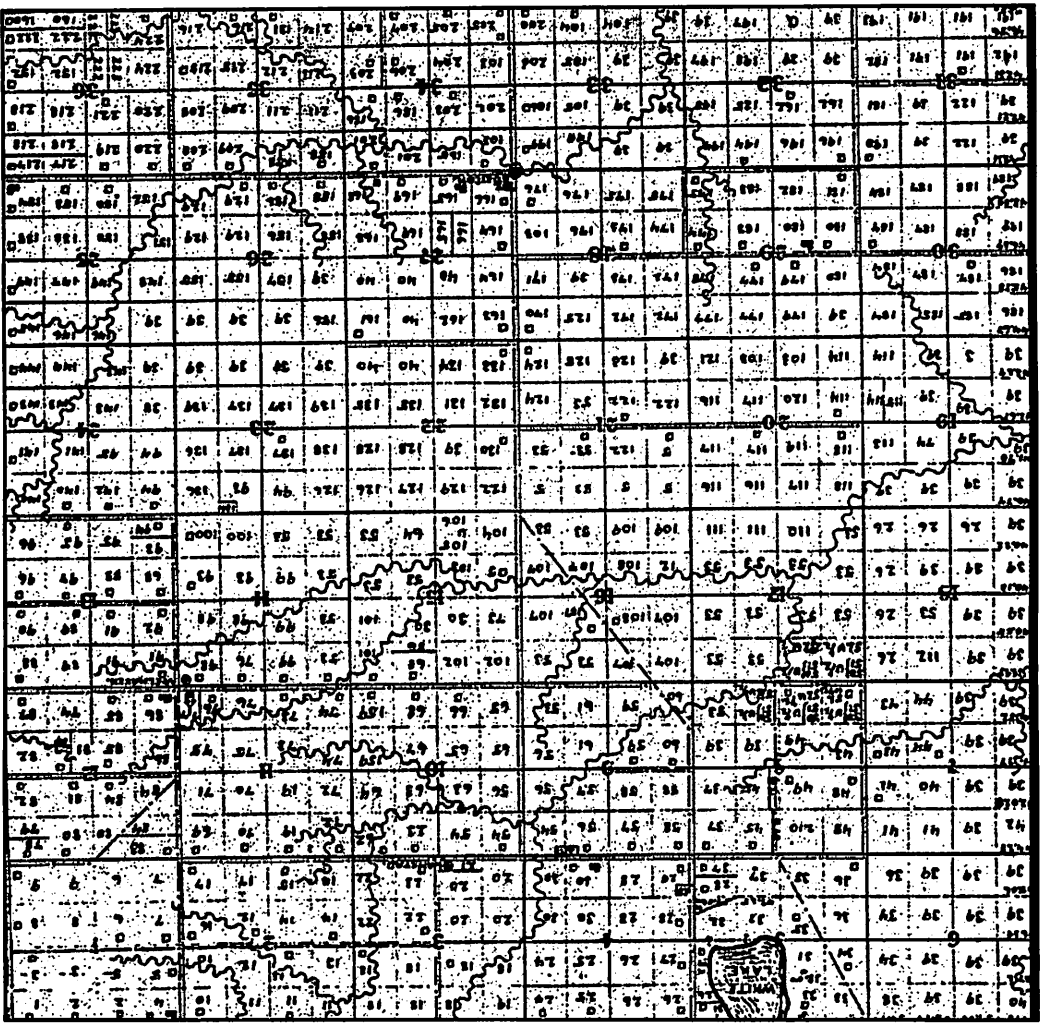
Left: Earl, Terry, Zdenek. Front row: Wilbert, George, Harry, Edwin, Elmer, Robert, Rudy, Badger, Robert, Fred, John. Photo courtesy of Jerry Seitz.

Newspaper Clipping of Landstad
Championship Team of 1934.



Brothers Hans and Ed Kvale
building a silo on Anton Blom Farm.

COMMUNITY SECTION

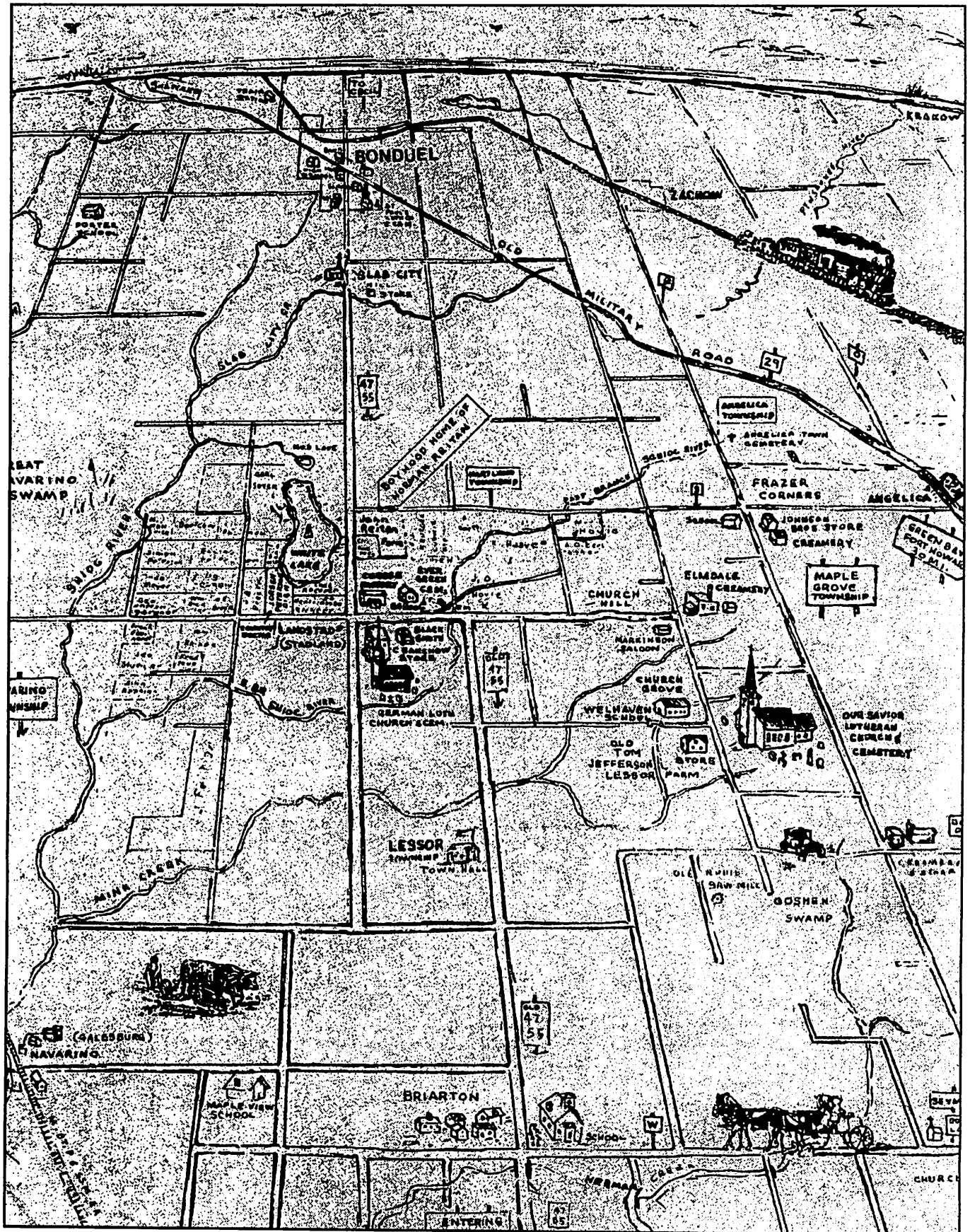


TOWN OF LESSOR 1898 - TOWNSHIP NO. 25, RANGE NO. 17E.

