

The Iola Historical Society's WINDOW

QUARTERLY MEMBER AND ACTIVITIES NEWSLETTER

VOL. 18, NO. 2 | SPRING 2025

Those Were the Days of – Real “Horse Power”



As the turn into the 20th Century was unfolding in Iola and the surrounding area, “horse-power” as it had been known for many centuries was giving way to the mechanical form. In the picture above, Carl Rosholt’s work horses were captured outside the barn prepared for the workday. In the picture below, on a fine summer day in 1910, a “club” of about a dozen of the area’s “horseless carriages” were lined up curb to curb on North Main Street.



Club
Copyright 1910 BY W R PARKS IOLA WIS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Iola Historical Society

210 Depot Street
P. O. Box 412 – Iola, WI 54945

Established October 28, 1953

The Iola Historical Society HERITAGE AREA EMBRACES

THESE SEVEN TOWNSHIPS

Iola • Helvetia • Harrison
Scandinavia • St. Lawrence
Amherst • New Hope

VILLAGES INCLUDED

Iola • Scandinavia • Ogdensburg
Northland • Norske • New Hope
Peru • Big Falls • Little Falls

OFFICERS

Clifford Mishler, President
Michael Mazemke, Vice-President
John Bertelson, Jr., Secretary
George Cuhaj, Treasurer
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sarah Abramson, Bonny Pethke
Charles Thompson

BECOME A MEMBER

Individual Membership \$29 yr
Junior Historian (student) \$2 yr
Family Membership \$39 yr
Supporting Membership \$69 yr
Life Membership (individual) \$325

Direct remittance payable to:
Iola Historical Society
P.O. Box 412, Iola, WI 54945-0412

iolahistoricalsociety@gmail.com
www.iolahistoricalsociety.org
715-445-IOLA (4652)

Graphic Design by
Chain O' Lakes Litho

This time out, I thought I'd share a few words on the Iola Historical Society's "organic" attributes, a theme most of us are seldom likely to think of even in passing. We've experienced phenomenal organic growth – i.e., the systematic coordinated growth of our parts and people . . . through more than 70 years of dedicated service to the preservation of local history and heritage.

Building on a tradition established at the time of its organization on October 28, 1953, when about a dozen local ladies assembled to pursue the recording of the development of Iola from the already thinning contingent of those who had lived the experience, we have slowly but steadily organically advanced to become a primary museum and repository of the artifacts and styles of those times.

By the time the Society introduced a newsletter nearly 50 years later – see glimpses of how we were progressing in the Spring issues of 2001 and 2004, reproduced on pages 7 and 8 – our objective was proclaimed as; Remembering the Past, Living the Present, Planning the Future. At the time, we were four structures – Depot, Log Cabin, One-Room Schoolhouse, and Helvetia Town Hall – having since organically grown to eight; 1901 Firehouse, Machine Shed exhibition building, Museum and the archival storage buildings.

Our membership has grown organically as well. None of our current directors and officers were active back then. Presidents Robert Crase and Murnell Olson, along with Vice-Presidents Lila Aanstad and Stella Strand, at the time were among the long-time and steadfast members. We have advanced on the shoulders of new contributors and their dedication . . . we will organically continue to develop and grow into the future on the shoulders of their . . . and your dedication.

Editor's Note: **CORRECTION**

The last issue of the Window – Volume 15, Number 1 – was through oversight incorrectly dated; Spring 2025. It should have properly carried the date; WINTER 2025. For those members/readers maintaining issue files, please annotate the previous issue accordingly.

Where? Who? What? When?

Yup . . . Sometimes The Best Laid Plans . . . Don't Come Off . . . According To Plan!

The photos reproduced to the right captured an embarrassing moment for a crew of Iola volunteers . . . planning had gone awry when this apparently ice or snow laden late-1940s vintage Dodge truck fell victim to thin ice and awaited a tow for extraction. Where did it happen? Who were the individuals involved? What was the occasion? When did it happen?

