

County



Fare

Fall/Winter 2021

The NEWSLETTER of the

WINNEBAGO COUNTY HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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Mission Statement

The Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society will represent, serve and involve community members in preserving the history of our area.

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WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor:

Michael McArthur

A Message From Our President

On October 15, I was invited to participate in a celebration of the historic designation of the old Smith School in Oshkosh.

The school has been decommissioned and will be transformed into a low-income housing unit. The developer (Wesenberg Architects) and the City of Oshkosh have worked collaboratively on a plan to restore and repurpose the building, rather than demolish it.



The site has been placed on both the National and Wisconsin Register of Historic Places, a well-deserved designation. Although it may still stir up remorse from those who had a history with the school as a faculty member or student, the upside is the beautifully designed building by William Waters will stand as a memory to its past.

Other sites that have been restored or repropoed in Oshkosh include the Howard, the Waite Rug building, the Waters, and most recently the old Gibson Garage, the Doe House and the Corbett House. I applaud the efforts to save these historic treasures as they are reminders of our past.

Let's continue to preserve our history for future generations!

Randy Domer

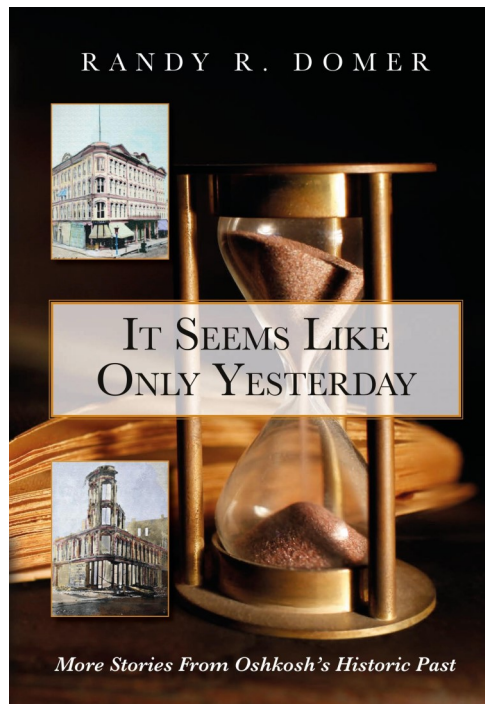
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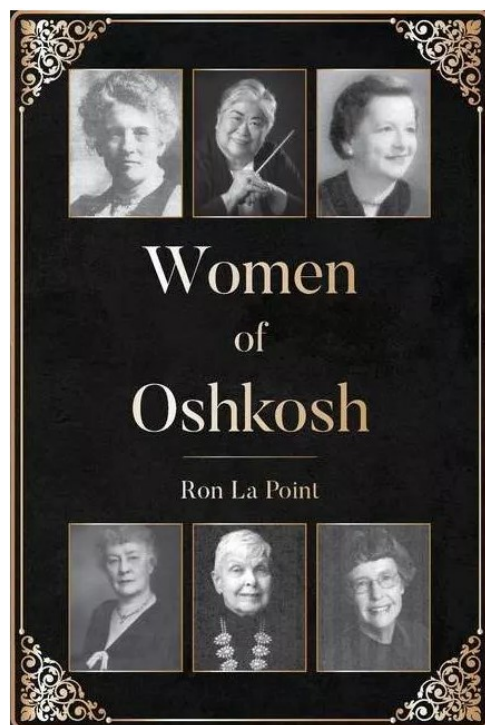
New History in Print



This is the fourth book in a series by Domer with the focus on Oshkosh history. Like his previous works, this book will offer a wide variety of stories of people, places and events that have formed our past.

In this writing, Randy will lead you on a journey in and around Oshkosh with incredible stories. Re-live the horrible events that claimed lives and destroyed Oshkosh's Beckwith House.

Learn about the son of a locally famous candy maker who earned fame as an escape artist. Witness the tragedy of a terrible train wreck and the heartbreak as children of a pioneer family in Eureka dealt with the unexpected loss of both parents. Travel back in time and visit Nordheim; learn about Dummy Hoy's incredible journey through Oshkosh to the major leagues; and listen to the Englund siblings talk about their famous father, Gene Englund... and more.