186. Otto Elster
187. H.F. Porter
188. L.P. Schumaker
189. Chas. Denow, Jr.
190. Emil Lesch
191. W. Coon
192. B. Buss
193. Thos. Jolley
194. John P. Hahline
195. J. Dean
196. Wm. Neumann
197. John S. Rider
198. E.A. Lewis
199. Geo. Wengester
200. Gust. Dier
201. E.C. Dean
202. Wm. Milke
203. Truman Crowner
204. Wm. Uebe
205. Aug. Krolow
206. Mrs. C. Crowner
207. Henry Herman
208. F.C. White
209. Geo. Ellis
210. Albt. Rosin
211. Wm. Pflum
212. Joel V. Marsh
213. Wm. Brandenburg
214. H. Sherry
215. Herm. Gohl
216. Chas. Ganzel
217. Jos. Whipple
218. Geo. S. Kimbel
219. Aug. Krueger
220. John Fritze
221. James Martin
222. Jos. Wickburn
149. Thos. Wozichowski
150. Bion Ward
151. John Domnowski
152. Reuben Irish
153. S. Stager
154. James Hawkins
155. Andrew Klimak
156. J.H. Lewitch
157. Thos. Babcock
158. Wenzel L. Schlinker
159. J.J. Blom
160. John Schroeder
161. S. Wojkiewicz
162. P. Sempie
163. Carl Beggenmeister
164. W.L. Lunick
165. Otto Kahner
166. Fred Burzloff
167. Aug. Jesken
168. W.L. Schellenz
169. Carl Denon
170. Henry Herman
171. Waterhouse & Fox
172. Geo. L. Cole
173. J.W. Butlum
174. Albt. Short
175. Wm. Hohlts
176. B.F. Brown
177. M.M. Porter
178. T.C. Porter
179. Aug. Fischer
180. A.C. McCulley
181. John Tomm
182. W.J. McCoy
183. Wm. Michelsleiter
184. L. Blanchard
185. L.C. Olson
112. Frank Steffin
113. Herman Wilson
114. James Wilson
115. D.H. Carpenter
116. Nels Jacobson
117. Sam Olson
118. G.L. Groen
119. Jos. Balkowlak
120. Peter Erickson
121. W.J. Butlum
122. W.L. Lowel
123. Herm Krol
124. Anton Seliger
125. Shawano Abstract Co.
126. Christ. J. Blom
127. Erick K. Moen
128. Wanczyn Kaczowski
129. John S. Courtice
130. Chas. Melke
131. Albt. Dean
132. Elizabetha Stope
133. W. Majeski
134. B.B. Waterhouse
135. D. Cask
136. Annie Rudie
137. Helge Erickson
138. Otto Pitsch
139. Nels T. Locken
140. Math. Wanzelowski
141. Frank Thunolski
142. Geo. Tillson
143. J.E. Dunn
144. Martin Fisher
145. Bertha Thompson
146. Mary Figurski
147. John Keuchmeister
148. Martin Keimesz
75. Halvor Johnson
76. Ole Christensen
77. Lutheran Church
78. Andrew Thompson
79. P.A. Jommen
80. Ole Severson
81. Chas. Christopherson
82. Lars Larsen
83. John Krouse
84. Adolph Markensen
85. Peter Christensen
86. Olaf O. Wahl
87. John J. Marks
88. John Schilzaski
89. Abraham Olson
90. Nels Erickson
91. Arnet Peterson
92. Nels P. Lokken
93. Nels Peterson
94. Peter Rudi
95. Knute Thompsonson
96. Erick Olson
97. Anton J. Blom
98. Knute P. Thompson
99. Anton Zigjenski
100. Casper Olson
101. John J. Nays
102. Herm. Gehm
103. Margarah Becker
104. Chas. Frank
105. Wm. Ruchl
106. Aug. Frank
107. M.O. Scherbeck
108. Ewal Olson
109. Christ. Bonnin
110. Jul. Coet
111. F.J. Marten

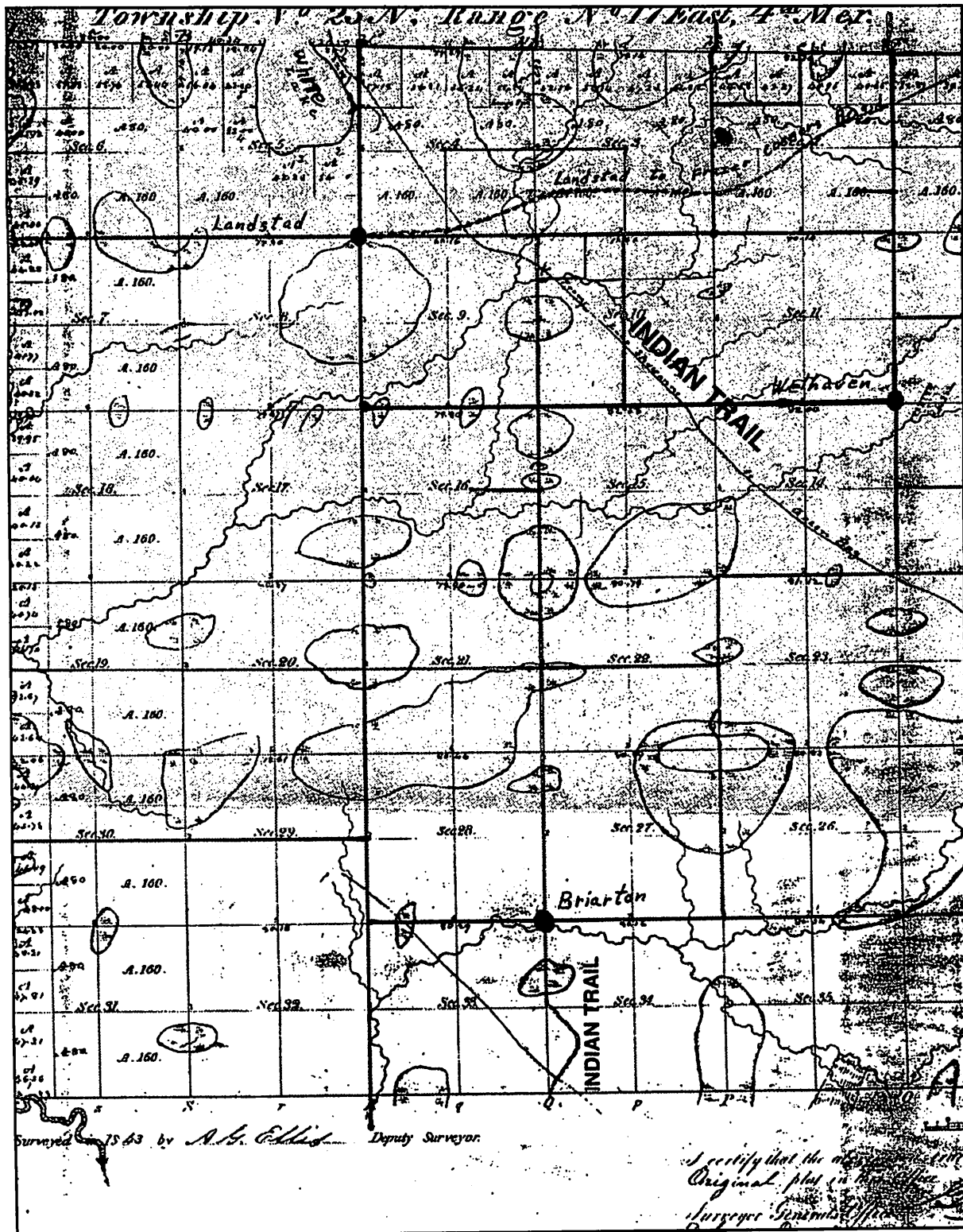
38. W.S. Wood
39. J.J. Hoff Land Co.
40. M.J. Wallich
41. Wm. Knipple
42. Darwin Frazer
43. Fred Steuwer
44. Peter Markuson
45. Henry Schultz
46. John Steffin
47. Herm. Dorins
48. Herm. Steffin
49. Chas. Eckert
50. Wm. Davidson
51. Jennie David
52. J.J. Reitan
53. C.O. Scherbeck
54. Arnet Berawenson
55. T.O. Olsen
56. P.O. Havel
57. Frank Krueger
58. Chas. Lebedke
59. John Bohm
60. Wm. Steffin
61. Wm. Toelner
62. John Toelner
63. Peter Simonson
64. L.B. Pernock
65. Edward Severson
66. C. Christoferson
67. John Anderson
68. John Anderson
69. Thos. Thompson
70. Helga Thompson
71. Frank Stefanick
72. John Nilson
73. Hans Anderson
74. Knut Olson
1. G.H. Frazer
2. Gott Johnson
3. Ole Erickson
4. Paul Ramsen
5. Hans Erickson
6. Christ. Quandt
7. Ole Severson
8. Mrs. Sophie Hanson
9. Peter Christopherson
10. P.A. Bergan
11. Ole O. Havel
12. Olinus Olsen
13. A.O. Bergsaken
14. Knute O. Bergsaken
15. Martin Johnson
16. Mrs. A. Gullickson
17. Herm. Johnson
18. T.K. Havel
19. Chas. Berndt
20. J.O. Hovle
21. Peter O. Skogen
22. Erick Fredericksen
23. Eling Peterson
24. Ludwig Kleversahl
25. John F. Krueger
26. John Retan
27. Wm. Reaba
28. B.B. Ostby
29. Hars of W. Kuehl
30. Toer O. Olsen
31. Emil Gehm
32. Carl Koeppeen
33. Aug. Rockow
34. Herm. Beitz
35. Ole J. Oien
36. Ole E. Becken
37. Henry Richter

COMMUNITY SECTION



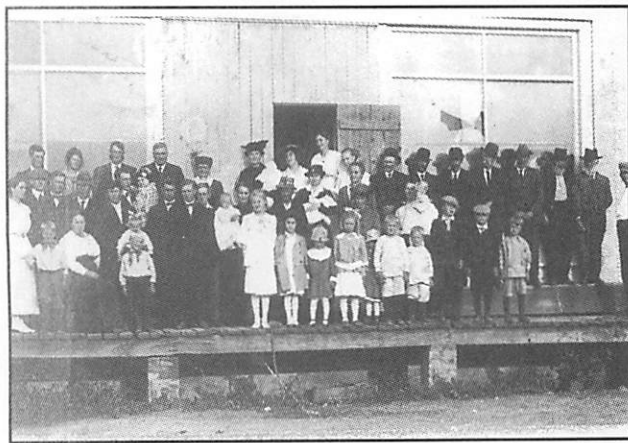
TOWN OF LESSOR TOWNSHIP MAP OF EARLY 1900's.

