

# A HISTORY OF RUSSELL TOWNSHIP

---

Compiled by  
Marsh Maids Homemaker Club





Marsh Maids Homemakers seated from left to right, front row, are Seraphine Rach, Kathryn Kraus, Kay Gross and La Vonne Kraemer. Second row, same order, Romilda Neuber, Ione Fritz, Marion Henschel, Bernice Wick, Karen Kornetzke, Mary Ann Mytko and Susan Birkholz. Third row, Alice Schmitz, Rose Arndt, Delores Woelfel, Clem Cwiklinski, Jeanette Conrad, Margaret Mauk, Ruth Schuricht, Eleanor Theel, Lucille Dickrell and Eleanor Kuhn. (Kiel Record Photo)

May 20, 1975,

#### HISTORY OF THE MARSH MAIDS 1955-1975

The club was organized at the home of Mrs. George Dickrell in January, 1955, but because of bad weather, not very many could attend.

The first meeting of the Holiday Homemakers was called to order by Doris Staidl, our County Home Economist, on February 14, 1955, at the home of Mrs. Julius Henschel. Election of officers took place, those elected were: President, Mrs. Julius Henschel; Vice-President, Mrs. George Dickrell; and Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Gerald Wick. The club was named Holiday Homemakers. A discussion on "Heart Disease" was given by Mrs. Henschel and Mrs. Dickrell. Our project leaders for March were Mrs. Mytko and Mrs. Wick on "The Use and Care of Small Appliances." Dues were 15c per member per month. Charter members were: Mrs. Julius Henschel, Mrs. George Dickrell, Mrs. Gerald Wick, Mrs. Lyle Conrad, Mrs. Elroy Arndt, Mrs. Ervin Mytko, Mrs. Peter Faust, Mrs. Norman Fritz and Mrs. Roland Kuhn. Other members joining were Mrs. Arno Adams, Mrs. Aaron Schuricht and Mrs. Othmar Woelfel. The Sunshine Club was started in September 1955. Each member contributed 5c a meeting, Ruth Schuricht was our Sunshine Chairman. We took part in the Christmas Fair of 1955. Our first Christmas party was held at the Town Hall. It was a Pot Luck supper, and husbands were invited. We played bingo and had a gift exchange.

X In January of 1956 we drew names for Secret Pal. We contributed \$3.00 to the March of Dimes. New officers for 1956-57 were: President Mrs. Elroy Arndt; Vice-President, Mrs. George Dickrell; and Secretary-Treasurer, Eleanor Kuhn. Mrs. Leonard Ausloos joined the club in October. Our September 1956 project was "Outdoor Cookery." Mrs. Julius Henschel and Mrs. Aaron Schuricht were leaders. Our menu consisted of Hamburger in foil, Roasted Ears, Frankfurters, Squaw Corn, Hot Garlic bread and "Somemores." (Marshmallows, chocolate and crackers.) We participated in Christmas Fair again. Some members attended Craft School, namely; Mrs. Arndt, and Mrs. Woelfel (metal enameling and cake decorating.) Mrs. Milton Mauk was a visitor in March 1957. In April 1957 members voted to change the name of the club to Marsh Maids. Elections took place in April, 1957. Those elected were: President, Mrs. Gerald Wick; Vice-President, Mrs. Aaron Schuricht; Secretary, Mrs. Roland Kuhn; Treasurer, Mrs. Arno Adams; Sunshine Club, Mrs. Othmar Woelfel. Mrs. Milton Mauk joined in September 1957. No Christmas Fair was held. We went out to eat at Mullenbachs for our Christmas party, and then went to Woelfel's for entertainment.

Officers for 1958-1959 were: President, Mrs. Gerald Wick; Vice-President, Mrs. Aaron Schuricht; Secretary, Mrs. Lyle Conrad; Treasurer, Mrs. Arno Adams, and Sunshine Chairman, Mrs. Elroy Arndt. Our project for October was Bread-making. Discussion on Pen Pals was held. Mrs. Elroy Theel and Mrs. Eugene Kraemer joined in January 1959. Our Christmas party was held at Hoehl's Hall for the entire family. Candy was given to the children and a gift exchange was held for the adults.

September 1959-60: President, Mrs. George Dickrell; Vice-President, MaryAnn Mytko, Secretary, Mrs. Lyle Conrad; Treasurer, Mrs. Elroy Arndt and Sunshine Club, Mrs. Mauk, Mrs. Carl Neuber joined in September 1959. Cancer film was shown at the October meeting by Mrs. Lester Brandt.

1960-1961: President, Mrs. George Dickrell; Vice-President, Mrs. Ervin Mytko; Secretary, Mrs. Elroy Theel; Treasurer, Mrs. Gerald Wick; Sunshine Chairman; Mrs. Milton Mauk, Mrs. Kenneth Drake joined the club in September 1961.

X 1961-1962: President, Mrs. Eugene Kraemer; Vice-President, Mrs. Elroy Arndt; Secretary, Eleanor Theel; Treasurer, Mrs. Gerald Wick. Pot luck suppers have been our favorite type of meetings.

1962-1963: President, Mrs. Eugene Kraemer; Vice-President, Mrs. Elroy Arndt; Secretary, Mrs. Carl Neuber; Treasurer, Mrs. Othmar Woelfel; Sunshine Club, Mrs. Milton Mauk. It was decided to change the meeting date from the third Thursday to the third Tuesday of each month.

1963-1964: President, Mrs. Arno Adams; Vice-President, Mrs. Roland Kuhn, Secretary, Mrs. Carl Neuber, Treasurer, Mrs. Othmar Woelfel, Sunshine Club, Mrs. Milton Mauk. Mrs. Carl Birkholz joined in September 1964. Silver Wedding Anniversaries were celebrated by Mrs. Henschel, Mrs. Mauk and Mrs. Carl Neuber. A pot luck supper was held honoring them. A family picnic was held at the Sheboygan Marsh on July 12, 1964.

1964-1965: President, Mrs. Arno Adams; Vice-President, Mrs. Roland Kuhn; Secretary, Mrs. Aaron Schuricht; Treasurer, Mrs. Milton Mauk. In January of 1965 we had an A.F.S. student, Inger Harborg from Denmark, show slides and give a talk on her homeland. She was living with the Delmar Schuler family, and attended Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah High School. We celebrated our 10th Anniversary of our Homemaker Club by going out to eat at Blanck's at Johnsburg, April 20th, 1965. Mrs. Wick's Silver wedding was also celebrated that night.

1965-1966: President, Mrs. Lyle Conrad, Vice-President, Mrs. Carl Birkholz; Secretary, Mrs. Aaron Schuricht and Treasurer, Mrs. Milton Mauk.

1966-1967: President, Mrs. Lyle Conrad; Vice-president, Mrs. Carl Birkholz; Secretary, Mrs. Eugene Kraemer; and Treasurer, Mrs. Elroy Arndt. Mrs. Pontius was our Extension Leader. We invited our husbands to a dinner which was held at Rhine Center in September 1966. Marion Henschel showed slides on her trip to California. In April 1967 it was decided that the Vice-President would move up to President after one year, with a new Vice-President to be elected each year.

1967-1968: President, Mrs. Aaron Schuricht; Vice-President, Mrs. Carl Neuber; Secretary, Mrs. Eugene Kraemer; and Treasurer, Mrs. Elroy Arndt. Mrs. Alice Kuhn joined the group in December 1967. Mrs. Elroy Theel celebrated her Silver Wedding in October 1967. Mrs. Henschel showed slides of her trip to Europe.

1968-1969: President, Mrs. Carl Neuber; Vice-President, Mrs. Ervin Mytko; Secretary, Mrs. Birkholz; and Treasurer, Mrs. Alice Kuhn. Mrs. Schmahl gave a demonstration on cake decorating. In February 1969 Miss Zagorski showed slides on her trip to Peru. We went to tour Milwaukee in May 1969.

1969-1970: President, Mrs. MaryAnn Mytko; Vice-President, Mrs. Othmar Woelfel; Secretary, Mrs. Birkholz; Treasurer, Mrs. Kuhn. In September 1969 our club had a surprise party for Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Rach (Seraphine Faust) who were married in July of 1969.

