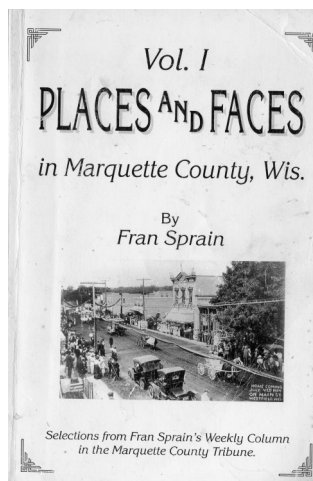
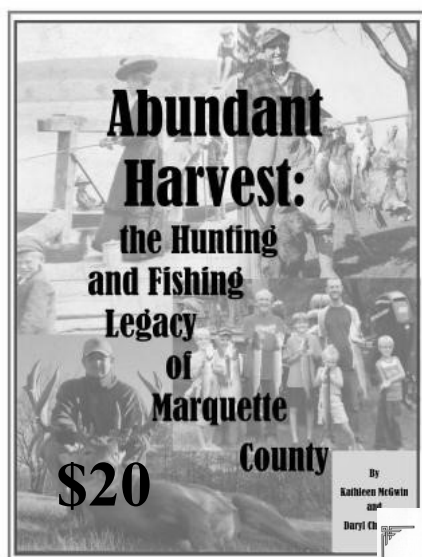
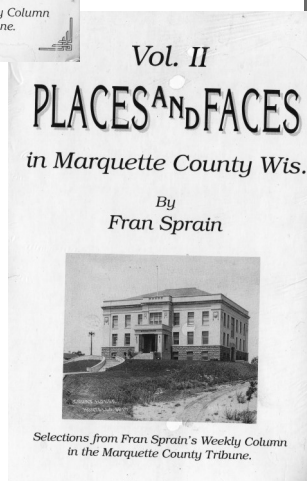
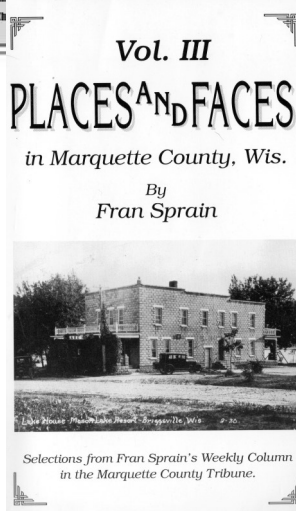
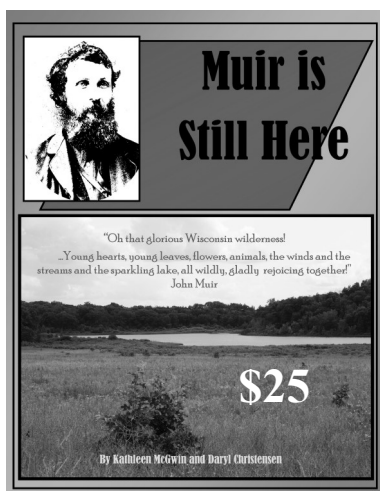
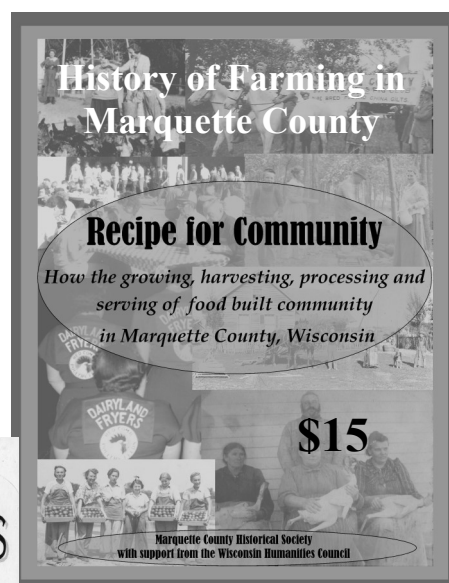


Recording History....