What unfolded was obviously a big deal. Note the several individuals not involved who were pondering the situation. And the intrepid photographer was on hand with his trusty camera to capture the development. Whose truck was involved, and was it salvageable following the incident? One can only imagine the chatter that resulted around town for days to come!

Put on your thinking cap and let us know what you come up with? Please respond by phone:

715-445-IOLA (4652);

by e-mail:

IolaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com;

or by postal mail:

IHS, P. O. Box 412, Iola, WI 54945.

Responses received will be shared in the Summer 2025 issue of the Window and archived in our historical database following publication.



IOLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS PARTNER DIRECTORY Spring 2025

As a member of the Iola Historical Society, you are encouraged to patronize the following businesses, which are enrolled as Business Partner member supporters of the organization.

“It’s all in the dough...”
that’s the family secret that has been making Crystal Cafe’s pies “to die for” for the last 50 years.

Judy Bolter, owner
Jennifer Schustak, manager

CRYSTAL CAFE & PIES

Let us cater your next event!

(715) 445-9227

Open 6:30am-7pm
126 N. Main St. Iola, WI 54945

Order a **Pie to go** today!

IOLA
SCANDINAVIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

www.ischamber.com • Facebook: [Iola-Scandinavia Chamber](#)

Scandinavia Historical Society

Meetings held:
2nd Monday of
Jan, March, May,
September, November
7 pm Municipal Center

Help Support The
Iola Historical Society

Run Your Business Card in This Space
Call Cliff Mishler
at (715) 445-5050
For More Information

LASHUA AUTOMOTIVE
FULL SERVICE GARAGE™

Phone: 715-445-4200

-Diagnostics -Tune-ups
-Diesel Service -Tires

LittleWolf Gallery
The Light & Glass
art studio

(608) 770-3822
info@littlewolfgallery.com

S & A POLISHING

We Fix Props!
We Sell Props!
We Re-hub Props!
We Dream Props!
How Can We Help YOU?

Eric & Sarah
Your friendly prop people
920-244-7950

15695 Spring St.
Ogdensburg, WI 54962
In the chix coop!

iola
BOOKKEEPING AND TAX SERVICE, LLC

C. ERIC DANIELSON — Owner
148 N Main Street • PO Box 235
Iola, WI 54945-0235
715-445-7780 Fax 715-445-2660 eric@iolataxservice.com

OMHOLT & FORSYTHE, S.C.
Attorneys at Law

Established 1939
HISTORICALLY RELEVANT

IOLA MANAWA

P.O. Box 215 • 105 Pine Crest Lane P.O. Box 922 • 942 Depot Street
715-445-2511 920-596-2060

Kielblock Logging, LLC

Kevin Kielblock
owner

P.O. BOX 186
Scandinavia, WI 54977
715-340-7239 cell
715-487-3185 home

Iola Family Chiropractic

Mary Schultz, D.C., ACRB Level II

Phone: (715) 445-4002
Fax: (715) 445-4390
iolachiro@ids.net

310 North Main St.
Iola, WI 54945

Help Support The
Iola Historical Society

Run Your Business Card in This Space
Call Cliff Mishler
at (715) 445-5050
For More Information

SHOEMAKER
Heating & Cooling

350 N Main St/PO Box 67
Scandinavia, WI 54977-0067
715-467-3359

Expert Tax Prep & IRS Representation

The Iola Tax Place

Mary Olson EA
715.445.4TAX

Tax@TheIolaTaxPlace.com
www.TheIolaTaxPlace.com

VOIE
Funeral & Cremation Care

120 S Main Street | PO Box 216 | Iola, WI 54945
715.445.2560

voiefuneralhome@hotmail.com
www.voiefuneralhome.com

COUNTRYSIDE PROPANE, LLC

OFFICE MANAGER: PAM LOKEN
N6337 Hwy 49
SCANDINAVIA, WI 54977
715-467-6969 • 1-877-239-8686

FALDET FARMS, INC.