COMMUNITY SECTION



EARLY SURVEY MAP OF 1843 SHOWING INDIAN TRAILS FROM SHAWANO TO GREEN BAY AND SHORT ONE SOUTH OF BRIARTON AND ALL CREEKS AND LOW LANDS. ROAD FROM LANDSTAD TO FRAZER CORNER DRAWN IN.

COMMUNITY SECTION



Gibson family reunion in front of Thompson's store/dance hall at Elm Dale

Row 1 (Left to right)

Clara Hovie
Bernard Jareck
Grandma Hovie
Lawrence Jareck
Clarence Hovie
Thora (Thompson)
Horstmeyer
Knutson girl
Knutson girl
Borghild Nissen
Oscar Thompson
Marvin Ramseth
Paul Ramseth
Unknown
Harold Ramseth
Tom Thompson

Row 2

John Hovie
Melvin Hovie
Nick Knutson
Joe Jareck holding daughter Lucille
Adolf Hovie
Unknown Child
Otto Hovie
Norman Christenson
Ida Jareck holding daughter Ester
Mrs. Massis Knutson
Mrs. Nick Knutson
Mrs. Theodore Knutson
Lena Ramseth holding Ethel

Row 3

Carl Hovie
Ida Hovie
Peter Hovie
Knut N. Knutson
Mrs. Knutson
Mrs. Langland
Mrs. Mamie Hovie holding daughter Arvella
Hannah Thompson
Mildred (Thompson)
Payer
Bertha Erickson
Ole Ramseth
Massie Knutson
Knut O. Knutson
Ole Erickson
Theodore Knutson
Helga Erickson
Grandpa Paul Ramseth



PICTURE TO THE LEFT:

- 1) Halvar Johnson
- 2) Thomas Thompson
- 3) Chris Christopherson
- 4) Anton Christopherson
- 5) Ole Ellistad
- 6) Einar Ramsith
- 7) Adolph Markusen
- 8) Charlie Johnson
- 9) Anton Peterson
- 10) Haus Anderson
- 11) A. Christopherson (Kvaley)
- 12) Oscar Olson
- 13) Corneleus Olson
- 14) Unknown
- 15) Haus Christopherson
- 16) Carl Hovie
- 17) Helge Thompson
- 18) Martin Iherbeck
- 19) Julius Wamie

**Threshing machine on the Brecken Farm. Machine owned by Brecken.
Note: Straw conveyor no blower.**



Threshing machine on the Brecken Farm.



Townline Cheese Factory

TOWN PROCEEDINGS

Earliest record of a town meeting.

Sec 1 and 2 unincorporated lands and
warded \$5.00 dollars per acre

In witness whereof the said supervisors
and the said parties have hereunto set their
hands this 24th day of June A D 1872

Geo. N. Proger
Johf. Frederken Supervisors
J. J. Loelso

Wm. Pearl
Release

Whereas by an order bearing date the 14th day of June
A D 1873, the supervisors of the town of Locoma
the county of Shawano laid out a highway describ-
ed as follows from the NE corner of sec 2 T 25 N 14 and
running south on the section line to the SE corner of
sec 13 T 25 N 14 which passes through the following
described lands owned by us now known all more
by these presents that we the undersigned
value received hereby release all claim to damages
sustained by us by the reason of the laying out
and opening of said highway through our said land
in witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and
this 2 day of Feb A D 1873

		2d Town Road		3d Town Road	
presence of Wm. Pearl	NW 1/4	NW 1/4	13	25	17
in Road	SW 1/4	NW 1/4	..	..	..
in Clerk	James to Road	NW 1/4	SW 1/4	..	..
Franc. Krumm	SE 1/4	SE 1/4	2	25	17
Chas. Oleson	NW 1/4 SW 1/4	SW 1/4	12	25	17
M. Erickson	NW 1/4	SW 1/4	..	..	..
Derek Thiringer	SE 1/4	SW 1/4	11	25	17
Red. O. Rusa	NW 1/4 of SE 1/4	SW 1/4	1	..	..
Wm. Pederson	NW 1/4	SE 1/4	14	..	..
Benny Lindman	SE 1/4	SE 1/4	..	..	..
Edward M. Krumm	SW 1/4 of NW 1/4	SW 1/4	11	..	..
	SW 1/4	SW 1/4	12	..	..

TOWN PROCEEDINGS

Oaths of Office

Constables Bonds and Oaths of Office. (Rev.)

BOND.

J. Pederson a duly elected Constable
in the Town of Lebanon County of Shawano
and State of Wisconsin
as his sureties, do hereby jointly and severally agree
to pay to each and every person who may be entitled thereto, all such sums of money as the said
Constable may become liable to pay for or on account of any moneys which may come into his
hands by virtue of his office, or for the neglect of any official duty.

In witness whereof, the said Constable and sureties have hereunto set their hands and seals this 10
day of April A. D. 1877.

In presence of
J. Pederson [SEAL]
[SEAL]
[SEAL]

I hereby approve of the above Bond and the Sureties therein named.
E. L. Dean Town Clerk.

OATH.

I do solemnly swear or affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of this
State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Constable in the Town of Lebanon
in the County of Shawano and State of Wisconsin, according to the best of my ability.
So help me God.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 10 day of April 1877.
E. L. Dean Town Clerk.

BOND.

Albert A. Kinnaman a duly elected Constable
in the Town of Lebanon County of Shawano
and State of Wisconsin
Richard Irish and
Charles Marsh as his sureties, do hereby jointly and severally agree
to pay to each and every person who may be entitled thereto, all such sums of money as the said
Constable may become liable to pay for or on account of any moneys which may come into his
hands by virtue of his office, or for the neglect of any official duty.

In witness whereof, the said Constable and sureties have hereunto set their hands and seals this 10
day of April A. D. 1877.

In presence of
Albert A. Kinnaman [SEAL]
Charles Marsh [SEAL]
Richard Irish [SEAL]

I hereby approve of the above Bond and the Sureties therein named.
E. L. Dean Town Clerk.

OATH.

I do solemnly swear or affirm, that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of this
State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Constable in the Town of Lebanon
in the County of Shawano and State of Wisconsin, according to the best of my ability.
So help me God.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 10 day of April 1877.
Albert A. Kinnaman

TOWN PROCEEDINGS

Oaths of Office

Oaths of Office.

I do solemnly Swear (or Affirm,) That I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Chairman of Supervisors of the Town of Lapeer according to the best of my ability. So help me God. S. B. Cole

Shawano COUNTY, }
Town of Lapeer

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY That the foregoing Oath was taken and subscribed to by the said S. B. Cole before me this fourth day of April A. D. 1876

Edw. Prager Justice of the Peace

I do solemnly Swear (or Affirm,) That I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Supervisor of the Town of Lapeer according to the best of my ability. So help me God. Chas. Erickson

Shawano COUNTY, }
Town of Lapeer

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY That the foregoing Oath was taken and subscribed to by the said Chas. Erickson before me this fourth day of April A. D. 1876

Edw. Prager Justice of the Peace

I do solemnly Swear (or Affirm,) That I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Supervisor of the Town of Lapeer according to the best of my ability. So help me God. Lars Larson

Shawano COUNTY, }
Town of Lapeer

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY That the foregoing Oath was taken and subscribed to by the said Lars Larson before me this fourth day of April A. D. 1876

Edw. Prager Justice of the Peace

I do solemnly Swear (or Affirm,) That I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of Justice of the Peace in the Town of Lapeer according to the best of my ability. So help me God. Edw. Prager

Shawano COUNTY, }
Town of Lapeer

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY That the foregoing Oath was taken and subscribed to by the said Edw. Prager before me this fourth day of April A. D. 1876

Edw. Prager Justice of the Peace

TOWN PROCEEDINGS

Note: The difference of handwriting between the different clerks.

Proceedings of Town Board.	
1876 May 1	<p>Town Board met pursuant to agreement at the clerk's office at 10 O'clock A.M. members present viz;</p> <p>G. B. Cole Chairman O. Erickson Lars Larson</p> <p>Supervisors E. L. Dean Town Clerk</p> <p>Business before the Board was to assess highway taxes for the year 1876. On motion the Board proceeded to make out a list of all property both personal & real in the town of Lenoir, and did assess a tax of 17 mills on the dollar on the same. Also did make out a list of all persons in the several road dists in the town liable to pay taxes, personal and real in the said town.</p> <p>Resolution for Road Petition of E. L. Dean et al filed March 28 1876 taken up and read. Bld decided to view said route & decide upon the same June 1st 1876. Notice sent accordingly.</p> <p>Also Road Petition of Lars Larson & others notice sent for same to view & decide upon the same May 11 1876.</p> <p>Next Meeting adjourned to June 1st 1876.</p> <p>E. L. Dean Town Clerk</p> <p>G. B. Cole O. Erickson Lars Larson</p>

TOWN PROCEEDINGS

This Town Meeting designated certain residents to maintain roads in their area.