From the Cover:

The twenty-seven women featured in the book are names from the past and those currently engaged in making our community stronger and more responsive to those in need.

It was my intention to memorialize those whose lives were dedicated in helping others including those who fought and struggled to win the right for women to vote.

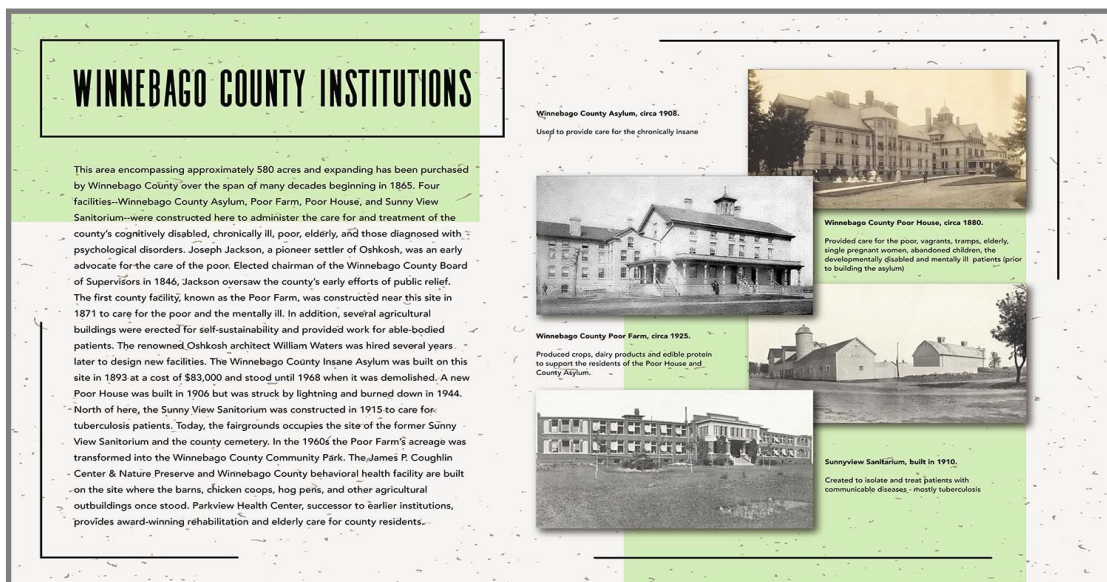
I have come to the realization, after visiting with these women and doing the necessary research and observing the lives of others I knew, that women are the prime movers of change in our society.

It is my hope you will become acquainted with these women as I have.

Historical Marker to Commemorate County Institutions

The Winnebago County Historical and Archaeological Society has been working with the Winnebago County Facilities Committee for the past 18 months developing a historical marker to commemorate the County facilities which once were located on both sides of County Y.

The marker will be installed in early 2022 at the entrance to the County Park near the Coughlin Center. It's approximately three by six feet and includes information on the Winnebago County Asylum, poor farm, Poor House, and Sunnyview Sanitarium.



Funding provided by Winnebago County and Winnebago County Historical and Archeological Society.

Welcome New Members



Shirley Barbender-Mattox

Steve Davis

Don & Diane Kesler

Michael Murdoch

Deborah Shaddock



Social Media in Nineteenth-Century Oshkosh

By: Dawn McKone

Just as today's teenagers produce memes and videos on social media to get "likes" on their posts, their counterparts in 1880s Oshkosh produced amateur journals to get feedback from other amateur journalists.

An amateur journal was considered a good way for adolescents to practice their writing and critical thinking skills, and a good entry into the world of publishing. A typical journal was four pages; the first page or two contained essays or poetry, the third contained news items and requests for exchanges with other amateur journals, and the last page contained ads from the community.