Iola, WI 54945
Phone: **(715) 445-2453**

Don Faldet
Bruce Faldet

Anita Faldet
Brad Faldet

Help Support The
Iola Historical Society

Run Your Business Card in This Space
Call Cliff Mishler
at (715) 445-5050
For More Information

HOMESTEAD
REALTY SALES
Experience - Results - Trust
715-445-2600

1906 Ogdensburg Bank

WE NEED:

- Any historic information and/or pictures
- Skilled volunteers
- Donations are always appreciated

CONTACT:
Sarah Abramson
920.244.7845
esinburg@wolfnet.net

IOLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS PARTNER DIRECTORY Spring 2025

As a member of the Iola Historical Society, you are encouraged to patronize the following businesses, which are enrolled as Business Partner member supporters of the organization.

PREMIER
COMMUNITY BANK

IOLA OFFICE
505 East State Street | Iola, WI 54945
715.445.4700
premiercommunity.com

Member FDIC Equal Housing Lender

Iola Sentry Foods
Your hometown grocery store since 2007

Doug and Mary Beth Kulinski
125 Meadow Road PO Box 211
Iola, WI 54945
715-445-3316

THE IOLA CAR SHOW

Annual Iola Car Show and Swap Meet

P.O. Box 1
Iola WI. 54945
715-445-4000 www.iolacarshow.com

Help Support The
Iola Historical Society

Run Your Business Card in This Space
Call Cliff Mishler
at (715) 445-5050
For More Information

Silver Lake Lanes
P.O. Box 186 Hwy 49 - Scandinavia, WI 54977

Sherry, Kevin, Kurt & Kelly Kielblock

- 8 Synthetic Lanes/Auto Scoring
- Laser/Open Bowling
- Full Menu
- Banquet Room (100)
- Catering Available for all size events
- Volleyball Court/Horseshoe Pits
- Indoor Archery
- Annual 9 - Pin Tourney Jan - April

715-467-2700

Help Support The
Iola Historical Society

Run Your Business Card in This Space
Call Cliff Mishler
at (715) 445-5050
For More Information

BankFirst

295 E. STATE STREET, IOLA (715) 445-3211
www.bankfirst.com | MEMBER FDIC
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

WESTLEY
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, LLC
Let Our Experience Work For You

- High Efficiency Furnaces
- Air Conditioners
- Hybrid Heat Pumps
- Hydro-Temp Geo Thermal
- Humidifiers • Air Cleaners
- FREE ESTIMATES
- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Residential
- Commercial
- New Construction

Geoff Williams
Owner

Call 715.408.8455
Off: 715.258.2388
Fax: 715.467.2853
P.O. Box 292, Waupaca WI 54981

Swenson

TREE SERVICE & LOGGING

- Storm Damage Services
- Brush Cutting and Cleaning
- Log Cleaning and Logging
- Tree Trimming & Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Bucket Truck Services

715-340-4432
noahswenson@gmail.com

Wealth Management
RBC

Steven Abrahamson
Senior Vice President – Financial Advisor
Portfolio Director Group
(920) 743-7575
www.stevenabrahamson.com

© 2023 RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC, registered investment advisor and Member FINRA/SIPC. 2538-0056 (04/23)

Community INSURANCE & ASSOCIATES

Amherst • Iola • Stevens Point • Waupaca

DALE D BESTUL CIC
130 N Main • P.O. Box 236
Iola, WI 54945
dale@community-insurance.com
715.445.3165 • Fax: 715.445.4660

CHAIN O’ LAKES LITHO
PRINTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN

120 N OBORN, WAUPACA, WI 54981
715.258.3524
WWW.CHAINOLAKESLITHO.COM

Business Cards | Brochures | Carbonless Forms
Envelopes | Flyers | Folders | Invitations
Labels | Postcards | Posters | Raffle Tickets | and more...