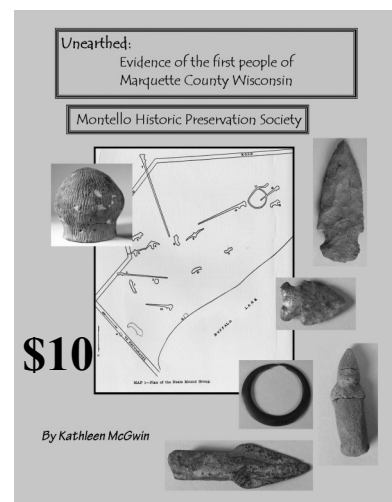
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Historic Building in Budsins

Located in Budsins, this little building shown on the right represents a big part of rural history. Farmers banded together to form mutual insurance companies to protect their property. The plaque on a stone in front of the overgrown, tin covered building reads, "Farmers Mutual Insurance — A town insurance company to be known as the Crystal Lake Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company has been organized in the towns of Crystal Lake, Shields, Neshkoro and Newton, and will soon be ready to commence business.

The following have been chosen officers of the company:

President Christoph Tagatz

Secretary August Schauer

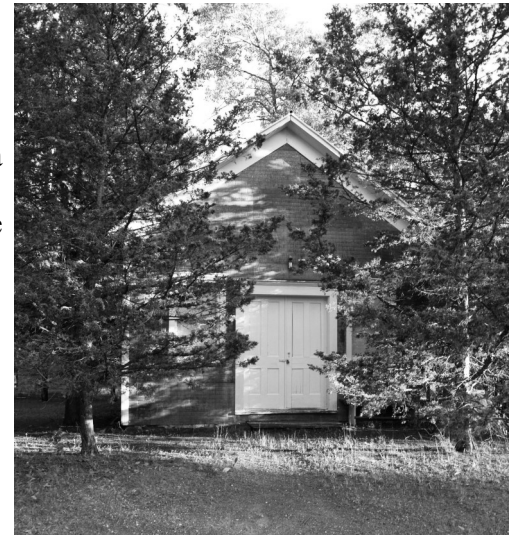
Treasurer Julius Breitenfeld

Agent Albert Hebbe

Directors Gottlieb Hebbe, Edward Sommerfeld, August Zelmer, Theodore Teske, Daniel Kroll, August Matz, Ferdinand Tagatz

Montello Express January 29, 1876

This plaque was erected in the bicentennial year, 1976, to mark 100 years of successful business in this hall."



The first meeting of 41 farmers who organized the Crystal Lake Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company was held on December 27, 1875. After a year of business, the insurance in force was \$63,906. The Board of the Crystal Lake Utica Mutual Insurance Company (Crystal Lake merged with Utica in 1970) held its 100th annual meeting at the Budsins insurance hall in 1975. The centennial committee of the board planning for a celebration during the Bicentennial year of the United States was made up of Don Buchholz, Wilbur Zamzow, Arnold Kretzmann, and Elmer Weiland.

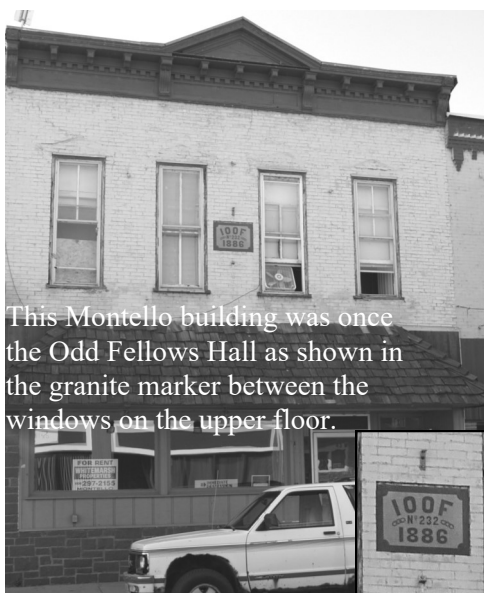
The Marquette Historical Society would like to have volunteers who would help us record and organize preservation of these little historic gems in Marquette County. Please volunteer and help us preserve history and thank you to all of you who work to save our history for the future.

Odd Fellows once active in Marquette County

If you go to the Montello Historic Preservation Society granite quarry exhibit in Montello, you'll see a granite marker and a ribbon that represent a time when civic organizations were at their height and almost everyone belonged to one. The Odd Fellows were one of these. Loring (L.A.) and Stephen S.D.) Perkins were both active in the Montello community and in various organizations. Loring started the Woolen Mill and Stephen

owned and operated the Perkins House Hotel, a brick yard, was part owner of a store for awhile, owned a boat that travelled the Fox River, and was involved in the first Montello Granite Company. He also was a member of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows (IOOF) and Loring, in 1878, was the Prophet of the Council of Mendotas.

