

Where? Who? What? When?

This issue's "Mystery Photo" challenge, drawn from our photo archive, dates from 1946. It appears six Iola Hilltopper students are in the process of conducting initiation rites for a club – Iola Hammerhead Club? – one that may be up to a bit of skullduggery. Is there anyone out there who can identify some or all the pictured members of the budding club?

If you can possibly identify any or all of the individuals, please let us know. Any responses should be directed by phone to 715-445-IOLA



(4652) or 715-445-5050, by e-mail to IolaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com, or by postal to IHS, P. O. Box 412, Iola, WI 54945. The results will be published in the Winter 2021 issue of the Window.

Spring WWWW Identified

We again had four readers who responded to the "mystery photo" published in the Spring 2020 issue of the Window. They identified the site as being that of the Reek Mill, which was located on County Hwy. "P" between Northland and Norske – the



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ARCHIVAL DONATIONS: Bank First National (vintage FSB relics, safe), Central Wisconsin Tractor Club (cash, moving RR flatcar to IHS), Construck (discount on equipment use for moving RR flatcar), Mark Forseth (Iola Lions/Car Show wooden nickel), Patricia Hagen (Harrison School classroom photos), Evan Hansen (technical support for moving RR flatcar), Iola Lioness Club (Lioness banner, bell, etc.), Earl Lukaszewski (electrical work on security system upgrade), Clifford Misher (vintage Iola post cards), Norman & Marilyn Mortenson (merchant calendars, etc.), Mortenson Family (player piano with music rolls), Gary Otterson (labors moving RR flatcar), Sharon Peterson (Iola Hospital promotional pen), Scandinavia Booster Club (Wisconsin Shortline flat car & line end barricade), Mary Schultz (hand hewn Native American bowl), Mitch Taylor (vintage Thor Helgeson portrait), Charles W. Thompson (technical support for RR flatcar move)...**DONATIONS OF CASH AND IN-KIND:** Mark B. Anderson (cash, undesignated), Roderick Bahr (cash, undesignated), Bruce J. Meagher (cash, designated for Cliff Thompson historical marker), Wendell Wolka (cash, undesignated).

2020 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: Louis & Louise Adams, Scott & Karri Bestul, LeRoy & Carolyn Borth, Eugene & Patricia Engebretson, Helene M. Furst, Mary & Charles Gipp, Yvonne Gurholt, Leonard & Irene Haroldson, Donna Hooker, Iola & Rural Fire Service, Ruth Johnson, Lana & Don Langdok, Dan & Sharon Loken, Steve & Mary Olson, Barbara Pelnar.

structure survives and looks much the same as it did in 1952 when this photo was probably taken – just north of its intersection with Wis-49.

It is believed that the picture would have been taken at time coincident with the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's 1952 inauguration of its first three-phase power service at the mill. Among the individuals who identified the location was member Roger Olson, who also identified "What?" was represented, and was involved with dismantling the service around 1980, at which time the service and mill motors were moved to the Johnson Sawmill in Norske.

After checking into CWEC records, Roger reported; "The utility first began service to this location in 1942, with the service transferring to William 'Dick' Reek in 1952, then being switched to a 'commercial' account shortly thereafter, which would have been when the three-phase service was installed." The three transformers attached to the utility pole in the foreground identify the service as being "three-phase."

The members whose memories were jogged by this "mystery photo," in addition to Roger Olson, were Dorothy Berg, Lee Halverson, and Robbie Louison.

2020/21 Events Schedule

Monday, October 26, 2020

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS General Meeting
Last Business Meetings for 2020
Board/Officer Elections for 2021
Discuss, Approve Budget for 2021

Saturday, December 5, 2020

11:00 a.m. Post-Christmas Parade
Children Visit with Santa Program
Hosted at the IHS Machine Shed

Monday, December 7, 2020

5:30 / 2020 Annual IHS Christmas Party Potluck Banquet & Program at the IHS Machine Shed

Monday, January 25, 2021

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS General Meeting
First Business Meetings for 2021

Monday, February 22, 2021

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS General Meeting

Monday, March 29, 2021

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS General Meeting

The Iola Historical Society's Window

Quarterly Member and Activities Newsletter

Volume Thirteen

Number Four

Fall 2020



Historic Iola Personages Interred In Riverside Community Cemetery

This article is a distillation from the program delivered by Caroline Adams at the January 27, 2020, regular meeting of the Iola Historical Society. Caroline recently announced her intentions to step down from her sexton role at the Iola Riverside Cemetery, capping decades of involvement. Initially acquainted with the position and its responsibilities while assisting her late father, long-time sexton Louis Adams, many years ago as a teenager, she assumed the position full-time nearly 25 years ago.

Most Iola residents driving by the Iola Riverside Community Cemetery, situated just east of the village limits on the north side of Hwy. 161, likely give little thought to the community's historical figures interred there. The grave site monuments mark and recall many of the early

by Caroline Adams,
Sexton

settlers and driving forces who contributed to the growth and development of the village in significant ways.