1970-1971: President, Mrs. Othmar Woelfel; Vice-President, Mrs. Alice (Kuhn) Schmitz; Secretary, Mrs. Elroy Arndt; Treasurer, Mrs. Eugene Kramer. Mrs. Melvin Kraus joined the group in February 1971. It was decided to cancel meetings in case of bad weather and it was decided that when the schools are closed and temperature is below zero to move the meeting to the following week. Taken from minutes of meeting held February 16, 1971.

1971-1972: President, Mrs. Arno Adams; Two terms for Secretary, Mrs. Elroy Arndt; Treasurer, Mrs. Eugene Kraemer. Our project was on caning chairs at the home of Mrs. Jerry Schmitz. Mr. Albert Jochimsen demonstrated. Slides were shown by Mrs. Schmitz on her trip to Europe. Mrs. Kornetzke joined in January of 1972.

1972-1973: President, Mrs. Birkholz; Vice-President, Mrs. Melvin Kraus; Secretary, Mrs. Kornetzke; Treasurer, Mrs. Schuricht. In September of 1972 three Silver Anniversaries were celebrated, namely, Jeanette Conrad, MaryAnn Mytko, and LaVonne Kraemer. Two Christmas gifts were given to patients at the Sheboygan County Hospital at Christmas time.

1973-1974: President, Mrs. Birkholz; Vice-President, Mrs. Melvin Kraus; Secretary, Mrs. Kornetzke; Treasurer, Mrs. Schuricht. There was a surprise party for Mutzie Kraus's 25th Wedding Anniversary at Jeanette's Pot Luck supper. Jenny Brandford, an A.F.S. student from Barbados spoke to our group also. A family picnic was held at the Melvin Kraus farm, in 1973. We participated at the Christmas fair and made a profit of \$75.55.

1974-1975: President, Mrs. Melvin Kraus; Vice-President, Mrs. George Dickrell; Secretary, Mrs. Julius Henschel; Treasurer, Mrs. Eugene Kraemer; Sunshine Chairman, Mrs. Milton Mauk, (Since 1959-1960 term.) Carl Jimenez, A.F.S. student from Costa Rica who lived with the Eugene Kraemer's spoke to our group in January, 1974. A motion was made to have our next election of officers in September 1975 to take office in January 1976. Mrs. Elroy Arndt is a member of the Holiday and Craft Fair committee. This year we remembered Miss Ida Conrad and Mrs. George Smith with gifts at Christmas time. Tam Suphasis from Thailand spoke to our group. Mrs. Elroy Theel is the Chairman of the Citizenship committee.

On May 20th we met at the home of Mrs. George Dickrell to observe our 20th Anniversary of our club. We invited all former members to our pot luck supper. We also surprised Delores Woelfel for her 25th Silver Anniversary.

Submitted by,  
Mrs. Julius Henschel  
Mrs. George Dickrell

New members added since this report was submitted include Mrs. Richard Cwiklinski, October 1974; Mrs. Al Gross, Jr., November 1974; and Mrs. Richard Stasiak, December 1975.

## A HISTORY OF TOWN RUSSEL

Translated from:

### GESCHICHTE SHEBOYGAN COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Franklin Publishing Co. 1898

[Sheboygan, Wisconsin]

Translated by Mrs. Eleanor Kuhn

Town Russell is the boundary and cornerstone of the northwestern part of our county. Its nearest neighbors are Town Rhine to the east, and Town Greenbush to the south; the latter having a partnership with Russell, since Russell gave a considerable piece of land to Town Greenbush, (as has been noted earlier).

On the north it borders on Calumet County, and on the west with Fond du Lac County. Even though Russell comprises only 24 sections, it is smaller (as will be shown later).

If Russell had not been dealt with so severely when it came to the surveying, and Greenbush had been treated in a "stepmotherly" way, the latter township would have received none of the Sheboygan "Lake" (albeit now a rather dry lake), and only the "smoke" when the wind is favorable, from the train that now crosses Greenbush. For, by rights, the upper twelve sections of the present Town Greenbush, replete with lake and railroad, belong to Russell.

But this land-partitioning occurred . . . not from stepmotherish, but from well-meaning intent, in fact by the action of the County Board, for the benefit of those who lived on the south side of the Sheboygan Marsh.

Russell has neither railroad, nor one city or village within its boundaries, since St. Anna does not belong to Sheboygan County. Besides, a considerable stretch of land, the marsh, is not the best of land, therefore this township was not very well favored.

There is one resource in which it is not lacking, and that is WATER. The Sheboygan River enters in Section 20, and runs through Sections 21-24. From Section 22 a branch rises and runs through the Township in a northwesterly direction.

Section 13 was the first to be settled; namely by Louis Odell, about the year 1848.

One of the earliest and best known settlers of the township was Valentine Voelker, who settled in Section 5 in 1849.

In the autumn of the same year Anton Boll arrived, settling in the same Section, Five.

Then came Section 2, where in 1849 Jonathan Cottrill and J. Schufflebothan settled.

In the following year, the spring of 1850, Johann Henschell settled in Section 15. In autumn came Michael Byrne, settling in Section 10, and C. Abbey in Section 2.

In 1851, five more settlers came: P. Smith who built his home in Section 13, John L. Sexton whose axe rang out in Section 12. P. Flynn who set up a temporary shelter in Section 3, Patrick Keenan who brought "manners and mores" to the virgin forest in Section 11, and finally Bernard McCabe who chose Section 2 for his residence.

In 1852, the county government proposed the organization of the township, to which the settlers gladly agreed.

X In honor of Johann Russell, who lived in Section 4 at the time, the township was named; Russell. *next to Sec 3 where we lived to west.*

In the spring of 1854, the first election of town officials took place, at the home of George Keenan who lived in Section 3. A total of fourteen votes were cast in this election, and Michael Byrne was chosen town chairman, and John L. Sexton: town clerk.

Early in 1851, worship services were held in St. Anna in a little log church, lacking only a steeple. Pastor Ell served.

We would make mention of several family milestones here: Heinrich Henschell and Miss Amalia Wolf were the first bridal couple in the new township, repeating their vows before Rev. Dean. It was spring . . . 1855.

The first white child born in Town Russell was a daughter to the Anton Bolls. And among the first to be carried to his grave was a man named Trinbauer, who in the fall of 1853 met his death accidentally . . . struck by a falling tree on the Michael Wagner farm.

John L. Sexton served as the first schoolmaster, for 30 some school age children, in a schoolhouse erected in Section 12.

John L. Sexton also served as postmaster; the post office at that time was in Section 12. Russell would have been unanimously Democratic, but Mr. Sexton didn't allow the Democrats that pleasure, and always voted Republican.

Even to this day (1898) the township has no market place within its boundaries, and is much more dependent upon Glenbeulah, Elkhart Lake or Plymouth, which . . . considering the roads nowadays . . . is of no great consequence; but in those pioneer times it was a different story.

The nearest mill for the Russell settler in those days was in Plymouth; nowadays we would consider it quite a feat, to traverse the terrain as it was then between Russell and Plymouth, balancing a sack of meal on the shoulder as well as other provisions.

Another feat was the preparation of the land, as it was effected in Russell in 1851, (and just the same way as it was probably carried on in other locations in the county).

In the spring of that year, M. Byrne cut down the timber on 10 acres, worked it up, seeded it, and finally harvested it . . . without using any other power than that of his own arms.

The work that had to be done in those first years was certainly not easy without considering the many difficulties which stood in the way of the settlers in a land that was not yet tillable. But then, the labor did not go unrewarded; the soil in Russell repaid the landowner richly for his troubles.

The years 1848 to 1850 are if anything . . . full of sad memories, but with the year 1855, at which time there were already 204 settlers in the township, the situation took another turn. For from this time on, the young settlement grew

rapidly, at least until 1875, as is shown in the following table:

In 1860 . . .	570 residents.
1870 . . .	623
1875 . . .	850
1895 . . .	443

The years 1875 to 1895 show a sizable decrease, which is noted in other townships also.

The 443 inhabitants according to their origins were: 356 Americans, 74 Germans, 11 Irish, and 2 French. Of these, 249 were male, and 194 female.

In 1865, 3 miles northwest of Elkhart Lake, an Evangelical church was organized. The congregation was named: German-Evangelical St. Paul's Church. As of the year 1895, the congregation numbered 45 families. 297 children had been baptized in St. Paul's, 165 children confirmed, 49 couples married, and 97 persons buried.

A mission congregation was formed from this church in Greenbush; founded in 1892 and served by Pastor P. A. Schuh.