Although there are several theories of when and how the IOOF first started, the organization itself relates on its web site that it began in England in the early 1800s but moved quickly to America, establishing deep roots in New England and spreading across the United States. IOOF is a benevolent organization, calling its members odd fellows from a heritage of helping others for no purpose other than the desire to care for fellow human beings. This behavior was seen as odd in the industrializing England where poverty and disease plagued many and most well-to-do people did not want to leave their more comfortable surroundings. The three links in the logo of the IOOF symbolize Friendship, Love and Truth.



This Montello building was once the Odd Fellows Hall as shown in the granite marker between the windows on the upper floor.

Fraternal organizations continued

The Odd Fellows gave one of their delightful dancing parties in their hall on Thanksgiving eve. Nickel's orchestra furnished the music. A good sized crowd gathered at an early hour and tripped the light fantastic toe, until 3 o'clock the following morning. At 12 o'clock the ladies served a bountiful supper, which all present appreciated. The music was excellent, the floor was in fine shape and everybody had a good time.

Opera House—one night—Friday, Dec. 6, J. Burt Johnson, that popular comedian and his company of players will present that great comedy drama, San Antonio in 4 acts. All special scenery. Plenty of singing and dancing specialties between the acts. Mr. Johnson has engaged the musical Clarks to present their big musical specialty between the acts so don't miss this play. Prices 15, 25 and 35c. Seats on sale at the usual place. (Advertisement.)

To the left, this 1912 Montello Express article attests to how organizations like the Odd Fellows once offered a great deal of social life to Marquette County communities. The Masons also once had lodges in several Marquette County communities including Endeavor. Below is a photo of the Masons Hall on the left. You can see their symbolic logos hanging in the upper windows.

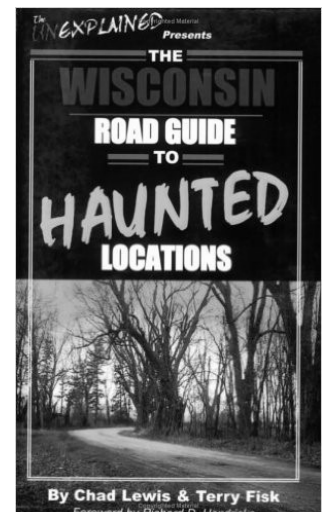


PLAN TO ATTEND!!!

Sunday, April 17 at 1:30 pm at the Marquette County Historical Society in Westfield

Chad Lewis Popular Wisconsin Author of the Strange and Unusual Bizarre History of Wisconsin - Strange Stories From Our Past