Proceedings of Town Meetings	
Town of Susan April 1st 1884	
Nine O'clock A. M. Inspection Snow and Poles opened for voting 12 O'clock Poll closed for Half Hour. One O'clock Poll opened First Business before the Meeting was Reading Clerks Report. Clerks Report Read & Accepted. Treasurers Report Read & Accepted. on motion the following Persons were Chosen Overseers of Highways	
ad. 1	Ol. Erickson
" " 2	Peter O. Hovic
" " 3	John. Ristow
" " 4	John R. Johnson
" " 5	Wils. Hovbo
" " 6	John Leinich
" " 7	Andrew Mc Cully
" " 8	August Bishop
" " 9	Sam. C. Omsen
" " 10	Ol. Lynneroom
" " 11	Wentzel. Linnick
" " 12	Simon Mc. Bay
" " 13	Erick Olson
Motion made & seconded to Raise the Sum of 300 ⁰⁰ Dollars for Current Expenses the En- suing year. Carried	
Motion made & seconded to Raise the Sum of 300 ⁰⁰ Dollars for Building Highways the Ensuing year. Carried	
Motion made & seconded to Raise the of 100 ⁰⁰ Dollars for Poor Fund the Ensuing year Carried	
Motion made & seconded to Pay the Clerk 65 ⁰⁰ Dollars for the Ensuing year	

TOWN PROCEEDINGS

Early Town Meeting Record

Proceedings of Town Meetings

Five O'clock polls close the following is the result

The whole no of votes given for supervisor was Forty One of which L. B. Cole received Forty Lard Larsen Forty One and Olaf Erickson Twenty two scattering 19

The whole no of votes given for clerk was 41 of which no G. C. Olson received 41

The whole no of votes given for Treasurer was 41 of which no Olaf Erickson received 21 Simon Inglooy received 19 scattering 1

The whole no of votes given for assessor was 40 of which no Ole Erickson received 27 and C. C. Sherbock received 13

The whole no of votes given for justice of the peace was 38 of which no H. H. Kroger received 22 In Brown received 17 and C. C. Olson received 18 scattering 1

The whole no of votes given for constables was 50 of which no Peter Bergan received 21 In Porter 20 and C. C. Olson 18 scattering 4

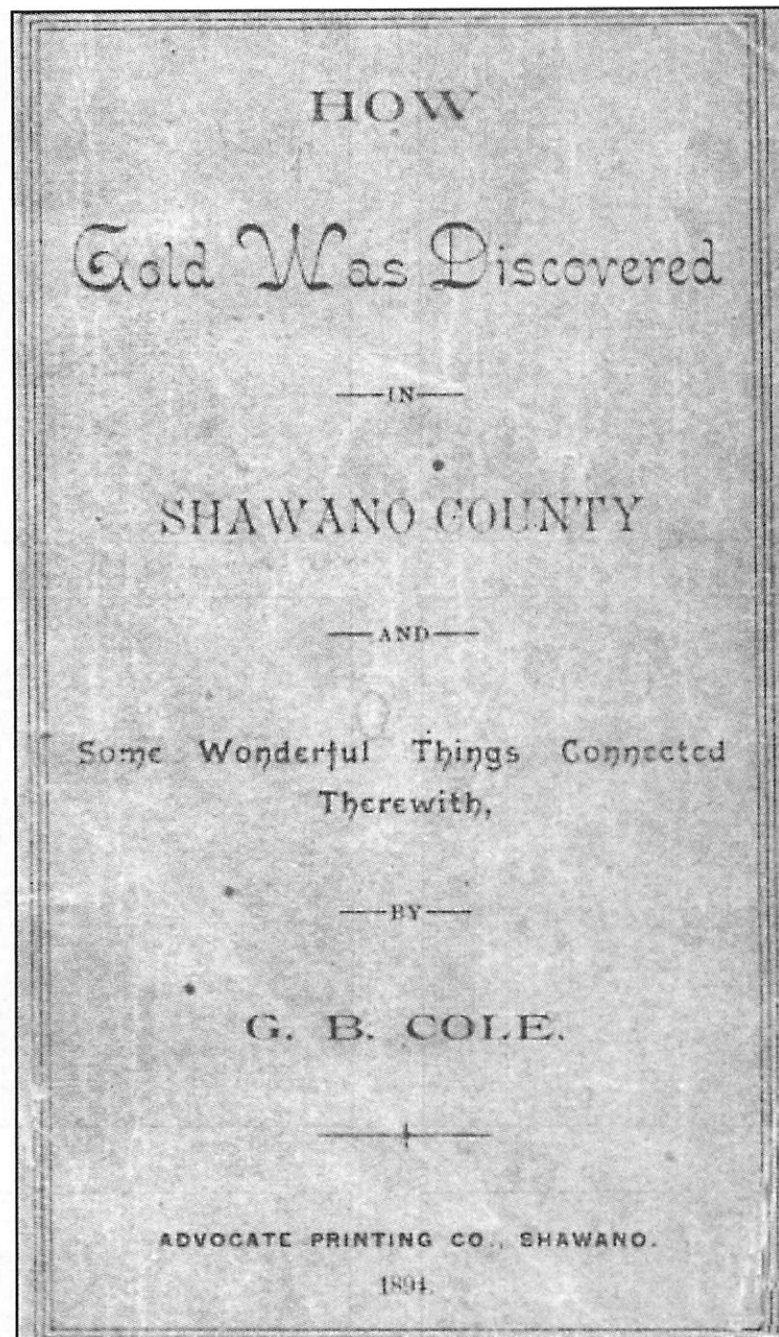
We the undersigned members of the election held in the town and place specified in the within statement by us subscribe do hereby certify that the within named L. B. Cole is duly elected to the office of chairman of board of ward union and that Ole Erickson and Larsen was duly elected to the office of supervisors of said town and that C. C. Olson is duly elected to the office of clerk of said town and that Ole Erickson is duly elected to the

TOWN PROCEEDINGS

Early Town Meeting Record

Proceedings of Town Meetings	
	<p> <i>Leopoldo Capra</i> Three O'clock Polls opened Inspectors and a warm and Voluntary commenced Another O'clock adjourned One Hour One o'clock Polls open Report of Treasurer and Expenses Financial Report of Town Board read Expended The following questions were put to To Report the by law giving twenty dollars per acre for clearing road on One hundred Acre To set the Town Clerk's salary for 1876 at Forty dollars carried To set the salary of assessor at seven⁰⁰ dollars for the year 1876 To have a tax of One hundred dollars be expended on the Center road To receive the previous motion To have a tax of Four hundred dollars for other roads through the town according to the valuation of each To raise Fifty dollars as a poor fund To raise Two hundred dollars for expenses carried To move the place of election to last On Motion the following Resolutions </p>