By 1898 there were 5 schools in operation, attended by 126 children, and there was also a private school.

Russell (in 1898) had 5690 acres of land under cultivation, 839 acres of woodland, and 7026 acres of land which had not yet been put to use. These lands represented a valuation of \$353,141.

The cheese produced in the township factories came to 157,740 pounds, with a retail value of \$13,295.

Russell produced the following commodities for the grain market:

	Acres	Bushels	Valued At
Wheat	547	16,395	\$7,901
Oats	741	30,407	8,849
Corn	201	5,110	1,047
Barley	1421	39,346	18,582
Rye	23	525	292
Peas	18	342	203
Potatoes	61	2,472	992

Further, 117,405 pounds of butter were marketed, and brought in \$22,660.

The numbers of domestic animals in the township were as follows:

Head	Animal	Valued At
273	horses	\$7,260
56	sheep	112
1006	cattle	7800
351	pigs	696

The old settlers had great difficulty bringing the land into cultivation, but as one can see: "Where there's a will there's a way." (Better said in German: "Willenscraft, Wege schafft.")

They have set a shining example for the younger generation following them; though they work under a new spirit in a new age, and one may say as well: with improved methods. Yet they should never lose sight of the fact: that those old trail blazers . . . went about it in such a way as to attain fine results for themselves and for their successors.

Those who served on the town board at the time (1898) were:

Supervisors: D. Harkins, J. Turba, and L. Platz

Clerk: Jacob Siegmund

Assessor: Nik. Janty

and Treasurer: Nik. Gregorie

As a comparison, we include the following 1975 statistics from the township:

Population: 522

The number of domestic animals is as follows:

Head	Animal	Valued At
2,280	cows	\$297,715
216	swine	12,355

Acreage is divided as follows:

7,572 agricultural

68 swamp and waste

2,275 forest lands

156 woodland

80 state

5,140 county

11 other

A total of 15,302 acres.

#### TAX RECEIPTS

1852	John Henschel	80 acres	tax \$10.25
1856	John Sexton	177 acres	\$12.01
1857	John Henschel	171 acres	\$13.38
1860	John Henschel	80 acres	\$11.04
1861	John Henschel	111 acres	\$13.92
1862	John Henschel	40 acres	\$3.07
1870	Herman Henschel		\$10.05
1883	Claus Jeanty	130 acres and personal	\$59.28
1887	Claus Jeanty	40 acres	\$10.84
1888	Claus Jeanty	130 acres and personal	\$47.98
1914	Herman Henschel	301 acres	\$119.98
1922	John Jeanty	200 acres	\$299.65

#### FARMERS' MERCANTILE AND SUPPLY CO. RECEIPTS

1910		
4 Derring sections	.07	.28
50# twine	.10	5.00
6 pieces hickory		.50
2 slings	3.00	6.00
13 rafter brackets	.04	.52
1 sling carrier		9.00
Receipt for burial expense - \$385.00		1938
Burial expense 1976, \$1,800 and up		
4.0 test price per hundred weight	\$2.21	12/2/1929
Grade A milk, 4.0 test per hundred weight, \$9.35 approx.		May, 1976
1926		
November 25th Matt Winkel, axe price	\$2.16	

#### GOVERNMENT SURVEY

The first enactment in regard to the surveying of the public lands was an ordinance passed by the Congress of the Confederation May 20, 1785 prescribing the mode for the survey of the "Western Territory" and which provided that said territory should be divided into "townships of six miles square, by lines running due north and south and others crossing them at right angles" as near as might be.

Subsequent Acts of Congress followed during the years to give us our present way of surveying. A series of townships situated in a tier north and south are called a Range. The ranges are numbered in regular progressive order, east and west from the principle Meridian.

The land embraced within the present limits of Sheboygan County was divided into townships by two surveyors named Mullett and Brink during the winter of 1833 and 1834, according to instructions, stakes were set every half mile around the township for section and quarter section corners. These corners marked in the field applied to the township north and west of the line.



Dennis Harkins  
Russell  
Wendel Burg  
St. Anna

Jos. Turba  
Russell  
Thos. B. Grogan  
Russell

Jacob Siegmund  
Russell  
Henry Platz  
Russell

Herman Henschel  
Russell  
J. G. Bauernfeind  
Rhine



John Turba  
Russell

## INDIANS

Sheboygan County, at the time of the arrival of the first white settler in 1835-1836, was inhabited by various tribes of Indians, of which the Chippewas were the most numerous; besides these were the Menomonees, the Pottawatomies, a few Winnebagos, and Ottawas.

In order to appreciate Indian history and antiquities, one must consider Sheboygan County's physical and topographical features. Its undulating surface and rich and fertile soil was originally covered with deciduous and pine forest. The Kettles with their hills and ridges and beautiful lakes (Elkhart, Crystal, Little Elkhart, Ellen, Random and Crooked) were most attractive to the Indians, and many villages and campsites were along their shores.

The Sheboygan Marsh, formerly a lake slightly larger than Lake Mendota at Madison at least 45 feet deep, is said by some to be "one of the most notable haunts of the Indians in the state of Wisconsin." The banks of the marsh were an almost continuous village site, and has proven itself rich in Indian artifacts.

When the white man began to settle in Sheboygan County, there were about one thousand Indians within the county limits. Their villages were composed of wigwams made of bark. There was a large settlement on both sides of the Sheboygan River, below Ashly's (Ashby's) place, comprising about 100 wigwams with perhaps 400 or 500 inhabitants. There was a large village, a little east of the present village of Cascade, and another still a mile or two south of this. There were also one or two other villages further west and one north of the Sheboygan Marsh, in the present town of Russell. At all of these places there were cleared fields in which corn and potatoes were raised.

Many mound (burial) sites were found in Russell township as well as village campsites. Due to cultivation many have been destroyed. The mounds were made in various shapes and sizes; panther shape, conical and elongated, some located in gravel pits. Contained in these mounds were layers of boulders underneath which were human skeletons. As many as 40 to 50 skeletons in a layer and one "found literally filled to the depth of 2½ feet with human skeletons." Along with the bodies were buried weapons and ornaments. Generally speaking the skeletons were in a sitting position, in a circle around and facing a large sea shell. Interestingly, one shell was identified as a specimen of *Fasciolaria gigantea*, Kiener. This species occurs from South Carolina to Brazil and is the largest species of snail, ranging up to two feet in length.

Locations where artifacts have been found are too numerous to mention, but a few are listed below:

- the Herbert Henschel farm
- Walter Kraus farm
- Carl Birkholz farm
- Ervin Schmitz farm
- Ted and Gary Henschel farm
- Ervin Merten farm
- William Kraemer farm
- farms located in Sections 8 and 9.

Burial mounds were found on the following farms:

- Gary and Ted Henschel
- Carl Birkholz
- Walter Kraus
- Jerry Meyer
- Ervin Schmitz

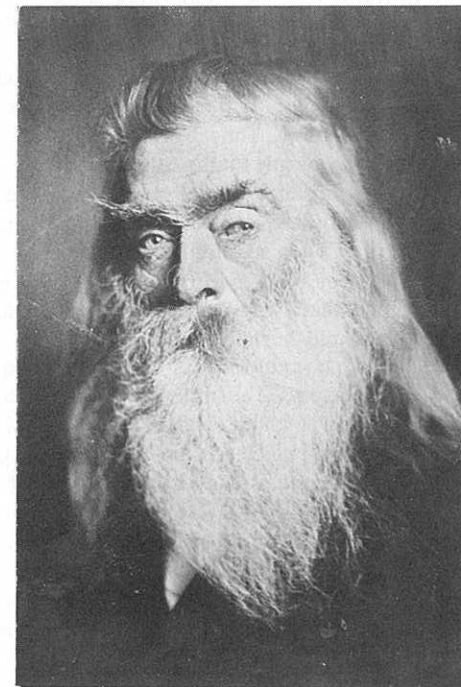
Many artifacts are still found today.

Chief Solomon was well known and respected in this area. He died about 1889 at Keshena on the Menominee Indian Reservation.

From 1831 to 1833 the Indians gave title to their land to the United States. They remained here for a number of years, but gradually disappeared and ceased to exist here as their hunting grounds were taken over by the white man.

