

Otter Creek Historical Society

DURAND VILLAGE HALL

MARCH 2011



To explore the history of the Durand School District #322, also known as Otter Creek area and preserve information, oral and written, pertinent to its heritage. To display articles of historical and genealogical interest. To establish a museum.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had a great 2010. Time marches on and what was 2010 is now history. We are into 2011. We have planned what I hope is an interesting and informative agenda for the new year. We started off with our annual holiday luncheon at Domenico's in Beloit. I had never been there prior to our luncheon, and was very impressed with the facility and the courteous way we were received. The lunch was very good and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. Next, Fran Waller gave a program on quilting, which, unfortunately, I missed. I think everyone who attended enjoyed it. In March, Jane Phelps, who does many of our taxes, is going to give a program on filing our taxes and maybe a few hints to save us some money. That will be March 26th at the Village Hall, 10:a.m. Hope to see you there. In April we will be touring the Klehm Arboretum in Rockford, after a luncheon at the Harvest Restaurant. This is the site of the former Ghost Town on 20. In June Michael Keaton will give a program on his coin and currency collection. On July 30th, we will tour the Rockton Historical Society Museum after a luncheon at the Elderberry Tea House in Rockton. August 27th we will have Russ Sarver give a program on all his baseball paraphernalia, autographs, cards, etc. Then, in September, it's a trip to Cedarville and a tour of their historical museum. Luncheon will be at Tammy's Place in Orangeville. (continue on page 2)

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On October 29th some of our local veterans will speak to us about their experiences in WWII, Korea, Vietnam , Iraq and Afghanistan. Finally, in November, Maggie Davison will demonstrate her talent on the Dulcimer, and talk about the history of that instrument. It looks like we will have a busy year. I hope these programs will interest you and I hope to see many of you there. If you have any suggestions for programs, or the way I am doing things, please let me know. Thanks and have a good 2011.

Ben Clay

BIRTHDAYS

Donna Kohley	March
Duane Kinney	March
Lois Wilke	May
Judy Wilke	March
Margaret Smith	April
Gary Raetz	May

ANNIVERSARY

Kohleys	March
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When the power of love overpowers the love of power, there will be peace.

(Quote from Karen Wassel)

WHAT'S COMING UP?

MARCH 26: Jane Phelps is doing a program on tax filing for seniors. Durand Village Hall..10:00 a.m.

APRIL 30: Tour Klehm Arboretum. Lunch at the Harvest Restaurant on route 20.

MAY: No meeting. Starting in this month the Society will be selling raffle tickets for a chance to win an American Girl doll, with table, chairs, tea set, and more. Watch for various businesses selling tickets. The raffle will be held in November, just in time for Christmas gift giving.

Did you know that Colgate Toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns?

(submitted by Karen Wassel)

OTTER CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 YR.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY & STATE

PHONE

FROM THE SCRAPBOOKS
(from the Register Star April 1981)

Stone Barn has outlasted stagecoaches, ox teams

Franklin Grove...Probably the only barn in the area to have a road named after it is the stone barn on Stone Barn Road.

Located at the intersection of Stone Barn Road and Daysville Road, the old relic is apt to escape notice since it is surrounded on three sides by frame and metal additions. But its southface is unchanged from pioneer times.

No one knows how old the stone barn is. Local residents can recite a list of former owners, but all say, "The stone barn was old when I lived there."

A 92-year-old man who grew up nearby said. "The stone barn looked like that when I used to walk by it to go to school."

Henry Fruit, Franklin Grove, gave an educated guess that the barn was built in the 1850's or before, and probably by the person who bought the surrounding land from the government.

Willard Simpson, the present owner, said he learned from the abstract of the property that the 40 acres where the stone barn stands were bought from the government on March 1, 1848, by Edward S. Hunsdon. In those days no building permits were required, so no record exists of when buildings were placed on the property.

At that time, before sawmills and brickyards, the only material available for building was stone and logs. Fruit said he knows of one other barn, probably as old, located nearby. It is built of walnut logs.

Now the log structure is encased in siding and is an apartment house. (continued page 5)

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When the barn was built Daysville Road was an early and well traveled thoroughfare, according to Fruit.

“The road dates from the 1830's and went from Peoria to Lee Center to Franklin Grove to Daysville,” Fruit said. “It was a stage road.”

Fruit said his father drove a mail stage on the road two times a week. The run was from the now-disappeared village of Carthage, northwest of Franklin Grove to Oregon. Carthage was a village of nine families.

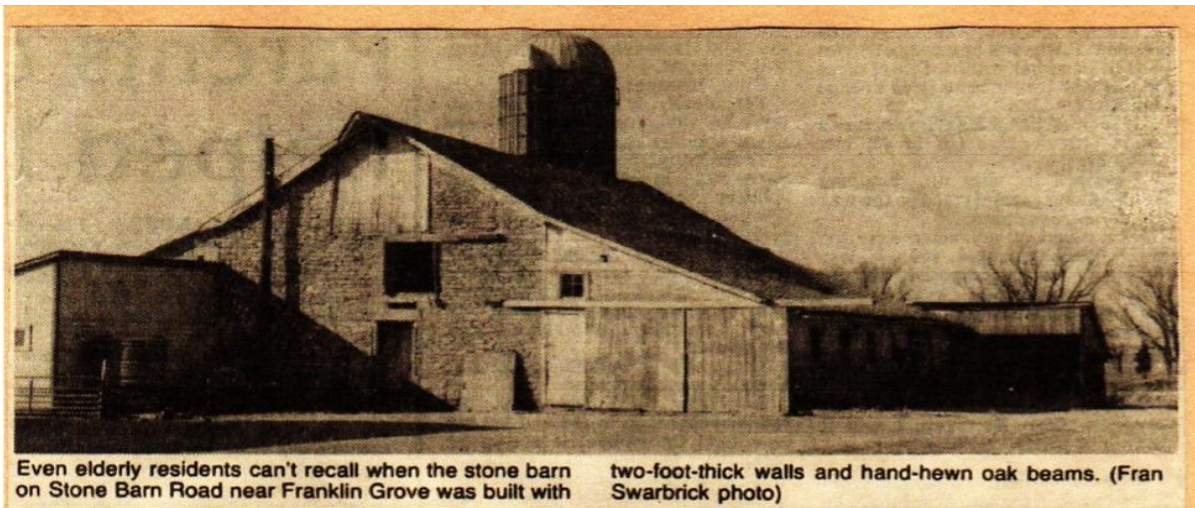
Simpson thinks the interior of the stone barn once had stalls for horses and cattle, but they have long since been removed. The two-foot-thick stone walls support hand-hewn oak beams, once the floor supports of the hay mow. The mow floor is of small tree trunks with the bark still on.

Of the two lean-tos built later on either side of the barn, one was used for dairy cattle and the other for a horse stable.

“It was a good barn,” remembers a lady who once lived on the property. “Cattle were kept in it, and a bull in the corner.”

The stone barn has outlasted other buildings on the farm. A house built before the present one burned.

The stone barn has outlasted stagecoaches, ox teams, and draft horse teams that once passed on the Daysville Road. It has seen a once-muddy, or dusty road change to a blacktop.



Even elderly residents can't recall when the stone barn on Stone Barn Road near Franklin Grove was built with

two-foot-thick walls and hand-hewn oak beams. (Fran Swarbrick photo)

OTTER CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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A Happy & Blessed Easter to All