



The Taste of Norway

The variety of demonstrations at the fifth annual Taste of Norway event ranged from Norwegian pastries to blacksmithing. *Above, left to right:* Dorothy Berg offering up rosettes at the Northland Lutheran Church Ladies stand. Clint Danke skillfully working over the blacksmith forge in the schoolyard. Gerry Johnson working up materials for traditional rug looming. Jennifer Wandtke and her daughter Mia rosemaling. *Left, left to right:* Bob Stamstad laboring over the hot lefse griddle. Shirley Shuda and Georgine Demling turned out krumkake samples. *Photos by John Bertelson.*

Donors & Loaners

October • November • December

ARCHIVAL DONATIONS: Marie App (old pictures), Enid Cleaves (vintage postcards and business card), Tenny Fogelberg (C. K. Blandin Paper Co. book), Michael Godgrey (book of Chandler family letters), Carolyn Gunderson (mercantile order books, fur muffler), Susan Herney (WWI scrapbook), Darrell Holubetz (Iola Winter Sports event programs), Philip A. Strand ("Mill In the Mist" painting), Stella Strand (miscellaneous stuff), Donald Van Deest (corn sheller).

DONATIONS OF CASH AND IN-KIND: Mary Jane Bennett (cash undesignated), Howard & Kathy Bestul (cash for cabooses), Scott & Karri Bestul (cash undesignated), Jane G. Cooper (cash undesignated), Mark & Terry Doll (cash undesignated), Robert & Beverly Ellingson (cash undesignated), DeRonda Engebretson (cash for firehouse doors), Donald Faldet (two electric motors for R.I. Anderson display), Betty Finch (cash for depot), First National Bank (cash undesignated), Carol A. Hall (cash for display cabinetry), Leonard & Irene Haroldson (cash undesignated), Don Helgerson (cash cabooses), Iola Fire Department & Ambulance Service (cash for Fire House doors), Leland & Ruth Johnson (cash undesignated), Norman W. Larson (cash undesignated), Greg Loescher (cash for Fire House doors), Earl Lukaszewski (labor on event lighting), Chris Mortenson (cash undesignated), Dick & Joan Niemiec (cash undesignated), Joan Paulson (cash undesignated), Ruth Strand (cash undesignated), Robert E. Stamstad (cash for cabooses), Stella Strand (2 file cabinets).

2015 Supporting Members

The Iola Historical Society wishes to extend special recognition and thanks to the following individuals and organizations for the extra financial support their ongoing status as **Supporting Members** provides to the Society's activities: Doris Beier, Mary Bennett, Scott & Karri Bestul, Barbara Egner-Pelmar, DeRonda & Patricia Engebretson, Leonard & Irene Haroldson, Lee & Ruth Johnson, Phyllis Morris, Joan & Richard Niemiec, Philip A. Strand, Ruth Strand, Forrest & Virginia Torgerson, William H. & Jacqueline J. Wilker.

