

THE DEPOT DISPATCH

e-mail: behistoricalsoc@gmail.com



2018 Calendar of Events

WATCH FOR UPDATES IN THE NEWS-SICKLE-ARROW.

2018 Annual Meeting Indian Mounds in Wisconsin	2/11/18
Spring Garage Sale typically with BE Village Sale	April TBD
Depot Museum Opens Last Sunday in May	5/27/18
Depot to Depot Run/Walk (26 th Annual)	8/11/18

Executive Officers

President Paul Skalet
Vice Pres. Wayne Barsness

Secretary Jan Cowan
Treasurer David Cooper
Board of Directors

Term Expires 2018
Wayne Barsness
Paul Skalet

JoAn Turk
Term Expires 2019
David Cooper

Ryan Reader
Jan Schroeder
Shirley Williams
Term Expires 2020

LaVonne Clason
Harold Miller
Steve Webber

Archivist
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

Happy New Year to Members and Supporters of our Society.

As noted in this edition of The Depot Dispatch we have a number of interesting projects "In The Works" for the coming year. As we approach this New Year and these projects, we look to your continued support of memberships and additional gifts. Please, also consider volunteering of your time and talents for the Society.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 11, 2018 at Society headquarters at 2:00 pm. After a brief business meeting and election of Board members Professor Robert Birmingham will present a program on his recent 2nd addition of his book, Indian Mounds of Wisconsin. We have shared Virgil Matz's research on the Black Earth Man Mound with him, and asked him to share his insights on Virgil's theory that it is more likely a bird mound, although a definitive answer is moot since the mound was destroyed by the growth of Black Earth in the 1840's.

Our Depot Museum is closed now until May 27, 2018. We had Bill Rettenmund's heritage farm display attraction and may have it again. Many Thanks Bill!!!

Paul Skalet, President

2017 SANTA SUNDAY



Again the Girl Scouts entertained us with carols until the hay wagon arrived to take kids and their parents on a ride around the neighborhood to view some of the early Christmas decorations. Weather was not as snowy as in 2016 yet, still chilly.

The hay wagon arrived but was pulled by a tractor instead of a team of horses. Nobody complained even when an equipment failure caused a 1-hour delay when the wagon got a flat tire. Hot chocolate and goodies were available in the basement and some of the Girl Scouts helped many make craft items while they waited for a ride or warmed up following one.



Santa arrived at 2:15 and had a busy couple of hours learning what the nearly 100 young people that pleaded their case to him for what they wanted for Christmas.

Santa worked until 4:30 and, since he is a special guy, makes suggestions to us for next year to take care of the growing number of attendees to this annual Black Earth tradition. He's especially pleased to see the children of the children he remembers from his first visits to our Santa Sundays. We sure appreciate him and hope this event continues to grow.

We are especially grateful for the generous contribution from the Black Earth Chamber of Commerce, Cross Plains Culvers and the new Kwik-Trip on Center Street north of highway 14 for hot chocolate and goodies that warmed up large and small attendees alike. And of course the work and donations of the Board, Archivist, members and guests that make this a special event.

IN THE WORKS

Annual Meeting and a revision of By Laws: A committee is looking into updating our Bylaws before our February 11th Annual Meeting. Since we are bound by our existing By Laws for meeting dates, dues and other restrictions we thought a review and update was needed. We believe a restructuring of committees and classification of members and volunteers is needed to accomplish the mission of the Society.

We need members and volunteers to do the things required to computerize our collections and make them useful and available to more people. Wish us luck and send us suggestions if you have some. We would like to publish some family histories if available rather than simply report past and future events.

Even investigating a partnering on an Ancestral Land Project we have been approached about. Developing

As you do your spring cleaning remember our Spring Garage Sale usually the end of April. It's been one of our best fundraisers and your contributions are always appreciated

Auld Lang Syne

100 Years Ago

Dane County News 1918

The annual meeting of the Black Earth Co-Operative Dairy Association was held Saturday afternoon at the creamery building. The following directors were elected: Fred Stuble, James McCue and John Hopkins.

The gross sales of the creamery for the year amounted to \$145,000. This is the largest business the creamery has ever done from a financial standpoint.



Dane County News advertisements 1918

75 Years Ago

Dane County News 1943

Mrs. A. W. Pickering fell in the office of the Patron's Mercantile Co. store about five

o'clock Thursday afternoon dislocating and fracturing her left arm and dislocating her right knee. She was taken to St. Mary's hospital at Madison in Schanel's ambulance.

Henry Bronson, principal of the high school reports that 750 had registered for war ration book No. 2 up to Thursday noon and it was expected that 1000 will be registered by Thursday evening and 1200 to 1300 by closing of the registration on Friday.

50 Years Ago

News Sickle Arrow 1968

No snow! Toboggan parties and sleigh rides had to be canceled at Pud's ranch on Sunday. Anybody got some cheap snow for sale?

The Dane County Highway Department plans to start making contacts this week to purchase right-of-way for the relocation of Highway F north of Black Earth.

March 1 marks the one-hundredth birthday of a newspaper being printed in Black Earth. The first newspaper was printed March 1, 1868 as the Monthly Budget. Today's News-Sickle-Arrow has grown from those beginnings.

25 Years Ago

News Sickle Arrow 1993 High School art teacher Hank Riepe was honored at "an outstanding and innovative teacher of the 90's" by Congressman Scott Klug last week. The award was made as part of Klug's program that honors outstanding teachers each year around his 2nd congressional District.

Black Earth police officer Kevin Handel reported police were called to the downtown area of Black Earth on January 26 to investigate a report that local juveniles, numbering six, were creating havoc at local businesses. The police told the group to get out of the business district and they did.

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!