While the Riverside Cemetery was not officially established until 1860, although seven people had been buried here prior to its establishment, township records establish that the early

settlers had expressed a desire to establish a cemetery as early as 1857. The first person actually interred was Mary McIntire (1816-1856), the wife of property owner E. A. McIntire, who in 1856 and 1857 paid property taxes for the land now occupied by the cemetery.

The original Riverside Cemetery plot was subsequently sold to Salome and A. F. Stearns, it being subsequently acquired by the Township of Iola in 1860 for \$20. The cemetery area was subsequently enlarged to its present size in 1991, doubling the size of the property and adding access on the west side.

Here's a look at some of the prominent families and individuals interred at Riverside over the past century and a half:

The Wipf family figures

prominently in the development of Iola and in the population of the Riverside Cemetery. Iola's original sawmill was developed in the vicinity of today's Iola Post Office parking lot and the Legion Park by Samuel Chandler, J. B. Osborn and John Milton Baldwin, from whom it was acquired by the Wipf brothers, Jacob (1834-1910) and Conrad (1836-1889). They built the main structure of the present Iola Mills following that acquisition.

Jacob served for two terms in the Wisconsin Assembly in the 1890s. Conrad's son, Henry (1864-1929), was a subsequent principal in the family business. He was followed by Fred (1873-1947), who inaugurated the grist mill operation, and by his son Frederick "Freddy" (1905-1936). These and others of the Wipf family are all buried in Riverside Cemetery.

A monument engraved "Gone but Not Forgotten" – "Erected by Friends / and Associates of / the Little Wolf River" – marks

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President's Message

When sitting down to my keyboard a year ago to set forth closing thoughts on the welfare of the Iola Historical Society as 2019 was drawing to a close . . . to say that things are markedly different today as 2020 is drawing to a close is to state the obvious . . . our world was dramatically different than it is today. Who would have thought how the world . . . and our little niche therein . . . would look today . . . with Covid-19 having descended upon us . . . and still raging about us!

What developed wreaked havoc upon our activities . . . monthly meetings were cancelled for several months . . . attendance has since been light . . . our summer visitation schedule was a truncated to eight-weeks . . . we hosted only about 30 visitors over that time-frame . . . they generally reflected great appreciation for their opportunities . . . we scrubbed our three community outreach fundraisers . . . but optimism is undeterred as we set our vision for 2021 and the future!

Iola Historical Society
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the grave site for A. L. Cronk who died in a logging accident. Johann Leuthold, along with John and Henry, arrived in Iola early in the spring of 1857, having travelled from Oshkosh to Gills Landing on the first steamboat of the year. John became the largest landowner in Waupaca County, named Helvetia Township and served as its first chairman; John passed away in 1909.

The Dufur brothers started out as loggers in the area. Abel (1819-1914) was a carpenter and engaged in the building of the Methodist Church, while A. J. "Andrew Jackson" Dufur (1847-1896) was an Iola Township chairman and also served in the Wisconsin Assembly.

The Hatch family owned the property surrounding the body of water that became known as Hatch Lake. James Hatch (1816-1885) was a lawyer, pastor, and Justice of the Peace – he likely performed some of the early marriages – and Albert Hatch (1852-1936) was a local hardware dealer. James Keating (1826-1902) gave his name to Keating Lake, being the responsible party for paying the taxes on 29-forties of land, acting on behalf of a lumber company. He served as Helvetia Township's first treasurer.

Albert Weinmann, Sr. (1870-1961) was a blacksmith and wagon maker who partnered with the Wipf's in running a shingle and planning mill. His family also conducted an early furniture and undertaking business. In 1893 he was named postmaster by President Grover Cleveland. William Parks (1856-1919) operated a photo studio and was responsible for many of the photos taken around Iola and the surrounding area that recorded its early growth and development.

The Taylor family has the most members interred at Riverside,

presently 38, starting with Dan (1815-1886) and Molt Taylor, who ran a butcher shop. Emory M. Taylor (1865-1927) had a car dealership, storage and meat market, just to name a few. Emery served as constable and marshal. Alexander Bierce (1832-1915) was a carpenter and first treasurer of the village. He was a descendent of William Bradford, who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620 and served as the first governor of that colony.

Iola's first bank was established in 1893 with a capitalization of \$20,000 by S. M. Myhre (1862-1936). In 1933 his bank was consolidated with the Farmers State Bank, with its cash position having risen to \$425,000. Myhre's grave is marked by the largest monument in the cemetery, standing nearly eight feet tall .