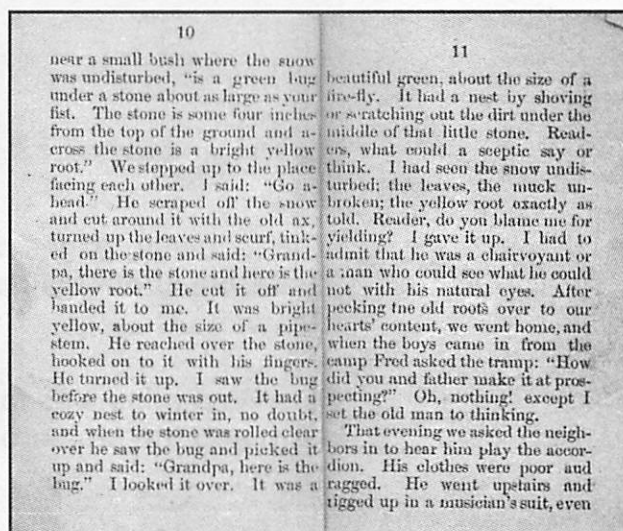
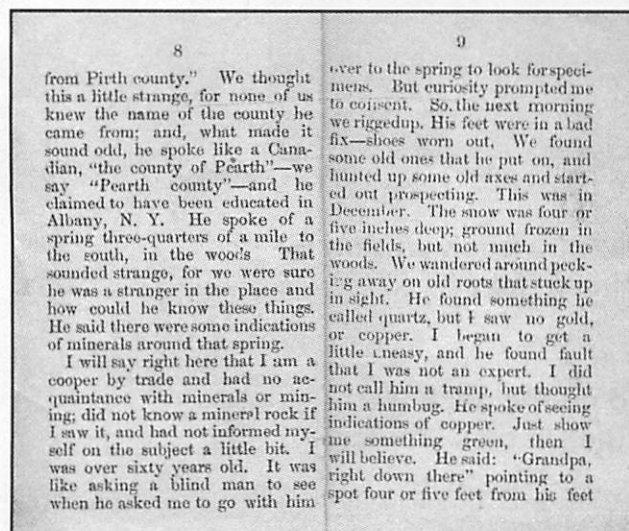
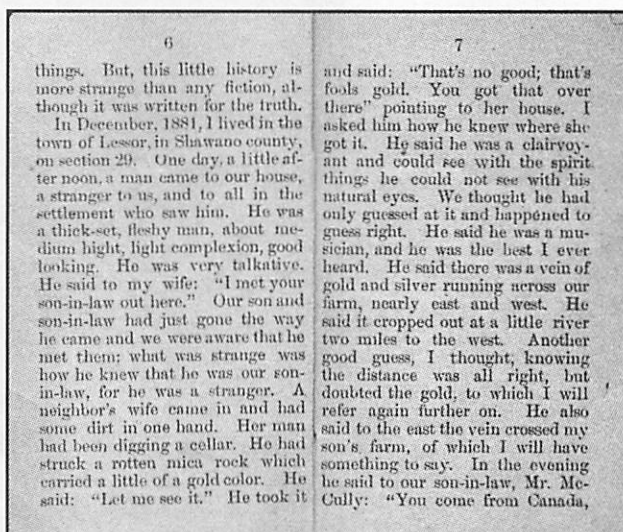
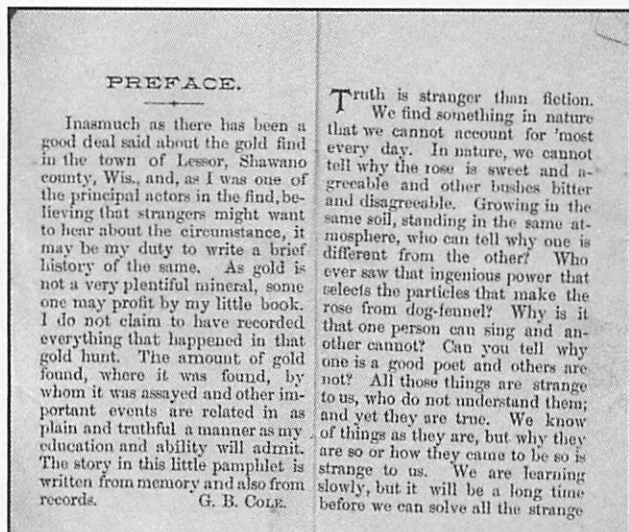
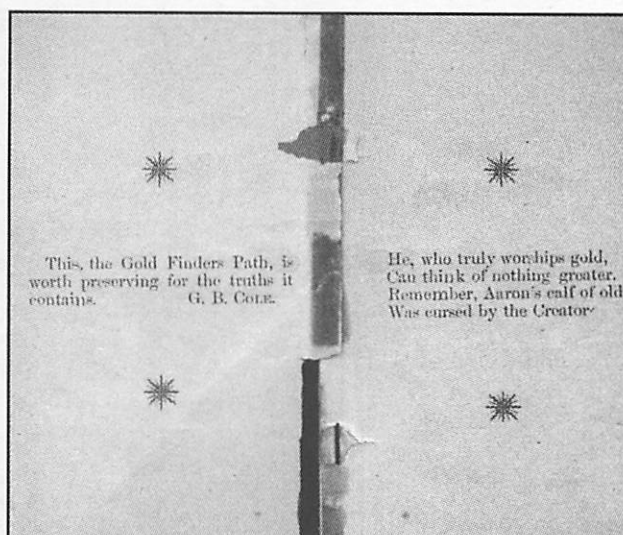
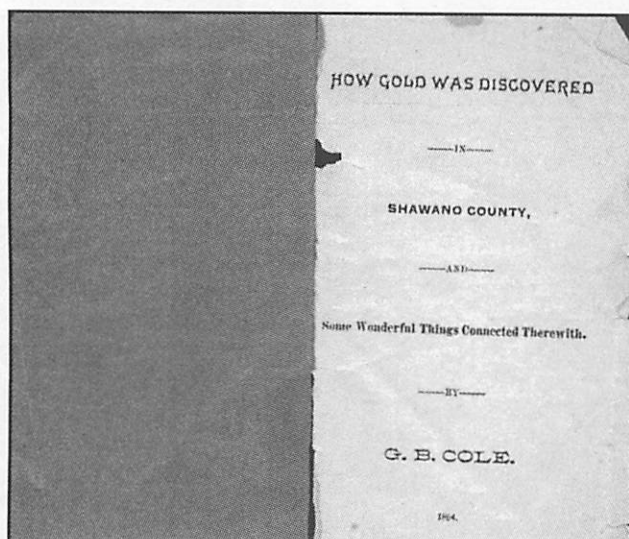
GOLD MINING IN SHAWANO COUNTY



The following pages consist of a book written by Gail Cole about his gold mining days in Shawano County.

The Gold mine was located on the Jack Herb farm and the area around the Union Cemetery.

GOLD MINING IN SHAWANO COUNTY



GOLD MINING IN SHAWANO COUNTY

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to fine collar and cuffs. It was a strange thing to our folks, for he had neither gripsack nor budget or any kind when he came. Mrs. M. M. Porter was in and she cried from the melody of the accordion; and when the show was over he went up stairs and came down in his old clothes that he had on while we were prospecting, and when he went away he had nothing in his hands and he left nothing. It is stranger than any fiction where he got his show rig.

The next day he went up into Hartland, he said, to find a chance to teach music. He came back after being gone two nights.

After he had gone, McCully and myself went south to the spring, with a bar and spade. Having better tools we would stand a chance to develop something. We knew of an old tote-road that went through that woods. We thought

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in it would be better walking. It had grown up with brush and some timber had fallen in it. We called to one another; "Have you found the tote-road?" This kind of hooting was quite common. We found the road and found some stone that looked favorable. As the land belonged to a speculator, we agreed not to mention where we had been, for if it turned out good we might buy it. The next evening the tramp came and the first he said was: "Well, grandpa, you have been prospecting since I left." I hardly knew what to say, I did not want him to know that I was his convert, and I wanted to keep my word with McCully, so I said: "How do you know?" He said: "I heard you hooting about the old tote-road." By a little inquiry, I found that at the time we were looking for the tote-road he was in Hartland, ten miles away, and there

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were no tracks in the woods except those we had then made and those we made the day before. I said to him: "Tranger, if you will find me a mineral rock on my farm that is either gold, silver or copper, I will give you one hundred dollars; I will go to Black Creek and borrow it." He said: No, grandpa, I don't want your money.

In coming home from our green bug hunt, he showed me where the vein crossed the road, betwixt A. McCully's place and mine. I said: "Then Mc. has mineral on his." Then he said: "Lots of it it is rich but deeper." I said: "I sold that to Mc." He said: "You never made a bigger mistake." I think that is so.

P. Semple, after hearing what the clairvoyant said about it, put in a core drill and, at seventy feet, struck a rock that went \$19 to a ton; we have his word for it. A

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core drill is a poor thing to hunt gold with. It wears out all the soft rock and that is always the best. In drilling nearly four hundred feet he got somewhere about one hundred feet of core, the three hundred were out and washed away, to which I will refer again later on.

Our tramp went next morning and I have not seen him to this day. On examining myself, I found one truth at least; that was, he had set the man to think.

Think of an old man with a heavy mortgage on his farm and a vein of gold and silver running across it, if that tramp's word is good. It occurs to me that he could see with his spirit eyes. I had to admit that was a fact. Now the question is, is all that he told facts. That I cannot know until I prove it. I must dig down and see if the place did not indicate gold, on level surface, three feet of red

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clay, and limestone gravel, resting on a white lime rock. I thought of upheavals of mountains.

While thinking on this subject I remembered that he said it cropped out at the Shioe river. I remembered that the rips were a rock bottom.

In January, 1883, I went to the river, spade in hand, to see if there were any indications of mineral. The river was frozen over; its banks were ten to fifteen feet high, snow had drifted over the banks in places. In digging through the snow, I found the ground not frozen. The dirt was green. I thought that indicated copper, gathered up some specimens and went home.

In May, 1883, in company with A. C. McCully, I visited the Shioe again. On the rips, we picked up some specimens. They were like the rock in the bed of the river.

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They were quartz sand-rock, quite porous and of a red and green color. We sent a piece to Gustavus Bode, the analyzer for Wisconsin, of Milwaukee. We got our return of the fourth day of July, 1883. It said: "The ore sent by G. B. Cole produced the following result: Gold, \$6.40, silver, \$4.42, which makes \$10.82 per ton of rock."

This, I think was the first gold discovered in Shawano county. If there had been a premium offered for the first gold found, I would have stood a good chance for a coffin, but now it looks dubious.

The land on which the specimen was found belonged to P. Semple, in the town of Navarino. I went to notify him of the find and showed him the assay. He said: "Sir, I will see Mr. Bode myself. You just get me out some pieces and I will take them to Mr. Bode myself and see him assay them."

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"Will you show me the returns?" "Yes, sir." That promise was not fulfilled.

We put a blast in the bed of the stream at random. Not knowing the best place, we took it by guess. We saw Mr. Semple after his return from Milwaukee and asked him what was in the rocks. "Nothing, sir. There was twenty shilling or so, nothing that is worth mentioning." I thought the cheapest way was to take his word for it, and there it ended. This find proved the tramp's assertion that it cropped out at the river.

By reading, I find that gold is not a very common mineral in Wisconsin. It is found in veins and pockets. It is not scattered all over, although it is found strayed a little ways from the vein.

When Mr. Vang drilled his well thirty rods from the rips, I sent the drillings to Berlingame. They did

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not assay a particle of gold, and when a man says little gold can be got from any rock he reckons without his host.

Perhaps I have written enough of the gold find in Navarino, so I shall move up the hill to Lessor.

You will remember that the clairvoyant said the vein ran east and across my son's land. Curiosity prompted me to investigate that saint. We found very porous rocks, the holes lined with quartz. We sent some of it to E. E. Burlingame, Denver, Col. This sample was not sent until May 6th, 1887. He said: "The sample assayed for G. B. Cole gave the following results:—Gold \$2.00, silver 66c." It is true it was small, but the gold was there just the same, as he said. We do not know if we found the best. We dug four holes to the rock, through seven feet of dirt. As the clairvoyant did not say how

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rich it was we are left on an uncertainty, not knowing whether there are millions there or less.

After I got a little acquainted with the quartz that contained gold, I got up a table sixteen feet by four and put the quartz on it. It looked pretty when the sun shone. I found lots of people came to look at the table and get specimens.