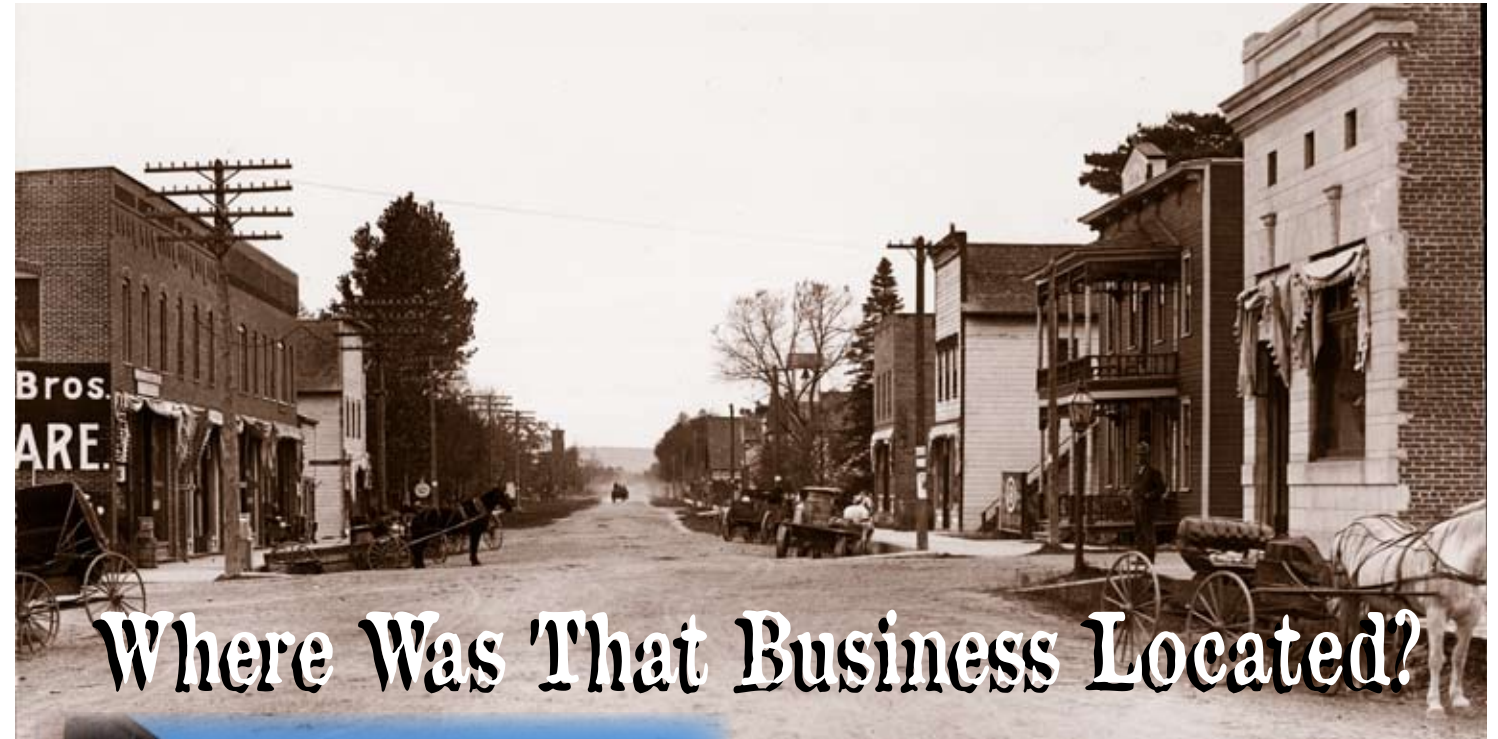
The Iola Historical Society's Window

Quarterly Member and Activities Newsletter

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Where Was That Business Located?



View of Main Street Scandinavia dated after October 1900 when the bank shown on the right was open for business, and February 1908 when the windmill on the left at the far end of Main Street was torn down. Next to the bank is the Thornton Hotel which is covered in more detail on page 2. Appearing in the window at the top of this page is a view of the Windmill where doors and windows were manufactured. The tower jutting from the roof housed the rotating blades which provided the power to operate the machinery.

Most of you have undoubtedly been asked sometime or another where a certain business or house was located years ago in your community. Or, you might have even wondered about the same thing. This is the question that has been asked numerous times by persons interested in the history of Scandinavia, or any other community for that matter. Over the years many structural changes have taken place in our hometowns. The old general store where great grandma and grandpa traded eggs and butter for flour and sugar is long gone. As is the barber shop where old timers used to sit on the bench out front and exchange yarns, and maybe a few tall tales, about days and years gone by. Early photos don't always tell us

the exact location of certain buildings.

At our October meeting, Society member Doug Watson presented a PowerPoint program titled "Now & Then." The opening image shown on the screen was of a current location in Scandinavia, this image was replaced with a picture from the Friends Of Scandinavia History (FOSH) archives showing the historical building which once stood on that exact same site. Accompanying this article are a few "Now & Then" images from the FOSH files. You might just remember some of the "Thens."

To view additional early images of Scandinavia check out their website at: friendsofscandinaviahistory.org.

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President's Message

Our October meeting program "Scandinavia - Now & Then" provided those in attendance an overview of how the streets of our neighbor to the south have changed over the past century. I thought it would be appropriate to provide a brief overview for those members who were unable to attend that presentation, by IHS member Doug Watson, who also wears the hat of president of the Friends of Scandinavia History (FOSH), as this issue's *Window* feature.

Doug and his fellow FOSH officers -- vice-president Carl Lantz, secretary-treasurer Mary Peterson, and board members Susan Barlow, Charles Thompson, and Harry Zawacki -- are dedicated to uncovering and preserving the history of the village and town of Scandinavia. The organization meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Mondays of January, March, May, July, September and November at the Municipal Center.