River-Powered Event Space

Gelato
Pizza
Espresso
Pannini's
Salads

IOLA MILLS
EST. 1854
300 N. Main St
715/445-2889
iolamills.com

MECHANICAL CONNECTIONS
PO Box 273 • Iola, WI 54945
715.445.PIPE

REFOCUS
EYECARE CENTER

Dr. Mary Jo Byers
715.445.3553
refocuseyecarecenter.com

135 N. Main St.
PO Box 302
Iola WI 54945

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative
A Consumer Owned Rural Electric System

1-800-377-2932
www.cwecoop.com

Lashua Excavating, INC

The Earth Moves with Lashua

lashuaexcavates.net
715-445-2618
Fax 715-445-2181

John Lashua
7375 Aamstad Rd. Iola, WI 54945

BRUCE J. MEAGHER, LLC
Attorney At Law

210 Water Street
P.O. Box 335
Iola, WI 54945-0335

(715) 445-7000
Fax: (715) 445-3979

Help Support The
Iola Historical Society

Run Your Business Card in This Space
Call Cliff Mishler
at (715) 445-5050
For More Information

Glacier Wood Golf Club
Iola, WI

604 Water Street, Iola, WI 54945
Phone 715-445-3831
www.glacierwoodiola.com

- 2 Practice greens used for putting and chipping
- Driving range with a 19,000 sq ft hitting surface
- Award winning 18 hole golf course
- Golf shop stocked with apparel, shoes, and much more
- Full service bar and restaurant with banquet facility

IOLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Remembering the Past, Living the Present, Planning the Future

Volume 1

Spring, 2001

No. 1



Remembering.....

When a rainy day or a need for a new tool brought the men "to town"? There was a special dress code for that event: A fresh clean pair of bib overalls (hopefully they are fresh and clean) and topped off with a suit coat. Yes it was a good way to get some use out of that old, but still good suit coat. The pants that went with the coat are long-gone, worn out. I think you can top off the outfit with a wide brim felt hat with a pre-bent crown. It's an old hat but it completes this state of the art to be worn in downtown Iola - 1930

DID YOU KNOW?

The Iola Historical Society (IHS) could be called the Iola Area Historical Society, as it covers Iola and the surrounding areas. For example: the little white country school building was built as a replica of country schools found throughout the area. IHS covers all the rural areas whose graduates went to Iola High School. The rural school era ended in 1960-61, when all the children came to the Iola Grade School (or Marion, or Scandinavia, etc.).

The Helvetia Town Hall was purchased in 1995 for \$1001.00, considered a good deal, with the intention of moving it into the Historical Society site when land became available. It is historic by it's architecture since all town halls looked this way. It was built by Chet Krause's father.

The town hall once moved will provide IHS with some much needed room and also opportunities to do some fun stuff.

Important Dates:

May 24 Clean-Up Day
followed by May Meeting
May 27 Car Club Tour
May 28 ... Memorial Day Parade
followed by IHS Open House
June 25 June Meeting
July 30 July Meeting
Aug 12 Strawberry Festival
Aug 27 August Meeting
Sept 24 September Meeting
Oct 29 October Meeting

When it Happened:

Iola Historical Society Organized in 1953, Incorporated in 1956, Depot purchased in 1979, Caboose - 1980, Cabin - 1991, School Reproduced - 1994, Helvetia Town Hall purchased in 1995, moved to Iola in ????

Iola Historical Society Officers

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer	Board of Directors
Robert Crase P O Box 201 Iola WI 54945 445-3288	Lila Aanstad 705 E State St Iola WI 54945 445-2531	Murnell Olsen E 1218 Simonson Rd Scandinavia WI 54977 467-2534	Elaine Crase P O Box 201 Iola WI 54945 445-3288	Gloria Briquet Joanna Rheingans Betty Finch

IOLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Remembering the Past, Living the Present, Planning the Future

Volume 4

Spring, 2004

No. 1

MARCH 29th, 2004 MEETING

From the President:

One of the signs of spring is the resumption of monthly meetings and other activities of the Iola Historical Society; Monday, MARCH 29 is the day and 7:30PM is the time. The meeting will be held in the Country School. If there is too much water at the entrance to the grounds, we will need to find another place to meet such as the Village Hall. Membership dues are collected at the March meeting which assures you of getting three newsletters created annually. Your membership can be mailed. Your dues will be accepted at subsequent meetings as well.