Not knowing how deep or how wide the vein was on our place, and thinking we might develop something that would help sell the place, fearing that the mortgage would sweep us into the road, I concluded to try another clairvoyant and see how they agreed on locating gold veins and find, if possible, the exact spot, so as to save time and labor.

I knew of one in Appleton. I got acquainted with her when she kept the Pinery House, in Clayton. Mrs. Tomkins, clairvoyant, differs in the manner of telling things.

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She claims to see some spirit that is with you, whom you do not see; then she describes her or him to you, and if you recognize the description, that spirit takes possession of the medium. Then you ask questions or converse on any subject. This medium is a woman about seventy years of age, a candid, moral, well-liked woman. I called to see her. She said: "There is a woman with you."

"Tell me how she looks, for I fail to see any one but you."

"Well, she is medium height, say five feet and six or seven strong inches, strong built, her eyes and hair are very black, teeth white and even, she has a smile on her countenance, is straight built and as handsome as can be made."

I began to think I had got into good company, or at least good looking. I studied a minute. My mind caught on to a Mrs. Douglas,

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of Iowa, and I did not know that she had passed over the silent river, but thought it must be she. I said: "Maria." She answered: "Yes, sir."

"Well, Maria, what is it that you want of me?"

"I came to tell you of a gold mine on your farm."

A sensation went over me unlike any former experience. If a bucket of warm water had been turned on my head it would have been a little like it, minus the center where the water could not touch. Readers here me soliloquize. I believed the medium as honest a woman as lives in this world. I was sure the medium had no knowledge of the condition in Lessor, and a prophecy on such an uncommon thing would be disastrous to the medium, if not correct.

After I revived from the shock, I said: "If you please locate it."

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She said: "You have a path from the barn that runs to the pasture. It is close by that, to the west. And again, do you know where the water last dries up in the pasture?" I said: "Yes, ma'am." "Measure six feet to the west and you will see a stone, not large, but easy to be seen. Begin around that and when down ten feet you will get gold."

The place spoken of where the water last dried up was a place I dug to get water for the cattle—a sort of a dry spring, with plenty of water in wet times which dried up when warm weather came.

On my return, I told my family as near as I could all that transpired, and when I came to the description of the spirit my wife said: "Father, Maria Douglas' eyes were not black; they were blue." I said: "Do you know whereof you speak?" "Yes, sir, they were blue."

As a man's memory on eyes is

GOLD MINING IN SHAWANO COUNTY

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not as good as a woman's, I gave it up. But what Maria was it? I did not care, if what she said was true, which at that time was unproven; but I was fierce to test it. So my wife, Allie (Mrs. Bofum) and myself went to the place poken of and measured the six feet. The stone was there all right, which strengthened our faith. We commenced the shaft, found three feet of soil, that brought us to the lime-rock. Not understanding mining, knowing nothing of putting in blasts to advantage, it went slow. When down seven or eight feet it so happened that a well-driller came along and we got him to put in his drill and drill down thirteen feet and we saved the drillings and sent some to Burlingame, Cal., for an assay. On receipt of it, we found it stated: "I hereby certify that the sample sent by G. B. Cole gave the following results: Gold, \$2; silver

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\$30.03; making \$32.04 to the ton of rock."

That assay encouraged the neighborhood; but rocks are stubborn things and we went into them very slowly. The above assay was made March 26, 1884. I showed it to W. S. Wood, of Shawano. He advised me to try another chemist and see if they agreed. So, when down ten feet, I sent to Thomas Bines, New York city. He said my quartz contained of silver \$1.12, gold \$10.40 to the ton of rock making \$11.52.

I thought Maria was an angel, though she did not claim it—only a spirit. I had found gold, but not enough to pay—now and then quartz that contained a little gold, only a little, but unproductive rocks as yet. It would not pay and I had to stop on account of poverty—no money to pay the interest on the mortgage and buy am-

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munition with. We stopped and waited for something to turn up. I went into the house one evening and found a man sitting there of whom I will give a description. He was about seventy-five years old, short and thin, weighed about one hundred pounds, one eye was gone, his nose broken, one arm off at the shoulder, his eye was keen and I thought good looking when young and sound. He was a German, could speak English well enough for me to understand him. He introduced himself, said his name was Robert Mallace, and had lived near Fond du Lac. He said he had worked in the copper mines at Lake Superior, and said he heard I was mining and thought he might be of some help to me, showing how to put in a blast. His knowledge would have been of great use, but I lacked the powder and did not know when I could start up a-

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gain. I liked the man very much. The next morning he got ready to start. He extended his only hand to shake good-bye, and when our hands touched, the same feeling came over me that I felt in Appleton, when Maria said: "I came to tell you of a gold mine on your farm."

Readers, this is no fiction. I had read of the day of Pentecost, and had been to a camp meeting, but nothing in my experience, or reports from others, was equal to it. It was wonderful. I had read of people having the gift of the Holy Ghost, but not having been exposed to it, I could not think it was that that was on me,—stranger than a fiction. A knowledge came of a thing that I knew nothing about. It was clear in my mind; I had no doubts of it. I said: "Stranger, I want to say something to you." He said: "Say on." "You had a

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wife and she is dead." He said: "Yes, sir." "In high five feet seven, weighed one hundred and fifty pounds." He said: "Yes, sir." "Hair and eyes black, teeth white and evenly set." He said: "Yes." "She was the handsomest woman in Fond du Lac County." Our family listened and said: "Father, are you crazy." I saw the tears gathering in his eyes. I thought I had roused up some feelings he would prefer to let slumber, so I said no more. I knew that Maria had been his wife and I wanted him to know it. He agreed to write to my daughter to let us know his post-office, so we could write to him if we wanted him. After a while we received a letter from him from French Lake, Minn. We wrote back to him and said: "Your wife's name was Maria." He acknowledged it in his next letter.

I laid off some months and, by

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the kind help of Col. Wood and L. D. Nickerson, I started up again, but did not find the true fissure vein or mother lode. Our neighbors turned in and worked hard and long, all to no purpose. We got one assay from Chicago Smelting Works; it was \$1.10 silver and \$2.06 in gold. Another from Burlingame, Denver, Col., went \$14.90 to the ton of rock.

Readers, you naturally would ask: What benefit has it been to you? None, financially; but it has established in my mind that the human family lives on and do communicate back to friends yet alive on earth. That fact I would not part with for all the gold that ever will be found in Shawano county; and, remember, there must be some one to find the first gold in any country, and he generally faces the hardest of any. It may be a long time before it will be

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profitable. It may yet be found in abundance. I know we found a little and I have truthfully told how I found it. It seems the spirits are freer to teach us that they do live than to show us much gold to quarrel over.

A trap used for catching labor is a bad thing in unworthy hands. It might be the destruction of our neighbor. And cause misery through the land.

In the course of that summer, the old gentleman came again and stayed four or five days. He said to me one day: "My mind was occupied with the description you gave of my wife from the time I left here until now. Being a stranger, how could you tell how my wife looked." I said: "No, I never saw you before and never saw your wife." I said to him in substance: "I do not claim to know anything but what is addressed to some of my five senses. The medium described her to me and your

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wife located that shaft out there, and I knew by a feeling that she was your wife."

"Vell! vell! that ish strange." He said he was a Catholic and never heard the priests say anything about people coming back, but that it might be that the priests did not know all that is true. I asked if his wife was naturally a miner. He said she was, did not want to talk on any other subject and was much interested in finding minerals. The mind is a part of the spirit and that trait will be hard to get rid of.

When speaking of P. Semple and his core drill, I said I would refer to it again, and now we have got to it. You see it is a good thing to know where we are at.

In one visit to the medium, she said there was a flat opening in the rocks and considerable mineral in it of stalagmites and stalactites.

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This quartz hangs from the roof and wall, and is on the floor where the water has dropped and congealed into quartz. We were bothered with water from the start and I thought such an opening would be filled with water. I asked: "Is there any water in it?" She said: "No, not much. It inclines to the west and there is a little water on the floor, but it falls into a crevice. I can hear it run down, down the rocks."

Readers, this statement took me back—nearly level surface, dips a little to the west, plenty of water in the rocks to the top. Think of it, a comparatively dry place below say twenty feet down, and did not effect the top water. Where is that lower level or where is its outlet? We are not very high up, but I am convinced that that may be true, although it looks unnatural.

Mr. Semple drilled on A. C. Mc-

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Cully's place some thirty rods to the west. He had our team and man to haul water. Water had to be forced into the drill pipe down to the drill, which washed out the drillings, forcing them up on the outside of the pipe to the top and run over into a reservoir, and when that water settled it could be used over again and again. He said it would be light work for the team after a day or two, but I noticed there was no let-up and asked the boss about the water. He said it did not come up after it was down twenty feet. It seeks a lower level. This was the same as the medium said was going on thirty rods to the east. What a coincidence! How unnatural to the first thought. Who could guess at that and guess right. What intelligence communicated that unseen condition to the medium. Though I did not see the spirit, still I believe she was

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possessed of an intelligence whose eyes were not eclipsed by the rocks. What else could I think, knowing that old lady was not down twenty feet in that rock to see the condition of the water. I lived here and cleared the land and know whereof I speak. Ah, truth is stranger than fiction.