Turning to the medical realm, Dr. George Dale (1844-1901) was nationally recognized for his cancer sanatorium built in 1887. He also had drug store and liquor store businesses, with his office located on the second floor of the building. Dr. T. E. Loope (1870-1941) and Dr. Johan H. Lee made house calls by horse-drawn buggies no matter the weather or time of day. Dr. Lee's son, Dr. C. L. Lee (1893-1972), became a long-time veterinarian in Iola. Dr. William Wilker (1903-1950) died in his office.

Not all internments, unfortunately, are of people who have lived long and fulfilling lives. The cemetery is currently the resting place of 89 children who were 16 and under at the time of their passing. The Dole family lost three children in an 11-day span to diphtheria in 1858; Alonzo age six on October 5, George age two on October 13,

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HISTORIC IOLA PERSONAGES Continued from page 2

and Sylphina age one on October 16. In 1914 Leslie Taylor died at the age of four years when a wagon he was playing under fell on him. In 1926 four-year-old Francis Adams died from tetanus, when an infection set in after the hammer of a cap pistol punctured his hand.

Other more contemporary internments of village residents of note include:

Firman Cooper (1913-1978) was the longtime editor and publisher of the *Iola Herald*. Adam Horle (1907-1997) and Don Remington (1926-2016) were longtime grocery store operators. DeLyle Omholt (1913-1990) was a lawyer and as a World War II veteran was president of the 70th Infantry Division reunion group. In 1985 he conducted a tour that brought American and Nazi veterans from the Battle of the Bulge together in Germany.

Chet Krause (1923-2016) entered the business world as a builder, constructing more than two-dozen homes and the vintage Iola Winter Sports Club 105-

foot ski jump. As an avid coin collector, he founded *Numismatic News* in 1952. As an enthusiast of old car collecting, he started the Iola Old Car Show in 1971. His philanthropy embraced many realms, churches and organizations in the area.

William Mork (1929-2006), nine term Waupaca County Sheriff, his son Gerald (1953-1985), and grandson Sammy Burgoyne (2006), are buried at the Riverside Cemetery. Gerald was assassinated in the cemetery in 1985. His death has never been solved. William's young grandson was a cancer victim while visiting his grandparents as an infant.

There are currently 98 veterans interred at the on the grounds; Civil War (25), Spanish-American War (2), World War I (16), world War II (37), Korean War (5), and Viet Nam War (3). Iola's Sheveland-Taylor American Legion Post was named for Donald Taylor, noted as being the first soldier to die in World War II. There is also a soldier buried in the cemetery, one of two in Waupaca County, who served in the Confederacy – Thomas S. Parker – whose grave

is marked with two monuments . . . the original burial monument and a second installed later by the Sons of the Confederacy.

A small section at Riverside is occupied by Hmong burials. Their families chose this cemetery because it has a hill to the north and one to the west, two considerations observed by their faith. In most instances the burials involve two lots, so the oversize vaults may be placed in the middle. Hmong usually include special items to be buried with the deceased. During the depression the village buried two indigent gentlemen, their graves being located in the far back northwest corner of the original section of the cemetery; Anton Severson (1882-1932) and Olavivus Nelson (1870-1930).

The Iola Riverside Cemetery invites residents and visitors to stop by to explore among the gravesites and markers to discover the final resting places of residents and ancestors of note, gaining a greater appreciation of the history and personalities that have contributed to the community's good fortunes over the past 170 years.

Cemetery Markers Identifications

Al C. Cronk – This weathered monument marks the grave of an early settler who succumbed to a logging accident.

Dr. George Dale (1844-1901) Dr. Dale established Iola's first pharmacy and the Iola Cancer and Tumor Sanatorium, and served as the first president of the Village of Iola.

Abel Dufur (1819-1914) A logger and carpenter who was involved in the construction of the Methodist Church.

Mary McIntire (1816-1856) This small weathered monument marks the first internment at the site of what in 1860 became the Iola Riverside Cemetery.

Simon M. Myhre (1862-1936) The largest/tallest Iola Riverside Cemetery monument marks the graves of Simon and his wife Flora (1867-1935).

Thomas Parker (1815-1884) A pair of monuments mark the gravesite of this Civil veteran, the weathered original (left) and one placed subsequently by the Sons of the Confederacy [right], one of two Confederate veterans buried in Waupaca County.

Frederick J. Wipf (1905-1986) The Wipf family's operation of the Iola Mills endured for more than a century.

Fred C. Wipf (1873-1947) This monument marks the graves of Fred and his wife Hilda (1875-1959).

Weinmann Family The granite marker for the Weinmann Family plot. Albert, Sr. (1870-1961) was a blacksmith and wagon maker who partnered with the Wipf's in operating Iola's shingle and planning mill.

Wipf Family – A weathered marker in the Wipf Family area of the cemetery.

Riverside Cemetery



Thomas Parker



Frederick J. Wipf



Fred C. Wipf



A. L. Cronk



Mary McIntire



George Dale



Weinmann Family



Myhre



Wipf Family



Abel Dufur