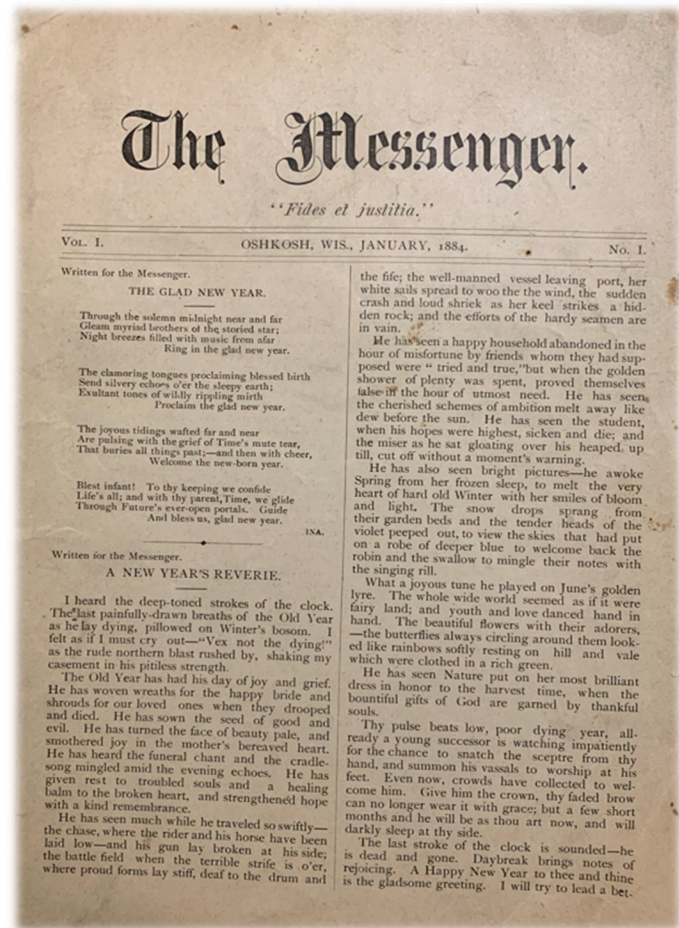
Several times a year, national and regional amateur journalists' associations gathered to elect officers and to conduct business. Oshkosh hosted the first meeting of the Wisconsin Amateur Journalist's Association in December 1884.

In September that year, seventeen-year-old William J. Roe of Oshkosh had been elected Official Editor of the state organization. Newspaper accounts of the meeting in Oshkosh tell of a dignified and business-oriented gathering, in which boys elected officers and posed for a group photo before sitting down to a banquet at the Revere House. Reports of another meeting, held in

Waukesha, related a more picturesque story of two hundred unattended boys aged twelve to twenty-two keeping the hotel bartender busy with orders of "claret punches, sherry cobbblers, gin fizzes, and other cooling and capacious drinks".

Will Roe, son of banker Gilbert Wheeler Roe, was the publisher of *The Messenger* and had released Volume 1, Number 1 in January 1884. The first page of that issue feature a poem called "The Glad New Year" and an essay called "A New Year's Reverie" which began:

"I heard the deep-toned strokes of the clock. The last painfully-drawn breaths of the Old Year as he lay dying, pillowed on Winter's bosom. I felt as if I must cry out—



'Vex not the dying!' as the rude northern blast rushed by, shaking my casement in his pitiless strength."

The second page contains another piece of prose written by someone who signed himself "Ignotus."

The third is an editorial page that announces subscription rates of thirty-five cents a year as well as advertising rates of thirty-five cents an inch. Publishers William Roe and Charles McCulloch give a definition of amateur journalism and then say, "Every issue of *The Messenger* will contain original sketches, poems, Amateur notes, general items, etc." Then, they get down to the real business.

