

THE DEPOT DISPATCH

e-mail: behistoricalsoc@gmail.com



2018 Calendar of Events

WATCH FOR UPDATES IN THE STAR-NEWS.

Depot Museum is open 1-4 pm Sundays through September 30

Brat Fry at the Shoe Box Saturday September 8

Have historical photos for our new web site let us know with an email. We will be happy to scan them and return them to you if we don't have them in our collection already. behistoricalsoc@gmail.com Thanks!

Executive Officers

President Paul Skalet
Vice Pres. Wayne Barsness
Secretary Jan Cowan
Treasurer David Cooper

Board of Directors

Term Expires 2019

David Cooper
Ryan Reader

Jan Schroeder

Shirley Williams

Term Expires 2020

LaVonne Clason

Harold Miller

Steve Webber

Term Expires 2021

Wayne Barsness

Paul Skalet

Rita Miller

Archivist/Web Site

Carolyn Shaffer

Annual Dues

Personal \$10.00

Family \$20.00

Business/Patron \$35.00

If you have email please let us send you the Depot Dispatch electronically. Thanks.

For those who itemize taxes, the Black Earth Historical Society is a not-for-profit, sec. 501(c) (3) corporation.

President's Message

Greetings Members & Supporters of The Society:

We have welcomed a new member to the board of directors, namely: Rita (Schultz) Miller. Rita was raised in the Black Earth area from long-time residents of the Schultz and Kahl families. Thank You, Rita!

A project that has been in the works for sometime now is updating the by-laws of the Society. We plan to offer the revised bylaws on the web site (www.blackearthhistory.org) and via email, if you cannot review it online send us a note and we will mail you a copy—about 10 pages—along with a post card to return with suggestions and your vote. Please include your phone number.

We are in the process of obtaining oral history recordings of area people in collaboration with the Black Earth Library and a student from the UW Center for the Humanities. This should be a very interesting project and we are looking for participants (older) to share their memories of growing up or living in the Black Earth area. Please contact any of our board members of your interest in participating or call Carolyn Shaffer at the library, 608-767-4905, or her email, crshaffer@blackearthlibrary.org.

Many Thanks for your continued support.

Paul Skalet, President

THE END OF THE DEPOT-TO-DEPOT RUN/WALK?

We are Sad to report that there will not be a 26th Annual Depot to Depot Run Walk (D2D) this year. Our call for volunteers to replace the retiring committee members went unanswered. The family friendly event is to be replaced on the morning of 8/11 by a 5-K run through the Village of Black Earth as a part of Field Days. Discussions with the Madison Series people about replacing the D2D event are ongoing with the Black Earth Chamber of Commerce. Reviving the D2D is possible but unlikely.

DEPOT NEWS

We are off to a good start and the weather seems to be cooperating so far. In addition to the Sunday afternoon schedule of 1-4pm we have had a couple of groups schedule a visit.

On June 20th a group of 35-40 members of the Railroad Station Historical Society (<http://www.rrshs.org/index.html>) arrived by bus to visit the Depot. They appeared about 4:45, asked question, took photos, and were on their way again. They were from all over the country and hoped to visit 80 depots and other railroad structures while they held the 2018 Annual RSHS Convention in Madison from June 17-21.

The Star News sent a reporter to cover the event and published a nice story about the visit. The article included a note about a mini-grant for archival supplies Carolyn Shaffer, our archivist, applied for and was granted by the Wisconsin Historical Society and Council for Local History.

On August 11 a group of graduate students from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary are scheduled to visit the Depot Museum and HQ. They hope to

learn about Black Earth and will be in BE the Friday and Saturday of Field Days.

The Depot was also open on Memorial Day Monday and the 4th of July from 12-4 and visitors stopped both days. Bill Rettenmund and Steve Webber were docents both days. Steve is also planning to open the Depot on Field Days Sunday 11:00 am, so if you're in town for the parade please stop by.

Bill was a Combat Crew Chief with the 162 Assault Helicopter Company and is a Purple Heart recipient. He's scheduled on a 9/22/18 Honor Flight to Washington, so if you would send a card or note for his "Mail Call" on his return flight to Madison. Send it ASAP to Badger Honor Flight, September Mail Call, PO Box 258066, Madison, WI 53725 and indicate Attn: Bill Rettenmund in lower left-hand corner. Bill will appreciate a thank you for his service to our country and the BEHS.

Auld Lang Syne

100 Years Ago

Dane County News 1918

THE CHAUTAUQUA

Seldom has a community twice the size of Black Earth, been able to offer its people such a first-class attraction as is now offered by this five days Chautauqua. Music lovers will have a great treat in the Scottish Entertainers and Alpine Yodelers; Literary people a real feast at the Dramatic Entertainment and Lecture; and no one, young or old should miss the Motion Picture of the Mawson Antarctic Expedition. The Grand Concert and Patriotic program gives to all a day of thorough enjoyment. War casts its gloom over all but we owe it to ourselves to bring all the brightness we can into our lives and cheer each other in doing our best each day.

75 Years Ago

Dane County News 1943

Harold Bond, Black Earth farmer, narrowly escaped what might have been more serious injury Tuesday afternoon, through the presence of mind of young Jimmy Everson. While riding on the tractor cultivating corn, Bond became overcome with heat, falling forward off the tractor seat.

Young Everson, riding with Bond, quickly threw in the clutch of the machine, stopping it before it could pass over Bond. The Bond farm is west of Black Earth.



Monday morning, Mrs. Imlay received two almost identical cards from her son Corporal Maris Imlay, saying that he was a prisoner in the Philippine Military Prison Camp No. 2, in the Philippine Islands. The cards were similar to our government postals, except that the headings were in Japanese printing. The message was sent thru, by underlining printed information, to read "I am interned at the camp. My health is good. I am uninjured and not receiving treatment. Love to mother, and sisters, Helen and Priscilla.

50 Years Ago

News Sickle Arrow 1968

After a fifteen-year absence, Black Earth Field Days will be again celebrated August 10th and 11th. This will be the first Field Days since 1953.

The Black Earth Home Talent baseball team reached the top of the league last Sunday as they received outstanding pitching from Dennis Rens and backed him with some robust hitting that included three doubles and three home runs on their way to 11 to 1 win over Belleville and the league championship.

Team members include: Jerry Wendt, Gene Garfoot, Sam Schuler, Jerry Barsness, David Barsness, Chuck Mickelson, Tom Wilkins, Steve Schmitt, Deane Brabender, Wayne Kalsow, David Hosking, Dennis Rens, Robert Wachter and manager Wendell Anderson.

25 Years Ago

News Sickle Arrow

Black Earth Historical Society President Neil Cook reported the society has been awarded a \$21,600 grant from the Department of Transportation. The grant will be used to help improve the grounds around the Depot building and also construct a deck and ramp on the south and west side of the building.

WEB SITE UPDATE!

Still a work in progress our web site (www.blackearthhistory.org) has links you may find of interest. Terry Maloney, a volunteer, has been photographing the graves in Oak Hill Cemetery and adding them to Find A Grave. Vermont Lutheran Church and Recollection Wisconsin are also linked to "Digital Resources".
Please Check it Out!

Newsletter of the Black Earth Historical Society

THE DEPOT DISPATCH

The Black Earth Historical Society
P.O. Box 214
Black Earth, WI 53515-0214



Bill Rettenmund's Heritage Farm Display is Back for 2018

If you haven't seen Bill's handiwork in progress please try to stop by this summer. He is often available on Sunday's to explain how farming was done before tractors and steam-powered equipment. Bring the kids or grandkids!