150 YEARS

It has been 150 years since the Iola and Scandinavia area was populated by immigrants from Europe. Although the Swiss were the first settlers, the Norwegians soon dominated the population for several reasons. The topography of the land reminded them of Norway and the land was \$1.25 an acre. Having a common language, Norwegian, was certainly helpful in settling the family near other Norwegians

forming a community. Neighbors who understood each other must have been very important since they must have needed to borrow a cup of sugar or a hammer once in a while. Sponsorship was necessary in later years in order to enter the US which brought brothers and sisters to join the families that were already here. This assured a place to live and work until they could make a "living" for themselves. The Church was very important for the immigrants. After six to eight weeks in a wooden vessel out at sea and surviving, they had reason to pay tribute to God by worshipping and eventually they built churches.

This story is not unique to the Norwegians. Groups of immigrants from all over the world formed their own communities in the "New Land", "America".

There will be many events around Wisconsin that will be celebrating their sesquicentennial as our state celebrated back in 1998.

News from our Neighboring Historical Societies:

Waupaca Historical Society has good news. They have officially purchased the Railroad Depot in Waupaca for \$10,000.00. It will not be moved. A chain-link fence

will separate the Depot from the rail tracks which are still used. They have a large task in restoring the building. Anyone who wishes get involved by donating money or labor is most welcome. Congratulations Waupaca HS! They have several activities planned for this year. Their news letter will be available for more details at the March meeting.

The Hutchinson House in South Park in Waupaca is 150 years old this year.

We are invited to visit the Marion Historical Society and their recently acquired caboose, similar to ours, that was restored by the previous private owner. We will visit Marion in August. Green Bay celebrates their Sesquicentennial in 2004 with multiple events.

The Republican political party is 150 years old this year. The first meeting, official or unofficial, was held in Ripon, Wisconsin. They will also have some special events to celebrate this milestone.

NEW MEMBERS are not only welcome but are needed to join the Iola Historical Society!!

If you think you are not old enough yet - think again. There's items of interest for all ages!

Iola Historical Society Officers for 2004

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer	Board of Directors
Murnell Olsen E 1218 Simonson Rd Scandinavia WI 54977 467-2534	Stella Strand P O Box 111 Iola WI 54945 445-3184	June Mueller 212 1/2 Sherman St Marion, WI 54950 715-754-5025	Chris Ross P O Box 487 Iola WI 54945 445-4686	Joanna Rheingans Bob Crase Howard Bestul

Gone, But Fondly Recalled

Lest we forget, recalled below are valued friends and members who passed recently. Please remember them with appreciation, as you reflect on their valued contributions to preserving the heritage of our community and area.

Roger E. Olson

This lifelong Iola resident was born on July 30, 1939, passing away at Weston under hospice care on March 22, 2025. An Honorary Life Member of the Iola Historical Society, his services to the organization ranged from moving the pioneer style log cabin from the Wrolstad farm in the town of Harrison to our Historic Village campus, along with setting the vintage caboose alongside the historic 1894 Iola & Northern Depot, to tending to our exhibit area electrical installation needs. A community volunteer for all seasons, he was to the end also engaged with the needs of the Iola Winter Sports Club, the Iola Old Car Show, the Glacier Wood Golf Club, Our Savior's Lutheran Church and many others. Seasonally he'd be encountered mowing lawns, plowing snow and trimming trees. His working career was spent as a lineman, retiring from the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative after 40-plus years of service. In the 1980s he proudly sponsored and coached Roger's Tree Trimmers, a ladie's league team that played in the Taylor Field softball league.

Leslie "Les" Solberg

Passing away on March 4, 2025, Les Solberg was born on August 18, 1951. Claiming Iola as his "homeland," Les was possibly born in Waupaca. He cherished fishing, grilling brats, cold beers, Packers football and local history. Les will be dearly missed, but never forgotten by the legion of family and friends he left behind, who always enjoyed his always uncanny just right stories, with just the right amount of embellishment, depending on the audience.