A simple wrought iron marker on the spot where his home stood, reads,

Site of  
Former home  
of  
JOHN L. SEXTON  
Pioneer School Teacher  
A friend of the  
Great Outdoors  
Born 1824, Died 1911



John L. Sexton

This marker, a granite tombstone located in a cemetery at the south edge of Glenbeulah village limits, (which bears the inscription "Gone but not forgotten)" a small collection of his personal papers, and a few newspaper clippings and photos, are all that is left to remind us of this Town of Russell pioneer.

He was a native of the state of Vermont, emigrating to the Town of Russell in 1845, at the age of 21.

The town was just being settled, and new residents were carving their homesteads from the forests, taking time out occasionally to put their civic affairs in order. A schoolteacher was needed, so Sexton was hired for \$18 a month, with some 30 school age children in his charge. Six years later, he became the first town clerk, and when a post office was established on Feb. 22, 1855, he served as the postmaster until the post office discontinued the service on Dec. 19, 1872. For many years, he was the only native-born American citizen in the township. Most of the early settlers were either Irish or German. In the political field, Russell would have been unanimously Democratic, but Sexton would not allow the Democrats the pleasure, and always voted Republican. Mr. Sexton lived alone; and preferred it that way. His wife had died, and little mention is made of his four children, three sons, John, Charlie and Barton, and one daughter Maria. He was a picturesque character who boasted that he hadn't had a haircut in 25 years. This accounts for his long white hair falling over his shoulders, and his snow-white beard, bushy and unkempt. His eyebrows stood out over his deepset eyes, but his looks belied his character, for they say he was kind and generous. He was a lover of nature, spending most of this time outdoors, studying plant life and observing the habits of birds and animals.

His small cottage, on the 40 acres of land he owned (mostly marshland and untillable) contained many Indian relics and natural history objects which he had collected in the neighboring fields and marsh, along with the piles of old newspapers, magazines, books and reports. It was surrounded by fruit trees, bushes and a garden.

Known as a hermit, it was natural for the rumor to circulate that he was a miser, with money hidden in or about his house. It was this which led to his death on June 28, 1911, by an unemployed immigrant, Tony Umbrellio.

Shortly after sunset, a neighbor, Joseph Flath, came to visit the old man. He saw no signs of him, but his cane hanging in its usual place, indicated Mr. Sexton to be home. He looked in through the window, and in the fading twilight he saw a chair tipped over backwards and a man's leg extending over it.

He called out, received no answer, and then ran to the home of Peter and John Kraemer. Returning, they forced their way in and discovered the blood-drenched and mutilated body of the gentle old hermit.

Mr. Sexton had been seated at the table in his cottage, surrounded on all sides by his accumulations of a half century. The murderer had entered the one door, gotten within four feet of Sexton without being seen, and it was obvious a tremendous struggle had taken place before the old man yielded his life. His beard was pulled out and there were numerous slashes to his face, shoulder, arms and hands. Three hundred dollars had been taken from his pockets. Police called it "one of the most brutal crimes ever committed in this county".

An intensive investigation was begun and a blood stained knife was found in the area. Several days later, Sexton's watch was discovered at a boarding house from which three men were missing. One of the missing men was Tony Umbrellio (various accounts also put his name as Borello or Umborillo), and the blood stained knife was identified as being his.

Funeral services were held on Sunday afternoon, July 2 and temperatures soared to 103 degrees in Sheboygan County that day. Hundreds came to pay their last respects, some to view the remains, while others "close friends of the decendant, held back, preferring to remember him as he appeared before the cruel hand of an assassin laid him, low".

A reward fund was established by the Sheboygan Press and promoted daily with

front page coupons for a month or longer. A reward of \$1,000 for the arrest of the culprit was offered on Dec. 12, 1911, by the County Board of Supervisors. Earlier, Governor Francis McGovern said to be a frequent visitor to the Sexton cottage, put up \$300.

The search intensified when two bank certificates payable to John Sexton in the amounts of \$300 were cashed in Chicago in exchange for a steampship ticket to Italy. The ticket cost was \$53, and the ship was to sail from New York on July 5. Police set up a stakeout to try to catch the man when he returned for his tickets, but he never did.

He apparently had other means of making his way home. No trace was found of him until September of 1912, when Italian police found him living on a farm 200 miles from Naples with his wife and four children. There was a vicious gun battle, and Umbrellio was captured and taken to Rome.

Sheboygan County Deputy Sheriff E. R. Thiel and E. P. Cunningham, a private detective from Milwaukee, who had been hired to work on the case, left immediately for Rome to begin extradition proceedings.

They ran into a snarl of red tape with the Italian government though, extradition was refused, and they returned without Umbrellio. But the Italian court agreed to try the man for his crime, he was found guilty of murder, and sentenced to serve 17 years in prison.

He died while serving his term, and never did admit to having killed Mr. Sexton.

The Sexton cottage remained, was remodeled, and used as a tavern. Later, it was removed to a nearby farm and used to house farm animals.

*This Indenture*, Made the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Sixty four between Patrick Flynn & Mary Flynn his wife of the Town of Russell Sheboygan Co State of Wisconsin and John L. Sexton & Sidney S. Smith of Sheboygan County and State of Wisconsin parties of the first part

Witnesseth, That the said part 2<sup>d</sup> of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred & twenty one Dollars to us in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have granted, bargained, and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain and sell unto the said part 2<sup>d</sup> of the second part, unto his heirs and assigns forever a lot of thirty certain acres & parcel of land situated in the Town of Russell County of Sheboygan to wit: The north half of the North East Quarter Section No. Three (3) Township No. Eighteen (18) North Range No. 22) Twenty East, Containing Eighty acres.

To have and to hold the above bargained premises, with the appurtenances unto the said part 2<sup>d</sup> of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever. Provided always, and these presents are upon this express condition, that if the said Patrick Flynn & Mary his wife parties of the first part their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, shall well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said part 2<sup>d</sup> of the second part his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns the sum of one hundred & twenty one Dollars according to the tenor & condition of a promissory note bearing even date herewith for the sum of thirty Dollars with interest at seven per cent per annum due to John L. Sexton & Sidney S. Smith

John L. Sexton  
Mary H. Sexton

Patrick Flynn  
Mary H. Flynn

STATE OF WISCONSIN,  
County of Sheboygan  
A. D. 1864 personally came before me the above-named Patrick Flynn and Mary his wife to be known to be the person who executed the foregoing mortgage, and acknowledged the execution thereof to be their free act and deed for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

John L. Sexton  
Justice of the Peace

### HERMAN HENSCHEL

A prosperous farmer of the town of Russell and a pioneer of Sheboygan County, he was born in Saxony, Germany, March 10, 1842. He is a son of John G. and Christiana Henschel, who came to America with seven children and settled in German Town in 1849. Two years later they came to what is now the town of Russell, but which at that time was an unbroken wilderness, inhabited mostly by Indians.

They drove up from German Town with two yoke of oxen, bringing cows and pigs with them. They were obliged to cut a road a greater part of the way and built the first bridge in town Russell. There was a small cluster of wigwams on the farm nearby now owned by Mr. Kessel. A large part of what is now the Sheboygan Marsh was at that time a lake well supplied with fish. Game of all kinds was very plentiful. Ducks and geese covered the lake, making nights hideous with their quacking. As most of his early life was spent in a wilderness, it was not until he was 10 or 11 years of age that Herman Henschel attended school; that he made good use of his opportunity, his well equipped farm will testify.

In 1862 he was married to Mary Maurer. They had eleven children, five boys and six girls. Their one son Walter, who married Katie Buchman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Buchman, one of 6 children, took over the family farm. They had eight children, 4 boys and 4 girls, their youngest son Ted who married Dorinda Enders and had 2 children, Gary and Judy, then took them over the farm which he owns today and is rented by his son Gary and family.



Residence of Herman Henschel, Russell Township

### WENDEL BURG

The proprietor of the general store at St. Anna, was born on a farm at Marytown, Wis. July 1855. His early education was received at a district school and later he attended the college department at St. Francis Seminary. On May 29, 1879, he married Miss Katie Voelker, who bore him four children.

In 1882 he engaged in mercantile business, having purchased from Michael Schmitt the general store in St. Anna and in the same year was appointed postmaster, which office he as since retained.

Besides having a general store in which he carries a full line of dry goods, notions, groceries and hardware, he has a fine opera house and a well equipped

hotel, especially arranged for transient travelers.