At another time I called on the medium and she described a young woman whom I recognized as my daughter Martha, who passed over the silent river many years ago. She took possession of the medium, and, after some conversation, she located a spot and said: "Father, there is gold quartz all over that place, about two acres. It is in the rock a little down from the top."

I came home, took the spade and investigated. I found three feet of clay and gravel. The rock was rough as if covered with six-quart pans placed up-side down on it. I

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broke the top and about six inches down found a floor that was water-worn and rough. The top rock was bent over the knobs on the floor between those knobs were chunks of quartz loose. I saw at a glance that it had been the floor of an opening, and the quartz was formed by drippings from the roof. These chunks were about the size of tea cups and saucers, all loose. I sent away some and they assayed three dollars per ton and that would not pay. I picked out a lot for my mineral table.

If I had no other test but that one it would have prepared me to pass over the silent river without the fear of an angry devil or a hot hell. I was sure any child lived on and could go and come as she pleased. O, what an advanced thought! Just think how we have been taught—a little tucked-up

GOLD MINING IN SHAWANO COUNTY

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a kind of a hell and a little strip betwixt the two, and those who would pass from among the old fogies in Heaven, that they detested in this life to hell, they cannot, and those who would go from hell to Heaven, they better not.

I will stop a stroke, I perceive it is religion I am at, and gold was my text.

There might be a thought in your mind like this: "If there is plenty of gold there, why did not your daughter see it and locate the spot." Well, it may be she likes me better than you think and wishes to keep the trap out of my hand that is so commonly set for the farmers' home. She knows we are making character for over there, and if I had no trap no one would be caught by me; and the little she did show me was so small that it would not hurt a saint. But she showed me that she yet lives and

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that is worth more than a mountain of gold.

As I was born in 1819, I must be getting along some in years and must pass along soon to the spirit side of life; and as all there is of a man is his character in this life and that which is to come, understanding all this, let me say that the tests written in this little book are the truth.

I have been told of other places where the spirits say there is gold and silver, but being out of money and out of strength, I consider myself out of the business.



Give me but one single rood
Of fruitful garden ground,
Where I may raise my healthy food
And take my early morning round

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My Portrait or Picture.

My head is silvered o'er with age.
Long experience makes me a sage.
My feet are covered o'er with corns,
Which makes me wish I'd not been born.

My hands are hard from work
they've done;
They fought quite hard but have
not won.

My eye are dim with age near four
score.

They may improve as I near the
other shore.

My ears don't hear all that is talk-
ed about;

The impression is they are nearly
worn out.

My teeth, no doubt, will do me for
a spell,

Still I have a couple that ache like
h—ll.—G. B. COLE.

Supplementary.

After writing the foregoing and leaving it with the printer another circumstance came up, much like some thing already mentioned, and as the book will be small, I thought it would not be amiss to add one circumstance to the work, omitting some names connected with it because I have not asked the privilege to do so. For instance, I had some financial help and few would want it known. But they helped such an enterprise. The book is not an advertisement; it is simply a few facts about clairvoyance, as addressed to my senses.

In October, 1894, a man came from Appleton to investigate the minerals of Lessor. He put in a blast in the old shaft. I did not hear what it amounted to; I think

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nothing, as he did not follow it up. He left some ammunition and tools in the neighborhood and told me to use them if I wanted to prospect about that time.

I heard of a new clairvoyant, a stranger, and a thought struck me to write to her, and I did so. My letter ran thus:

"DEAR MADAM,—On my old place in Lessor, we found gold and silver but not in paying quantities. I believe that the mother lode or true fissure vein was near by and if through your gift you can locate it for me, it shall be an advantage to you."

In a few days I received through the mail a diagram of the shaft, with scale of feet and points of compass. The map was perfect on all that could be seen. The woman was a total stranger and not one of us who made the shaft knew how many feet it was across the same.

Looking back

100 YEARS AGO

From the Appleton Post Crescent

April, 1885

A member of the Black Creek Mining Company was in the city Friday, and in conversation with a newspaper reporter said that the organization would continue to prospect early next month. A meeting will soon be held and new offices elected for that purpose.

In the town of Lessor, Shawano County, just across the county line, a Mr. Cole has "struck it rich." On his farm he is working day and night and is getting from \$12 to \$104 worth of gold to the ton. The people of that locality are convinced that there is gold in paying quantities.

BIOGRAPHIES

The articles below were taken from the *Bears Commemorative Biographical Records*, printed 1895. The articles are on George Frazer, John Becker and Ole Erickson.

GEORGE H. FRAZER, a leading citizen of Lessor township, Shawano county, was born in New York City May 30, 1844, a son of Henry P. and Jane (Moyston) Frazer, who were both born in Ireland, in the year 1805.

Henry P. Frazer was a civil engineer in Ireland, and engaged in mercantile pursuits in New York until 1846, when he abandoned that and took up farming, which he ever afterward followed. There were the following children in the family: James, now in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he is a contractor, has a wife and large family, and is a very successful man; Isabella, married to Andrew H. Frazer, a distant relative, who was killed by a boiler explosion on the Siginaw river in 1861 (she now lives with her brother George H.); William S., who is living in Vinland, Winnebago Co., Wis., engaged in farming, which he has always followed with gratifying success, married and had one daughter, Carrie, who died at the age of fifteen years (his wife died in January, 1895.); Margaret S., widow of Orin Pebbles, of Stephenville, Outagamie Co., Wis., who was an early settler of that place, following farming there until he enlisted in the Civil war, and dying in 1889 from disabilities originating while he was in the service (he left a wife and five children—Charles, Jennie, Lottie, George and Nellie: Mrs. Pebbles is still living on the homestead in Stephenville); Annie J., wife of Henry P. Walrath (they have three children—Minnie (Mrs. Harry Ditzel, of Bay City, Mich.), Harry P. and Edith; (Mr. Walrath is a merchant in Seymour, Outagamie Co., Wis., and was by occupation a sawfiler in sawmills); Margy G., first married to John Murshgraves, who was killed in the war of the Rebellion, leaving one daughter, Jennie (Mrs. John F. Johnson, of Angelica township, Shawano county, who has one son, Harris J.), and for her second husband married J. Gardiner, of Angelica township; and George H., the subject proper of these lines.

Henry P. Frazer and his wife left New York City in 1846, and went with their family upon a farm in Lewis county, N.Y., where he bought some hundred acres of land, mostly in a primitive condition, on which stood a log house about 18 x 20 feet in which they made their beginning. There were some four acres cleared, and this work was continued at the expense, to some extent, of the education of the younger children. By the help of his boys Mr. Frazer made a home, and they lived there until about 1855, when, having sold the farm, they moved to Saginaw, Mich., and remained there some time. Mr. Frazer, being crippled, did nothing; his eldest son was in Brooklyn, N.Y., and George H. Frazer worked in the machine shop in Saginaw, Mich., when, in 1861, the parents left that place and removed to Stephenville, Outagamie Co., Wis. At that time Appleton was the terminus of the Chicago & North Western railway. Buying twenty-five acres of land, they lived there four years, when Mr. Frazer sold out and returned to Saginaw, Mich., and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, he dying in 1872, she in 1893, at the advanced age of ninety-five years.

When George H. Frazer was two years old his parents removed to the farm in Lewis county, N.Y., and he was early accustomed to hard labor. He left home in Stephenville in 1864, and enlisted in Company A., First Wis. V.C., was mustered into service in Green Bay, Wis., and was sent with his command to Nashville, Tenn., then farther south, participating in active service from that time. This regiment and the Fourth Michigan had the honor of capturing Jefferson Davis. The first Wis. V.C. were engaged in several regular battles, and had numerous skirmishes. Mr. Frazer was wounded at Hopkinsville, Ky., and was laid up in the hospital. They were discharged at Nashville, Tenn., in June, 1865, at the close of the war, and Mr. Frazer came back to Oshkosh, and was in the employ of farmers until the time of his marriage.

On April 6, 1869, George H. Frazer married Lomanda C. Clark, who was born in Vinland, Winnebago Co., Wis., February 11, 1850, and they have

reared a family of nine children, as follows: George C., at home; Darwin A., farmer of Vinland, Wis.; Anna J., who is engaged in church work in the Deaconess Home in Milwaukee; James W., a carpenter, at home; Bessie May, Daisy Belle, and Verna Vane, all at home; a daughter that died in infancy; Kittie V.W., who died at the age of five years. The parents of Mrs. George H. Frazer, George and Catherine (Baird) Clark, were from Lincolnshire, England, and Ireland, respectively. Mr. Clark, who was a farmer, came about the year of 1846 to Wisconsin, bought a tract of land, opened it up and cleared a home. They had five daughters, namely Elizabeth, wife of Robert Small, a farmer of Oshkosh township, Winnebago county, who was a soldier in the war of the Rebellion; Mary, wife of William Crowfoot, a farmer of Maple Grove township, Shawano county, who was also a soldier in the Civil war; Lomanda C., Mrs. Frazer; Rebecca A., wife of Loran Pennock, of Scottsville, Ky., owner of a spoke factory; and Ellen, Mrs. Andrew Anderson, of Vinland, Wis., who is living on the homestead, her mother living with them at the age of eighty years. The father died April 5, 1872, aged sixty-two years; he was a large man, weighing 280 pounds.