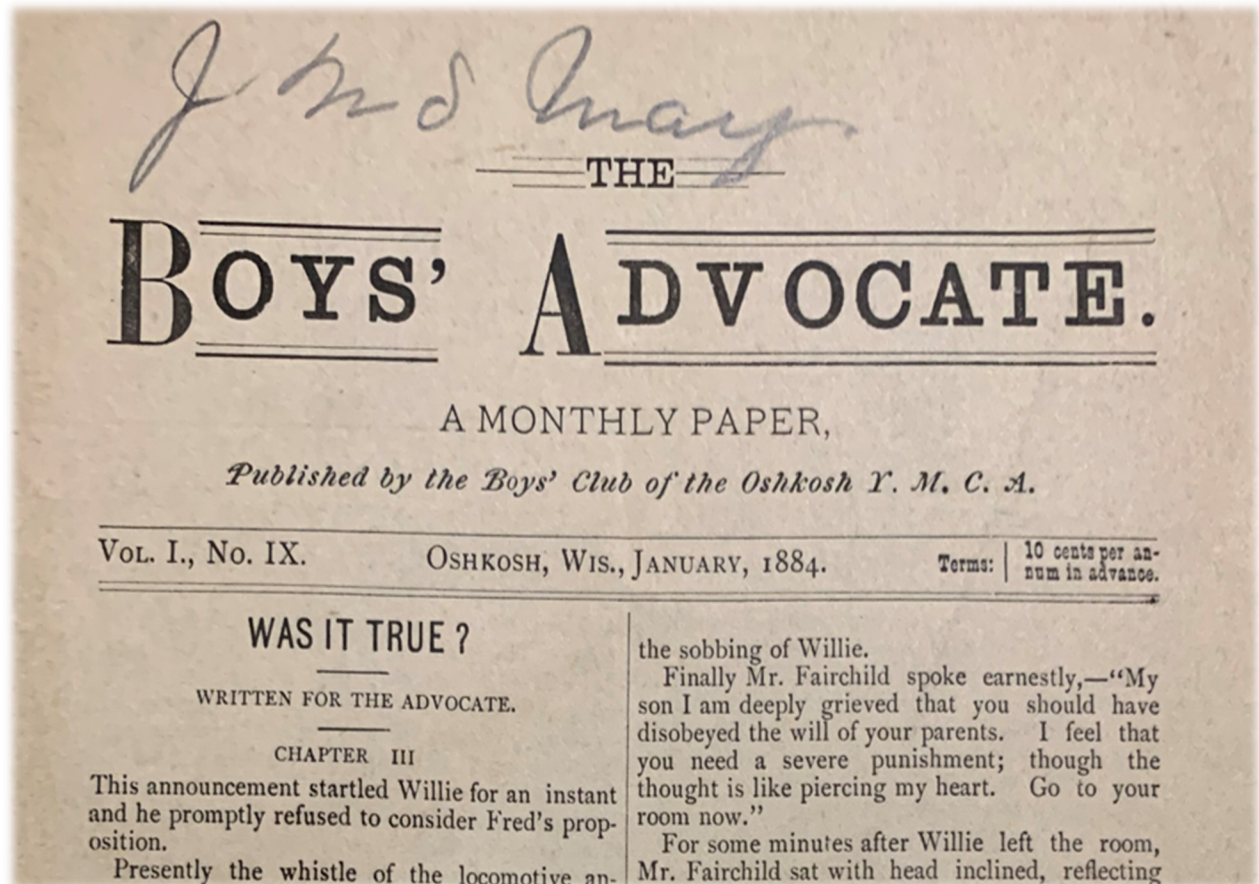
"The *Empire State Amateur* is a spicy little sheet, and a welcome one in our

sanctum," they say. Also, they pronounce the consolidated *La Caprice* and *Stars and Stripes* "a model magazine", adding, "Few professional monthlies present such a galaxy of literary gems."

Amateur journalism efforts weren't limited to young men, and Roe and McCulloch commend pieces written by young women called Bertha and Miss Tardy.

Having handed out their "likes," the publishers sought to network with other amateur journalists. "We desire to exchange with all. Please send two copies. We will reciprocate when requested."

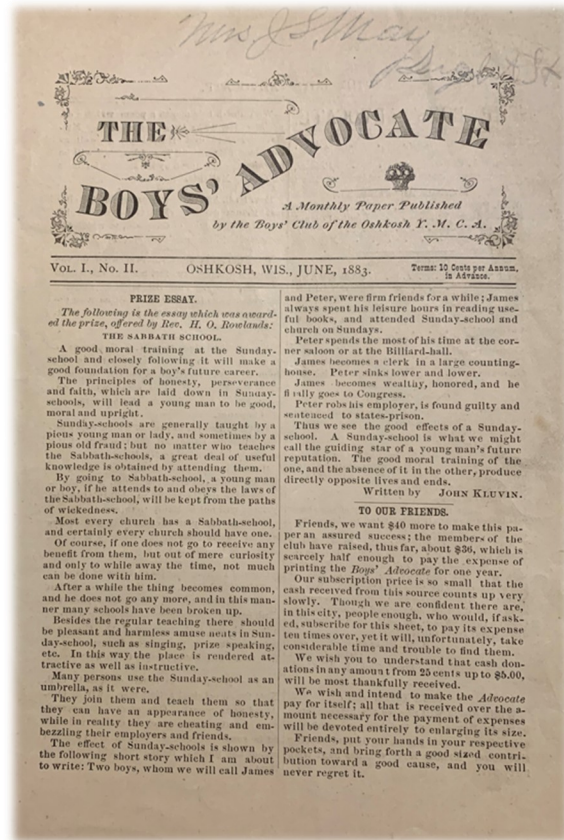
The members of the Y.M.C.A.-sponsored Boys' Club had begun producing their own amateur journal roughly one year earlier. Called *The Boys' Advocate*, the