(This above was taken from The Historical Atlas Of Sheboygan County 1902)

Later owners of the General store were Claude Feldner, a son-in-law of Wendel Burg, he married their daughter Mildred. Then it was sold to a Altenberger, then to Schneckl and Herzog who sold it to John Ausloos, then Earl Thiel, Arno Krupp, Don Smoot and the present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Myron Schuppel.



Store of Wendel Burg, St. Anna, Wis.

### SOMETHING OF INTEREST

Quoted from the "Illustrated Historical Atlas of Sheboygan County Wisconsin. 1875

How the name Sheboygan was fastened upon this locality nobody seems to know. Most persons delight to tell the Indian papoose story, and it is periodically repeated by some newspaper correspondent as something new and strange.

Indian Solomon, who claims to be the last of the chiefs, says that the original name was She-wau-wau-gun, meaning the place where the water runs under the ground, the Indians claiming that after the junction of the "Mullet" and "Onion" with the "Sheboygan" River, there did not appear to be any more water in the Sheboygan than before, and that consequently there must be, somewhere, an underground outlet.

Within the last few years the manufacture of cheese has largely engaged the attention of agriculturists. At the first annual fair of the Sheboygan County Agricultural Society, held at Sheboygan Falls, September, 24th and 25th, 1857, N. C. Harmon, of Lyndon, took the first premium ever awarded to Sheboygan County cheese. No attempt at organization or co-operation was made until 1858. In that year John J. Smith, Esq., procured the first cheese vat, and gathered curd from his neighbors, after the Ohio plan, and manufactured it into cheese.

In the Autumn of 1858, Mr. Smith barreled up fifty-eight cheese, boxes not being obtainable, and took them to Chicago for sale. Leaving his cheese at the warehouse, he called on the dealers, and endeavored to effect a sale. On asking if they would like to purchase, he was met with the inquiry, "Where were your cheese made?" "In Sheboygan." "Where is that?" "In Wisconsin." "We don't want any Wisconsin cheese; can't sell anything but New York cheese, and don't want anything else in our store." After several attempts to effect a sale, he asked one



dealer to look at his cheese, but was told "it was no use to spend his time." Mr. Smith then asked him "how much his time was worth," and offered the dealer one dollar as a compensation for half an hour's time in examining his cheese. As the result of his examination, a sale was effected of the fifty-eight Wisconsin cheese, at eight cents the pound.

In the year 1859, Hon. Hiram Smith started a regular cheese factory, and gathered milk from his patrons, purchasing or manufacturing for a percentage of the product.

In 1872 a Dairy Board of Trade was organized, holding regular meetings at the Village of Sheboygan Falls, for the sale of cheese.

In 1875 the number of factories had increased to forty-five, and the product to fifty thousand boxes, or over two million pounds of cheese.

The changes of the last seven years in the dairy interests of this county, are but a sample of the general progress and improvement. Then the entire product of the county, for exportation, was but fifty-eight cheese. Now fifty thousand boxes are exported, a large portion direct to England. Then a buyer had to be paid at the rate of one dollar an hour for his time to look at Sheboygan County cheese. Now not only Chicago, Philadelphia and New York, but Montreal and Liverpool, have their buyers in attendance at the regular meetings of the Dairy Board of Trade, and agents of freight lines are contending for the privilege of transporting to New York or Philadelphia, at the same price per hundred pounds, as was then demanded for conveyance to Chicago.

The following is the assessed value of General Property (Real Estate and Personal) subject to general property tax (1975).

School District Names	Assessed Value
New Holstein Jt. 5	\$750,083
Kiel Jt. 1	802,511
Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah Jt. 1	\$1,109,082
<b>Vocational and Technical School Districts</b>	
Voc., Adult Tech. Education Dist. #10	\$750,083
Voc., Adult Tech. Education Dist. #11	\$1,911,593

Board of Health of Town of Russell from April 9th, 1898

1898 President Henry Platz, Secretary Jacob Sugmiend, Health Officer Dr. George Brickbauer. Regular meetings once a month, 1st Saturday of each month. Board authorized the Health Officer to act in emergency cases. Meetings were held at Health Officer's office.

1907 June 1st, Board of Health has telephone connections now and can do most of their business through it and at anytime.

1912 Nov. 14, a few cases of scarlet fever treated by the Health Officer in the past seven months.

1913 Dec. 20, Board of Health of the town of Russell investigated the Hay's labor camp situated in the marsh of this town and called "Sheboygan Marsh" is owned by the Sheboygan V. L. & L. Company. The board finding the sleeping apartments crowded and unclean and therefore condemned it as unsanitary and ordered the sleeping apartments of said camp cleaned and enlarged in a reasonable length of time from the date given above.

1918 Jan. 17, There being several cases of smallpox it was agreed to close up school in District #2 for a few weeks. Health Officer to investigate all cases and properly treat the same.

1919 Feb. 26, The Board met to decide whether to allow a certain couple to have their wedding in Feldners Hall on account of the Spanish Influenza. There being

no cases in the Town of Russell at present it was decided to allow them to have their wedding.

1937 Sept. 22, A case of infantile paralysis in the town which has already been quarantined was discussed. The Board authorized the Health Officer to employ and deputize a physician assistant Health Officer.

### BOOKS

Books we think you might enjoy reading:

"She Rode A Yellow Stallion" by Warren Reed  
The early settlement of Town Mitchell

"Yellowbird" by Henry Goeres  
The early settlement of Town Schleswig

"Ice Age Lost" by Gwen Schultz  
The Ice Age and glaciers in Wisconsin

Reference books:

"Geschichte Sheboygan County, Wisconsin"  
Franklin, Publishing Company, 1898, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

"Illustrated Historical Atlas of Sheboygan County Wisconsin" 1875

"Illustrated Historical Atlas of Sheboygan County, Wisconsin"  
Joerns Brothers 1902

"The Wisconsin Archeologist" Vol. 19  
No. 3, August 1920, Sheboygan County

OFFICE OF  
SCHMIDT & MATTHAEUS  
DEALERS IN  
HARDWARE, STOVES, PAINTS, OILS,  
ETC., ETC.

Peas Heklan, Wis. Dec 23 1887

Received from Mrs Gandy the  
sum of Twenty 97 Dollars in  
Cash and Word in full to date.

Schmidt & Matthaeus

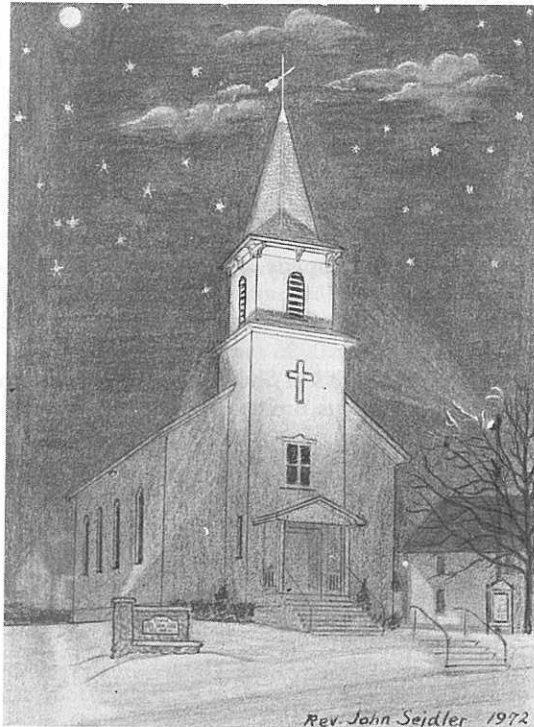
NO 12	April, Wis. May 1887
RECEIVED OF	Henry Stall
	W.C. RESEBURG,
	\$20 Gandy full and second one
	DOLLARS
	Henry Stall

### ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Located on County Trunk "J" 2½ miles northwest of the village of Elkhart Lake, "On the rim of the Kettle Moraine", the only established Church in Russell Township.

St. Paul's congregation was organized Aug. 13, 1865 as "Die Deutsch Evangelische St. Paul's Gemeinde" (The German Evangelical St. Paul's Congregation) in Town Russell, Sheboygan County, Wis.

Through the merger of the Evangelical Synod with the Reformed Church in 1934 the name was changed to "St. Paul Evangelical & Reformed Church".



When the Evangelical & Reformed Church merged with the Congregational Christian Churches in 1957 the name became "St. Paul United Church of Christ".