Mr. Frazer came with a team and wagon from Vinland to Shawano county, locating here in what is now Lessor township, and took up 160 acres of land, a part of which he still owns. The journey took five days. There were no roads when he came, and he cut his own road to the farm, and afterward helped to cut many of the other roads here. He built a frame house, 18 x 24 feet, in which they started their new life, and commenced to clear a home for himself, working the first year with only an axe and a grub-hoe, for he had no team. This went on, and he soon had crops, so that the land became of some assistance as a means of support. He paid twenty-two cents a pound for salt pork, and nine dollars a barrel for flour. Mr. Frazer did his first threshing with a flail, and eight cents a bushel was the charge made for threshing the oats by the first machine, and ten cents for wheat. When he came here there were only four settlers in the township, which was then a part of Waukechon, and at the first vote in the township there were only seventeen voters. Mr. Frazer's eldest daughter, Anna, was the first white child born in the township, the little hamlet of Frazer, as well as the post office of that name, were named in honor of Mr. Frazer, he being the first settler in that place. Through the united efforts of himself and his noble wife, Mr. Frazer has made a fine home out of the improvements made in the vicinity, but has also been instrumental in securing them. Today he has 120 acres of land, of which some seventy are cleared, and he has carried on general agriculture, for seventeen years also operating a threshing machine. In 1876 he was burned out, with a loss of some five hundred dollars. Mr. Frazer is a member of Seymour Lodge, I.O.O.F. Politically he is a Republican, and has always supported that party. In 1892 he was chosen, at Milwaukee, as one of the delegates to attend the National convention held at Omaha, Neb. He was the first chairman of Lessor township, holding the office four years, has been town clerk, town treasurer three years, assessor one year, and justice of the peace continuously since the town was organized, holding that office at the present time. At present he is erecting one of the most sightly and commodious farm houses in the county.

JOHN T. BECKER, of Lessor township, Shawano County, a successful farmer and miller, was born in Austria, in 1847, and is a son of Thaddeus and Josephine (Erhart) Becker. Thaddeus Becker was a learned shoemaker, and also a blacksmith, though he never worked much at this latter trade. In 1850 he sailed with his wife in a two-masted ship from Bremen to America, landing in Philadelphia after a very rough passage of sixty-five days. From Philadelphia they went to New York, then came to Milwaukee, Wis., where Mr. Becker was employed in the Bradley shoe shop, doing the fine work, and remained about a year. He then made the trip with oxen from Milwaukee to Ellington, Outagamie Col., Wis., where he bought eighty acres of land, and building a log house thereon began the work of making a home, subsequently adding forty acres to his original purchase. The journey thither-occupied about two weeks, and on July 4, while on their way, they passed through Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac county, then but a small town. He brought leather enough with him from Milwaukee to last him one year, and was thus enabled to provide for his family until he could get a start. There was but one road there at

the time, known as the military road. He was among the early settlers in the region, and in the opening up and clearing of his land endured all the hardships and privations of pioneer life. Thaddeus Becker died on the homestead in Ellington during the Civil war, leaving five children, namely: Antone, married, now a successful farmer in Greenville, Outagamie county; Joseph T., subject proper of these lines; Anna, wife of Conrad Kraetcbek, a farmer of Ellington, Wis.; John, living on the homestead, where his mother; now eighty years of age, lives with him; and Andrew, a farmer of Ellington, who is married and has a family.

Joseph T. Becker had very meager opportunities for an education, for the school was four miles distant, and he could not attend more than half the time. He was put to hard work rather young, and has earned his own living since he was about seventeen years old. He learned the carpenter's trade, at which he has always worked, and has also been engaged in the sawmilling business. He made his home in Ellington, Outagamie Co., Wis., until 1868, when he was united in marriage with Margaret Stroup, who was born in Austria, and they had six children, namely: Fannie who is now the wife of Louis Gokey, a landlord in Pulcifer, Shawano Co., Wis.; and Mary, Albert, Joseph, Frank, and Emma, all at home. Margaret Stroup accompanied her parents to America, and they came to Wisconsin, locating at Greenville, Outagamie county, where they bought a farm on which they spent the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Stroup passing away about 1865.

When Mr. Becker was married he bought his wife's father's farm, which was nearly cleared, and engaged in farming there about three years, after which he went to Colby, Clark Co., Wis., where he erected a temporary shingle-mill and remained about one year, in that time losing about three thousand dollars. Returning to the farm, he lived there about five years, also working in the sawmill in Black Creek, Outagamie county. About 1884 he came to Lessor township, Shawano county, here building a mill costing three thousand dollars; he first had a partner, but soon bought him out, afterward conducting the mill himself. In 1888 he was burned out here, losing some three thousand dollars, and he had previously been burned out on the farm. Thus he has been unfortunate, and it is only by his own hard labor and that of his family that he has kept afloat. Today he has 280 acres of land, and contemplates building a planing mill at a probable cost of two thousand dollars. He has operated the threshing machine twenty-five years, and at the present time owns one threshing machine and self-traction engine. Twenty-three years ago he owned two engines, one of which he sold to his brother, while the other he converted into a self-traction engine by adding more machinery to it. This was the first of the kind in this part of the country, and Mr. Becker hauled it from place to place with a team of oxen. At present (1895) he owns the "Briarton Hall", hotel and saloon, combined, besides a lumber-mill, shingle-mill, planing-mill and feed-mill, all combined. Politically, he is a Democrat, and has always supported that party; the family are members of the Catholic Church. When he was eighteen years old Mr. Becker went into the service of the Union as a substitute for his brother Anton.

OLE ERICKSON, township clerk of Lessor township, Shawano county, and who has held that office since 1890, was born in Norway, near Christiania, April 9, 1854, son of Erick and Ingeborg (Helgeson) Oleson.

Erick Oleson, was a tanner in Norway, embarked with his wife and family on the sailing vessel "Erna" at Christiania, Norway for America, landed at Quebec after a voyage of seven weeks, and came direct to Wisconsin, arriving in Manitowoc August 15, 1867. They located in Gibson, Manitowoc county, where the father bought a tract of forty acres, then in a primitive condition, on which he lived with his family seven years, meanwhile opening up the land and clearing it for a home. In 1874 he came to Lessor township, Shawano county, and purchasing eighty acres engaged in general farming, also speculating in land, and he has owned at one time as much as 640 acres, in different tracts. Mr. and Mrs. Oleson, both now sixty-four years of age, are still living on the homestead, which is now a fine farm, and their younger children are still living at home with them. Their children are eight in number-five boys and three girls—as follows: Ole, subject of this sketch; Helge, a farmer of Lessor township, and now township assessor, who married and had eleven children, eight of whom are yet living, three being dead; Christia, wife of Peter Jommen of Maple Grove township, where he is a successful farmer (they had seven children-five living and two dead);

Nels, owner of a forty acre farm in Lessor township, married and had five children—three living and two dead; Hans, living in Lessor, who had three children—two living and one dead (his wife died in 1894); Peter, unmarried, living with his father, and Caroline and Hannah, both at home.

Ole Erickson attended school but five months in his native land, and they had only four weeks' schooling there each year; in this country he attended school only eighteen days, so it will be seen that his education has been obtained elsewhere than in the schoolroom. He went to work in the lumber woods, and since he was fifteen years old has done a man's work. In 1872 he came to Lessor township, and here, in Section I, bought a tract of eighty acres, which still forms a portion of his farm. It was wild and in a primitive condition, inhabited only by deer, bears, and howling wolves, and he did not commence to improve it until after his marriage, up to that time working out by the day.

On May 26, 1877, Mr. Erickson was united in marriage with Bertha Gilbert, who was born in Manitowoc county, Wis., July 9, 1858, and they have one son, Henry Edward, born April 5, 1878, and living at home with his parents. Hans and Mary (Paulson) Gilbert, parents of Mrs. Erickson, were both from Norway, sailing from Christiania about the year 1850, and landing at Quebec after a voyage of thirteen weeks, thence coming to Wisconsin and locating in Manitowoc county. They were married in America, and had a family of three children, as follows: One that died in infancy; Gabriel, a farmer in Pierce county, Wis., where he is a successful and prominent citizen, for ten years serving as clerk of his township (he has a wife and six children), and Bertha, Mrs. Erickson. Mr. Gilbert was one of the early settlers in Manitowoc county, where he bought and opened up land and cleared a home, and there were but a few shanties in what is now Manitowoc city when he made a settlement. From Manitowoc county they moved to Pierce county, Wis., where Mr. Gilbert has since made his home. He is now sixty-five years of age; his wife, Mary, died in 1875, at the age of fifty-eight.

When Mr. Erickson was married he located on the land where he now lives, and had a log house 16 x 24 feet, in which they lived until 1893, when a modern farm house was erected in its stead. The land was low, and very hard to clear and put into farming condition, and no roads had been cut at that time. Mr. Erickson had an ox-team, an axe and a grub hoe, those convenient tools of a pioneer, and commenced the work of clearing with which he advanced as rapidly as possible, and today he is the owner of 100 acres of land, of which seventy are cleared and under cultivation, a result which has been accomplished solely by hard work. Mr. Erickson engages in general agriculture. Politically he supports and always has supported the Republican party, and he has held office ever since he was twenty-one years old, at present serving as township clerk. For ten years he as township treasurer, chairman two years, supervisor one year, and he has been school treasurer fourteen years. In religious affiliation the family are members of the United Scandinavian Lutheran Church.