The major project of FOSH is the development of Scandinavia's Historic Street located in the Community Park at the north end of Main Street. It presently features four historic buildings that are undergoing restoration; the Eliason and Knoph log cabins dating from the 1850s, a barber/millinery shop dating from the 1890s, and a 1930s era service station. Their major annual fundraiser is a Chili Luncheon, this year set for Sunday, March 22, which also features a raffle, silent auction and book sale.

As an IHS member I encourage you to consider expanding your support of the historical heritage our sister communities share by becoming a member of the FOSH organization as well. Annual dues for individuals are \$10, or \$15 for a household, with individual lifetime memberships available for \$100. Make your check payable to FOSH and mail it to; Mary Peterson/ Treasurer, E622 County Road V, Scandinavia, WI 54977.



This image from around 1910 illustrates why Scandinavia was a railroad center. The passenger train on the left has just arrived from Iola. After the Green Bay and Western passenger train sitting on the mainline continues its westward journey, the I&N will reposition itself in front of the depot to drop off, and take on, freight and passengers. It will then begin its 4.7 mile return trip backwards to Iola. The Waupaca-Green Bay train shown on the right is ready to make the 9.8 mile trip south to Waupaca.

SCANDINAVIA-NOW & THEN



Construction of this hotel began in November, 1891 and it was open for business January 14, 1892. Initially it was called the Johnson Hotel, after its owner, Charles Johnson. In March, 1892 the telephone office was located in this hotel. O.D. Billings, a barber who was originally from Amherst, had his barbershop in the basement of this hotel for a couple of months in early 1892 until he moved his business into another building. On April 14, 1892 Johnson sold the "Commercial House" to O.H. Iverson. In November, 1899 it was sold again, this time to a Mr. Miles of Ogdensburg. During 1909 Dr. B.C. Delano had his dentist office in the hotel and performed dental work on Thursdays. The name was changed to Hotel Thornton sometime during February, 1910. In April, 1911 the Hotel Thornton was sold to Mrs. Koontz of Grand Rapids, who in August, 1912 sold the hotel to Henry Rhode of Waupaca. The hotel, which was located on the northeast corner of Main and Norse streets was torn down in late 1922.



According to an early resident, Lars Nilson (Nelson)--also known as Nils Larson--owned and operated this general store which was located on the corner where the bank is. There were open barrels of crackers and brown sugar. Customers needed to climb steps to enter the store. Sheep climb the steps and sleep on the porch at night. Almost every family owned a cow and the women would sit out in the street and milk their cows. They tied the cow to the fence and then milked it right out there on the street. After the milking the cows were turned loose to roam the streets.

In the February 27, 1890 issue of the *Waupaca Post* a news item states that "Gotschalk (Elias) & Wanbon (Ole N.) are preparing new wagons the community may want in the spring. In the September 4, 1890 issue appears a Dissolution Notice stating Gotschalk is no longer a part of the business. Evidently Wanbon was doing a thriving business because the April 20, 1893 issue of the newspaper announced, "Ole Wanbon is making matters lively in the carriage trade, having already sold 15 this Spring. In 1896 Ole Wanbon was assisted in manufacturing wagons by his brother Nels. Wanbon's Wagon Shop was located on the southeast corner of Main and Center Streets. Upstairs above the shop was located a hall where numerous community activities took place. During the 1920s the *Iola Herald* told its readers about some of these events including fireman's annual spread, wedding dances, and various meetings.



On the corner where Little Norway is presently located there was a photography studio, quite possibly operated by E.D. Erickson. Occupying the next store to the south (left) was the Thorson Bros. general store. On the second floor of the same building was a dress making business. The 1897/1898 Wisconsin Gazeteer lists two millinery businesses, Hendrickson & Larson and Mrs. A. Western. The small one-story building in the middle of the block was to serve as the post office. The building had a false front constructed sometime after this photo was taken. Sometime later, another two story building was to be built just south of the "post office." It is currently unknown what business occupied the building just to the south of it. The last two story building to the south was occupied by O.M. Sannes a hardware dealer. The first appearance of this business in the Wisconsin Gazeteer was in the 1897/98 edition. At that time the firm was listed as dealing in pumps.