journal was published by Harvey B. Dale, Jr., son of physician and school superintendent Dr. Harvey B. Dale. The journal was less an expression of literary talents and more a newsletter of its parent organization, featuring articles with advice on how to be an honest and upright citizen, as well as humor pieces and event calendars, but the publishers still requested exchange copies and still “liked” other amateur journals.

A third journal, *The Magnet*, was published in Oshkosh by Harry Clum and C.J. Noel, printers of both *The Messenger* and *The Boys Advocate*.

The W.C.H.A.S. has six issues of *The Messenger* and six issues of *The Boys Advocate* in its collection.



The Clarence J. Jungwirth Award

Congratulations

Shirley Brabender Mattox

The Clarence J. Jungwirth Award is presented annually in recognition of a person or organization that continually demonstrates great efforts to preserve the history of Winnebago County.

The award is named after Clarence "Inky" Jungwirth, a noted and well-known local historian.

Shirley has supported the preservation of Oshkosh history for many years including:

- Save the Grand Opera House
- Save the water tower, Coles Bashford House, Italianate home at Salvation Army
- Creation of the North Main Street Bungalow District and Washington Avenue Neo Classical District
- Chair of the Oshkosh Landmarks Commission
- Performs research for the annual Acanthus Award
- Assists historic property owners to seek tax credits
- Board member of the Wisconsin Association of Historic Preservation Commissions
- Member of the Henry Auler
- ...and much, much more



Past recipients include: Clarence "Inky" Jungwirth, Dan Radig, Dean Sandeman, Kuenzl Foundation, Patti Yana, J and Julie Karner.



Holiday Open House



Victorian Christmas

Morgan House Tours

Free Admission

Refreshments

Holiday Music

Bring the Whole Family



December 11, 2021. 4pm - 7pm (Saturday)

December 28, 2021. 4-7 pm (Tuesday)



From the Archives...



THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN

OSHKOSH,

MONDAY, MAY 8, 1899.

**BOILER
BLEW UP.**

FATAL EXPLOSION AT SAW MILL OF
PAINE LUMBER CO.

ONE PERSON WAS KILLED.

Eugene Du Bois, the Fireman on Duty at
Time of Explosion Was Blown 100
Feet—Has a Limb Broken—
\$10,000 Damage.

Winnebago County Historical & Archeological Membership Form

Join or renew your membership
with the Winnebago County Historical & Archeological Society

(check one)

(check one

_____ \$5 Student (15-25 yr old)

_____ \$15 Individual

_____ New Member

_____ \$25 Couple

_____ Renewal

_____ \$35 Family

_____ \$250 Lifetime Membership

Complete/Update Information

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

In an effort to be more green and reduce postage costs, newsletters will be sent via email unless you signify you require a printed copy below.

_____ Please send me a printed copy of the newsletter .

Interested in Volunteering? Let us know what you're interested in! (check all that apply)

_____ Give tours of the Morgan House (docent training available)

_____ Historical research on specific topics determined by committees

_____ Social Media/Publicity

_____ Newsletter Editing or Content Creation

_____ Locate and/or events and speakers

_____ Decorate for the Holidays

_____ Develop exhibitions (in-person and digital)

_____ Transcribe Historical Interviews

_____ Event Photographer/Videographer

_____ Archive artifacts

Mail this form with payment to:

WCHAS

234 Church Ave.
Oshkosh, WI 54901

OR

Pay electronically via Paypal by sending
payment to:

winnebagocountyhistoricalsociety.org



Winnebago **C**ounty

Historical & **A**rchaeological

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