The founding pastor of St. Paul Church was the Rev. Louis von Rague, who had been appointed by the Home Mission Board in 1864 to serve St. Peter Evangelical Church in Town Rhine. He realized immediately that the German-speaking families in neighboring Town Russell had no church and ministered to their spiritual needs already in 1864. He continued this ministry until a successor was obtained in 1866 for the new missionfield. The original constitution was drafted and signed by the new minister, Rev. G. Schoettle (1866-1867) and 22 co-signers (presumably the charter members.)

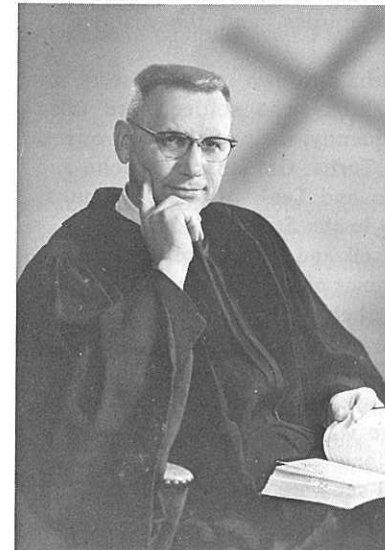
Twenty-four pastors have served the congregation to date in its one hundred-eleven year history. The long and greatly cherished pastorate of Prof. Karl Ernst (1936-1958) brought about a strong family atmosphere in the Church that will be remembered for many years to come. In 1958 St. Paul Church was "yoked" with St. Peter Church to become a two-point charge: The Russell-Rhine Parish. This is their present status.

The crew that built St. Paul Church, Russell, 1887

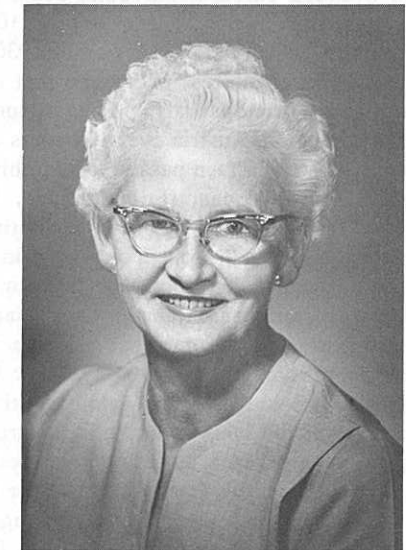


Thomas Mathes                      John Buchman                      Nick Gregorie  
 John Raeder                          Henry Adler, builder                      Valentine Conrad

The first church building was located on the northeast corner of the church property on the west side of County Trunk "J", now a part of the church cemetery. The present edifice was erected in 1887 and was dedicated on Oct. 16 of that year. The interior was remodeled in 1960. The present parsonage was built in 1902 and modernized and remodeled in 1954. Extensive improvements to the exterior of the house and the lawn were made in 1967-1969. The long 135 foot barn that used to shelter the horses, while their owners were worshipping in the House of the Lord during the "horse and buggy" days, was converted into a dining hall with a



Rev. John Seidler



Mrs. John Seidler

well-equipped kitchen in 1955. The annual ham dinners in June and chili suppers in September have become quite popular in the community and surrounding areas; 800-900 people are being served at the ham dinners and 300-400 at the chili suppers.

The current membership of the congregation consists of 63 families with 103 confirmed members and a Sunday School of 38. The young people of high school age together with the young people of St. Peter Church form the Youth Fellowship of Rhine-Russell with an average attendance of 24 at their monthly meetings. They conduct several church worship services each year and sponsor a volleyball team annually in the Rural Y.F. Volleyball League. The Ladies Aid Society has 26 active members. They conduct interesting and enlightening monthly programs; make themselves responsible for initiating many needed projects; and in general boost the morale of the congregation. The Consistory of 6 elected members and the pastor carry out the major business interests of the church and keep the church property in good repair.

A special feature of St. Paul Church is its "Lighted Tower". Floodlights are on the tower from dusk to midnight, symbolizing the church's mission to the travelers on the highway of life:

"This House of the Lord with its tower of light  
Proclaims that there's even a way  
Of finding some hope in the darkness of night  
With God at our side, as we pray."

Rev. Seidler

**(Editor's Note: The following are letters in response to our request for information and interviews in preparation of this book.)**

Dear Marsh Maids,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on early memories of Town Russell. Being of 1928 "vintage", early memories consist of things like visits to Grandma and Grandpa Turba in the '30's, doing farm work with a team of horses until Dad got our first tractor (a McCormick 10-20) in the thirties, and the marvels of electricity, which came our way in 1936.

It may be of interest to readers that the first Turba's to own our farm were my great-great grandparents, Michael and Tracha Turba, who settled here upon emigrating from Austria over 100 years ago. Subsequently, their son, Anton, owned this farm, who in turn passed it on to his son, John Turba. Grandparents, John and Louisa had five sons; (Edmund, Joe, Henry, Otto and Leo). My dad, Edmund, uncles Joe and Henry all spent a lifetime farming in the St. Anna area.

Interestingly, all settled on farms in Town Russell and each farm's north line fence borders on Town of New Holstein. Another point of interest may be that our farmstead is the most northwesterly farmstead in Sheboygan County.

A few items of a somewhat more personal nature may be of interest. One of our first impressions when we bought our farm in 1954 was the enormous size of the house. Even with raising a family of nine children, we have rooms we don't need. The reason the house was built so large years ago was that it was a two family house, with parents spending their retirement in one part of the house and the farming son and his family in the other part. It had separate stairways for separate stairways and basements. Not needing all that room when we moved here, but needing a garage, we removed a wall, installed an overhead door, and so have our car in what was kitchen and pantry. Some friends have jestingly remarked that we

may not be the richest farmers in Town Russell, but probably the only ones with matched oak flooring in the garage!

Speaking of buildings, one can't help but marvel at the durable construction of our old barns and silos. One large barn door has the date "1899" painted on the inside side, and has survived several "derailments" and falls caused by high winds. Also a 14x30 poured concrete silo was built in the early 1900's with unwashed gravel from a small gravel pit on our farm. This silo is in use today and is in good condition. It would be interesting to know how many Town Russell silos were similarly constructed, and are in use today.

Perhaps the most memorable farm work as a youth was the annual grain threshing. Grain bundles were piled in barns or adjacent stacks to await the annual visit of John Heiderer's threshing rig. In 1935 Dad and Uncles Joe, Henry and Leo bought their own 22 inch Case threshing machine, and so we could thresh directly from the field. Each brother had a team and wagon, and we would work together at each others place until the harvest was finished. One bit of excitement during those threshing days was the occasional run-away teams. I recall being aboard a wagon load of alsike clover driving down a hill portion of the old cow lane, headed for the threshing machine. The ring on the neck-yoke slipped over the stop of the wagon tongue, and the wagon ran into the rear of the team. This, of course, scared the horses, who lurched ahead, only to have the same thing happen since we were going downhill. "Deutsche Wilhelm" (Uncle Leo's hired man) who was manning the reins, ordered me to jump off, run ahead of the wagon and stop the team. I tried, but my 12 year old legs could only go so fast. Running aside of the wagon, I could see the wagon edging closer to the stone fence, and I was fearful of becoming wedged between it and the stone fence. I jumped up onto the stone fence to get out of the way. As Wilhelm sailed past with team and wagon, he called back "Du aizel!" (you ass). The perilous ride came to a stop for Wilhelm at the end of the lane when the team roared through a four strand fence and tore down a dozen fence posts. I was, of course, disappointed that I was unable to stop the team, but my Dad reassured me that I did the correct thing by getting out of the way, and that I was no "aizel."

In closing, thank you to the Marsh Maids Homemakers for taking the time and interest to compile what I'm sure will be an interesting history of Town Russell.

Sincerely yours,  
Wilfrid Turba

Dear Marsh Maids Homemakers:

"One thrill I had in my early days was when Alma Polster and myself could take a coffee cake to Old Man Sexton that Mrs. Otto Polster baked. In his one room log cabin he had his bed in one corner, the stove in the center of the room, nice flowers on the windows and books and newspapers piled high to the ceiling. I still remember his log barn which was across the road where he kept his horse and chickens. He thanked us and gave us apples to eat on our way back home.

One night going home from the Old Nieth School, John Harkins threw my dinner bucket down a high snow bank. I was mad and went home and told my father, Val Conrad, he was on the school board, you know what he said to me, "Just tell me what did you do?" Those were our school days when we came home to complain."