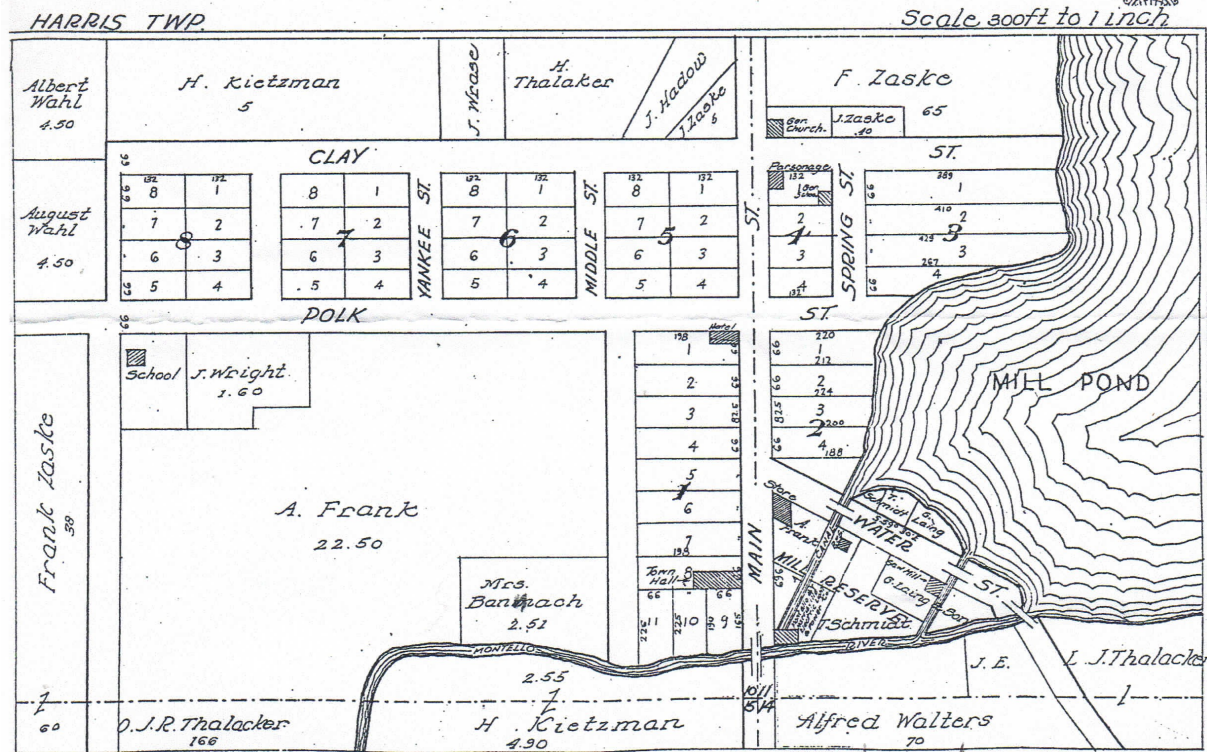
This presentation showcases over 100 bizarre newspaper stories from Wisconsin that have not been seen in over 100 years. These unbelievable stories were not lost, they were simply hidden. Hidden Headlines of Wisconsin provides a time portal back to the early days of the state. Filled with strange deaths, ghosts, sea serpents, peculiar people, medical anomalies, oddities, psychic phenomena, and UFOs, this presentation will certainly change the way you view the good ol' days of Wisconsin. For over two decades Chad Lewis has traveled the back roads of the world in search of the strange and unusual. Chad has been featured on the Discovery Channel's A Haunting, William Shatner's Weird or What, ABC's Scariest Places on Earth, Monsters and Mysteries in America and Beyond Belief along with being a frequent contributor on Ripley's Believe it or Not Radio. With a Masters Degree in Psychology, Chad has authored over 20 books on the supernatural, and extensively lectured on his fascinating findings. The more bizarre the legend, the more likely it is that you will find Chad there. A \$2 donation at the door is requested.



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP or if you are reading this newsletter and are not yet a member, please JOIN NOW. Membership is due November 1. Remember, Life Time membership is \$200 and you never pay again! Individual \$10 Family \$25 Sustaining \$25 Business \$50 (includes business card in newsletter for a year). We need your support.

In 1922, Albert Zierke wrote a history of Harris. Some of the things he recorded: "The farmers now being overstocked with butter and eggs, and resolved to build a store. After the store was built, there was a steady demand for butter and eggs. The farmers in return bought house hold goods and farm implements. The people now began to call the borough Harrisville in honor of James Harrison the founder. Now that a little borough had spring up more buildings were built. One was where sewing, weaving, apinning and knitting were done. The other was a post office. In 1878 the Montello River was dammed at Harrisville in order to give power to run a saw mill. Adam Smith (Schmitz) was the originator and owner of the plant. Lang and son succeeded him in business after his death. After the village had begun Mr. Farrington built a flour mill. It was built from

HARRISVILLE



boards that were obtained in Montello that were brought down the Fox River by boats from the lumber regions. In 1885 Mr. J. Golhler built a cane syrup plant. He ran his plant by horses hitched on a board on which an evener was placed, then driving the horse around in a circle.

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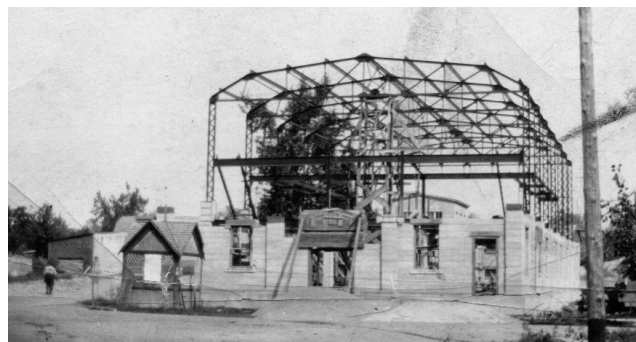
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Jody Bowman (2017) Kathleen McGwin (2017) Allen Wilkomm (2017)

"Imprints: On the Sands of Marquette County" is the quarterly published newsletter of

the Marquette County Historical Society

Editor: Kathleen McGwin



Below, Montello City Hall, now TW Designs.
Above, hall being built. Note spring house in front.

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