Donors & Loaners

The Iola Historical Society expresses its appreciation to the following for contributing donations, and/or cash gifts, or in-kind services support benefitting its operations, during the past quarter:

January – February – March

Archival Donations of Historic Relics: Marilyn Mortenson (Grandpa's Place advertising calendar/mirror), Steve Mortenson (vintage IRFD Fire Extinguisher), Jerry Stromberg (Olaf Skye c.1920 Blacksmith-built Child's Sleigh; assorted pics and papers for archiving).

Donations of Cash and In-Kind Services: Anonymous (cash, Iola Historic Depot and Caboose restoration, IMO Lester & Myrtle Larson, Robert & Carol Lashua), Blackbaud Giving Fund (cash, undesignated), Leroy & Carolyn Borth (cash, 1903 Ford purchase replenishment of endowment), Community Insurance, (cash, undesignated), Elaine M. Crase (cash, Iola & Northern Depot and Log Cabin restoration projects), CWEC Trust (cash, Chester L. Krause display), Mark & Terry Doll (cash, unrestricted), FIDEM USA Group (cash, use of museum meeting area), Girl Scouts of NW Great Lakes, Southern Waupaca County (cash, use of Machine Shed), Cindy Glapinski (cash, undesignated, IMO Nikolai Paulson), Estate of Irene Maloy Haroldson (quantity of her book "Welcome to America" to give away), Marcia Helgeson (cash, depot restoration project), Iola Girl Scout Troop (cash, use of Machine Shed), Iola Lions Club (cash, undesignated), Gary & Susan Jacobson (cash, undesignated, IMO Les Solberg), Lashua Automotive (cash, undesignated), Elmer & Nancy Solberg & Family (cash, undesignated, IMO Les Solberg), Swenson Tree Service (trim lower tree branches).

2025 Supporting Members

The Iola Historical Society wishes to express special thanks and recognition to the following individuals and organizations for their dedicated Supporting Member financial contributor status for the ongoing operational activities of the Society: Louis & Louise Adams, Scott & Karri Bestul, LeRoy & Carolyn Borth, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, Mark & Ann Forseth, Mary & Charles Gipp, Donna Hooker, Iola & Rural Fire Service, Ruth C. Johnson, Lanna & Don Langdok, Roberta Louison, Thomas & Linda Martin, Too-Dars Diner.

2025 EVENTS SCHEDULE

Monday, May 26, 2025

Noon – 2:00 pm Memorial Day
2025 Annual Pork Roast
Salute to Military Veterans

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS Membership Meeting
7:00 Program

Sunday, June 22, 2025

11:00 am – 2:00 pm
2025 Annual Strawberry Fest
Fundraiser & Collectibles Fair

Monday, June 30, 2025

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS Membership Meeting
7:00 Program

Monday, July 28, 2025

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS Membership Meeting
7:00 Program

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

**Postponed August Meeting –
This Change Accommodates
Member Travels to Gausdal**

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS Membership Meeting
7:00 Program

Monday, September 29, 2025

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS Membership Meeting
7:00 Program

Saturday, October 4, 2025

10:00 am – 2:00 pm
2025 Annual Taste of Norway
& Lost Arts Fair
Includes Fall Gift & Craft Show

Monday, October 27, 2025

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS Membership Meeting
Last 2025 Business Meeting
2026 Board/Officer Elections
Discuss, Approve 2026 Budget
7:00 Program

Saturday, December 6, 2025

4:30 Post-Christmas Parade
Children Visit Santa Program
Hosted at IHS Machine Shed

Monday, December 15, 2025

5:30 Annual IHS Christmas Potluck
Banquet & Program
Hosted at the Iola Mills Café

Monday, January 26, 2026

5:30 IHS Board Meeting
6:30 IHS Membership Meeting
First 2026 Business Meetings
7:00 Program

**All Members and General Public Welcome to
Attend All Meetings and Programs
(All IHS activities held at Depot Street
complex unless otherwise indicated.)**