Sincerely,  
Helena (Conrad) Schuler

Just a few lines from a talk I had with Edgar Conrad on the afternoon when he stopped by to bring a copy of the old Germand Book "Geschichte", a book of Sheboygan County published in 1898 and several pictures. They used to live on the farm now owned by Earl Winkel and his father was Philip Conrad Sr. He said his Uncle George Siegmund lived on the farm now owned by Carl Neuber and his dad said they would go down in the Kiel swamp and play with the Indians who were still around there at that time. One of the interesting things I learned when talking with Oswald Becker was that at one time there was a family by the name of McGovern living where the Eugene Kraemers now live and that one of their sons, Francis McGovern later was the governor of Wisconsin.

These are some of the notes that Susan and I jotted down after a visit with William Kraemer and his daughter, Mrs. Elroy Theel.

His memories of Mr. Sexton were very keen. He lived in a small frame house and across the road, where the Marsh entrance is now he had a barn where he raised chickens and horses, who ran loose in the winter. He would have to go down to the river every day to chop open a hole in the ice so they would have water. The people from the cottages around Elkhart Lake would walk out to Sextons place to buy comb honey from him, as he had bee hives in the orchard behind his house. He was also an avid gardener and loved flowers.

Mr. Kraemer told of when he was about 2 or 3 years old how he would sit on Sextons knees and he would recite children's poems. He said he was up by our place often and my mother would send along home baked bread and kucken. He had three sons, John, Charlie and Barton and one daughter Maria who married a Diels and later lived in Sheboygan. I don't remember seeing the children when I was small, but I do remember the boys coming out to visit when I was older, he said, and from what I remember hearing was that the boys later settled in the Dakotas.

After Mr. Sexton was killed, the house was remodeled and the fellow who was the foreman for the dredging in the marsh lived there for several years. Then later it was made into a tavern. I don't remember who the first owners were, but later Spud Kraemer and his wife ran the tavern which was called "Tamarack Inn". Mr. Kraemer said he was 21 when Mr. Sexton was killed.

Next we got on the subject of the Lime Kilns, the ruins of which are standing adjacent to County Trunk MM just west of Highway 67. The four towers were erected during World War I to manufacture lime from the abundance of high grade limestone found there. These kilns are at the east edge of the Sheboygan Marsh where the Sheboygan River leaves the Marsh. They are now owned by Mrs. Lester Quasius of Sheboygan-previous owners were a Brennan family of Valders and Paul Langenfeld of New Holstein. He said, "I remember when they dug by hand and hauled with a wheelbarrow to build a dam figuring they could make the land useable, but this venture failed." The marsh area was abundant with Tamarack which were needed to fire the kilns. The small cluster of homes south of the plant was where the regular employes lived, there were many more homes that weren't built as well. That is why they aren't there any more. The woodcutters were lumbermen from northern Wisconsin and immigrants and during the winter months the local men and boys would have a chance to work there too. My brother and I both worked there. It was hard work and not too many would stick it out. There was a so called camp with shacks and a large building which served as a general store, kitchen and dining area where the crew was fed. Several of the cooks remained in the area after the camp was closed. Those we know of were Martin Olson and Cort Kaschkie. They helped out at various farms in the vicinity. The plant ran 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Another interesting thing Mr. Kraemer talked about was the time they made County Trunk P wider. Right across the road from their place they dug up a shallow Indian grave 2 ft. from the surface, with 4 Indians in sitting positions facing each other. He said from what I heard they tried to remove the bodies intact and they were then taken to the museum in Milwaukee.

He also talked about the Marsh fire that burned day and night for over a year and in order to get it out they had volunteers from people in the area to build a dam just south of the present dam.

My wife and I celebrated our golden wedding in 1972 and she passed away January 25th of 1973. She was the former Lilian Fett, we had 2 children, Mrs. Elroy Theel and Daniel who lives in Texas. I also have ten grandchildren.

Items of interest about the Sheboygan Marsh part of it being in Town of Russell.

Shortly after WWI a lime company was started which is now located on county trunk MM, Town Rhine near the Sheboygan River. The fuel which was all wood came from Town Russell and other parts of the Sheboygan Marsh. Tamarack was the basic tree used for his fuel. It was all chopped by hand and made in about six foot lengths. It was then loaded on sleds drawn by horses over an ice road in the winter months. At the kilns limestone was baked in large ovens and the product was then used to make plaster for the walls of our home.

Also right after WW I a dredging company moved into the Sheboygan Marsh with the idea of drying up the land in and around the Marsh area. A land company also went about selling lots in the Marsh area which they called Garden City. The dredging worked in most areas. However, in the Town Russell area, quicksand was struck and the dredge couldn't be completed. After a short period much of nature's crop trees, which were very valuable for building barns and homes, began to die. Later it was decided to flood the marsh area again to save the trees. A dam was constructed for this purpose.

A short history of the present Kenneth Turba farm as reported by Ken:

"In my father's family there were five boys, no girls. My father's name was Edmund Turba who in 1917 and 1918 left home with his brother Joseph Turba to back it on what is now the Joe Turba farm, Town Russell, Section Five. In 1919-1921 Joe and Ed again returned home to live with their parents John and Louise Turba, which is now the Wilfrid Turba farm. In 1921 their father John Turba bought the present farm of Kenneth and Lydia Turba, Section Five, Town Russell. The farm was purchased from Valentine Voelker and from 1921 to 1923 Joe and Ed Turba bached it again on this farm. In 1923 a brother, Henry Turba and wife Seraphine operated the farm for about one year. The following year Henry and his wife moved to a 80 acre farm in Section Four, presently the Eldridge and Betty Schnell farm. In 1924-1925 Joe and Ed again bached it on the former Valentine Voelker farm. In 1926 Edmund married the former Josephine Daun and bought the farm from his father John who had owned it since 1919."

Edmund and Josephine had three sons, Wilfrid (married) who is farming presently in Section Six, Town Russell, Robert who is married and living in Town of New Holstein and works in a factory in Kiel, and Kenneth who married and purchased the farm from Ed and Josephine in 1963.

Ken Turba



3 We moved to our farm in the summer of 1946. This was just after WWII and most farms in this area still had a team of horses. The average tractor could pull a two bottom plow, and a farmer with a larger tractor was a big farmer.

This was still a time of threshing crews, with neighbors helping each other thresh grain. Grain was cut with a grain binder and shocked to dry. Grain bundles were loaded on hay wagons with hay forks. The loads of grain (oats) bundles would thresh out about 80-90 bushels of grain per load. A real good one would go over 100 bushel of oats a load. A few farmers had a few acres of wheat most of which was fed to livestock on the home farm.

Our house was built in the early 1870's by Mr. Kessel. It is a yellow brick house having two layers of brick with a four inch space between. The floor in the dining room is alternating strips of maple and black walnut wood. The house has ten rooms with a full basement. It cost \$925.00 to build according to what Adam Becker told me. He helped build it as a young man. Mr. Kessel assembled the farm land, as it is today, from several smaller farms. He raised Durham cattle and winter wheat.

Our silo is the first silo in the township put up in 1911, made from field stone. August Holzman built it, with half of it underground. It is 16 feet across and 32 feet deep, holding over 100 ton of corn silage. The walls are three feet thick and the silo is still being used today.

There are many springs on our farm with a strong running stream cutting thru the swamp, but before the stream leaves our farm, it disappears into the ground.

With over half the farm still in woodland there are many different kinds of trees growing here. Many kinds have been added since we came. Hybrid poplar, black walnut, butternut, and bald cypress have showed promise of future tree crops. With the elms dying from Dutch Elm disease, replacing with tree crops of the future takes place every year.

Carl Birkholz

My dear friend and long time neighbor, George Smith, called on me several times with lots of interesting memories and pictures.

His grandfather, George Smith settled on the original Smith farm in about 1850 or early 60's. He married Miss Alice Digin who came from Ireland, County Cork and was one of the first teachers at the Taft School - they had 3 children, Ann (Pat Cains' mother), Charles who was my father and Alecia who never married. They built both homes, barns, etc. The home I'm now living in they built in about 1890 when they retired from active farming and my father, Charles who married Miss Margaret Crosby, who also taught at the Taft School, took over the farm. They had 3 boys and one girl; myself, Harry, Marion (Mrs. Ralph Kohlman) and Norman.

In 1920 my brother Harry and myself took over the farm which then became known as the Smith Bros. I married Martina Fitzpatrick whom I met when she was also a teacher at the Taft School and staying with the John Hoehl family. That was customary in those days for the teacher to room and board with a local family. In those days the superintendent of schools placed the teachers throughout the county. Mrs. Tom Fitzpatrick from Sheboygan came out with her daughter Martina because there was an opening at our school. I remember those on the school board at that time were, William Cain, Joe Gross and Victor Jeanty. We started courting in 1911 when she taught here for 2 years, then she went to South Dakota where the pay was better and taught there for 5 years until 1920, when we got married at Sheboygan and settled on the homestead.

Our daughter Margaret (Mrs. Robert O'Reilly) also taught at the Taft School. My

brother Harry and I operated a sightseeing boat service at the Sheboygan Marsh for 5 or 6 years in the late 30's or early 1940's. Our barn was destroyed by fire in 1950 and we rebuilt in the same year.

Then George told me that my father lived in the home that he is now living in when he first came to Russell from Johnsburg in 1912 or 1913 and worked for the different farmers in the area before he purchased his farm from Louis Desloch and formerly owned by Jacob Conrad. He said I'll never forget when your Dad and Mother were married and we made chivarie for them. The field on the east side across the road from their house was all stumps. I told Martina, I'm going to have some fun - so I tied 2 sticks of dynamite, most of us did our own dynamiting in those days, to one of the stumps with a real long fuse so I could get back to the crowd. When the first round of chivarie was done and there was a lull in the noise making, my dynamite went off, stunning every living soul. Pat Cain dropped right to the ground, believe me that was the best chivarie we ever had.

Another humorous incident George told me about that I'd like to share with you readers was the time when Dynamite Bill came to blow out their cistern. He said, "It's perfectly safe to stay upstairs, you can even leave the canned goods in the basement on the shelves just the way they are and if anything is damaged I'll replace it." I went up to tell Martina and the girls Alta Mae and Eileen that he was about ready to light the fuse but they could stay as it would be only a slight jar. Well, Martina and Alta Mae stayed but Eileen took off on the run and she never quit until she got to Grandma Smith's.

A few other recollections were the cheese factory on the corner on the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Schuricht and was run by Joe Konz. It was in operation for only a couple years until cars came into use and they could do away with the horse and milk wagons. Also where Jacob Conrad lived they had a windmill built up thru the barn which they would use for pumping water and also for cutting corn stalks. On the Hilmer Voelker place they had a double windmill. On the place where Willy Conrad lived they had a 3 story barn that old Michael Burns and my Grandfather Smith helped build. There used to be a log house and barn down on the corner (there is a picture of this in the photo section which was found by Louise Schuricht). I helped your dad take that barn down log by log and we numberd them and set it up at his farm where it still stands today and is used for a pig barn.

Dear Marsh Maids:

"Ruby said I should write to you and tell you something about old times in Russell. I know we moved to that place east of and north of the corner in 1896, but I guess that was in Town Rhine though, but we went to the Nieth School and about that time there were so many boys and no girls. We lived there 4 years and one year, I don't just recall what year, I was the only girl in school. The next year Amanda (Jung) Froehlich came, there were only the two of us that year. There were more girls later. I haven't a picture of the school, but I have a picture of the group taken in the woods when J. Harkins taught. It might have been taken in 1905.

We bought the present Elroy Arndt farm in 1900. Then Fred LaBuddie bought the place we were on, they had 3 boys. The Bauerfinds who lived just south of there had 2 boys and Philip Sinz who lived east of there on the south side of the road had 2 boys and no girls. Stage (George) lived west of us, had had 1 boy and no girls, just west of them, Schurichts had 1 boy and no girls. Later on when Sinzs left, Nick Zorn moved in there with 5 boys and no girls and the Brills had 5 boys

and 1 girl (me). So I was raised a cow girl, I guess you would call it. I was married from there in Aug. 28, 1911.

My father loved music. When we first moved there in 1896 he played violin by ear. Then George Siegmund lived in the house just west of our house across from Sinzs, they had Charley, Otto, Rose, and Lena. Charley taught school and he taught my dad how to read notes to play the violin. So of course my dad wanted us all to play some kind of instrument, so later I could play the piano and the boys all played some instrument so we had a band of our own. Many a time my father would play the violin and my aunts and uncles would square dance in the kitchen and once in a while when they would be short one for a set, they would haul me in. That was my start in dancing I guess. I always loved dancing and still dance most every Monday night at the Golden Age Club.

The year that I was the only girl in school, if I remember right, the teacher was George Mathies who lived just west of the school house. I think he was working his way through college and of course he became an M.D. and practiced in Kiel. My brother, Norbert bought your place in 1917, then my folks moved to Kiel and dad was city clerk for many years.

I remember old man Sexton the hermit used to come to the school once in awhile to lecture. I remember the long white beard and Isidore and I would stop in at his place once in awhile on our way home from attending school at Elkhart Lake to rest or warm up as we walked. Many a time he gave us an apple."

Sincerely,

Mrs. Lucy Possley

173 East 2nd Street

Fond du Lac, Wi. 54935

Dear Marsh Maids:

"I received your letter and have been trying to recall events you could use in writing a history of Town Russell. We got our first tractor the day Kathleen was born (1925) and during the depression things were very tough. It must have been after the depression that we got electricity with Rural Electrification. In those early days cars were stored for the winter months because there were no snow plows to open roads. I'm sure those families that were born and raised in Town Russell can help you much better with your history."

Sincerely,

Viola Harkins

Dear Marsh Maids Homemakers:

"As I remember John Sexton, when I was six or seven years old, he was a little man about 5'7", he had a full beard and lived near the marsh in a house on the east side of the road and he had a little barn on the west side. He had a horse and buggy. I remember one time dad and I went to town with a horse and buggy and on the way home Mr. Sexton was standing outside his house and he stopped to talk to us and asked if we were on our way home. He said "would you please take a nice bouquet of flowers to the Mrs.?" So we took them home to my mother. He always remembered my parents.

I remember my school days, we had to walk about 3 miles to school and in the wintertime the schoolhouse was very cold so we all gathered around the stove to keep warm. After it got warm we went to our seats. We had two out-houses, one

for the girls and one for the boys and believe me we didn't stay out there very long when it was cold. We had two entryways one for the girls and one for the boys and the boys were not allowed to go in the girls entry-way. Before I could go to school in the morning I had to milk three or four cows, do other chores and then walk to school. We didn't know what it was like to have a store bought lunch bucket, we usually had tobacco pails. For breakfast we had fried potatoes and eggs and coffee. Everyone was satisfied with what was put on the table.

I remember years back when the Sheboygan Marsh was the way it used to be. It wasn't dredged, we had water from the dry land all over the marsh. In summer my Aunt Helen took me fishing in a boat and the water was about 3 ft. deep all over the marsh and fishing for carp, pickerel, bullheads, etc., was good. It was a lot of enjoyment for me in my childhood.

In winter when the marsh was froze over we took a team of horses on a bob sled and then my Uncle Bob had three or four small sleds in back of the big one and then we went round and round on the ice. Then my dad drilled a hole in the ice and put a pole in it and a big pole across and hooked up three or four small sleds and two or three would push on the pole and that would swing the sleds round and round. We went skating on the river and grown-ups and children alike had lots of fun.

I remember when they dredged the marsh. It was the Corbett Dredging Co. who had a big steam shovel which was fueled by coal. They had a tug with which they hauled the coal to the steam shovel, They dredged day and night for three years. My dad had a couple staying at our house, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Cain. He was a steam shovel operator from Indiana. He was on the night shift and sometimes on the day shift. We often went to watch them."

Sincerely,

Julius Henschel

Dear Marsh Maids Homemakers:

"First of all, I want to mention that our house is an old standing log house. Walls are built with 10" logs lined up and cracks are plastered to seal spaces between logs. The original windows are still in, plus we have wide window and door frames. Our place is in our family 117 years. I don't know how old it really was beforehand as Father (Gustave) Schuricht came here in 1859 as a child of 2 years. Some land was cleared to make it tillable. Of course, the house expanded with an upstairs built each way and naturally a summer kitchen was built on each end. Also a dinner bell was built high up on a pole. The bell was rung at meal time as no one had watches.

A huge stone bake oven was built outside and used until 1926. The stone oven was preheated with a wood fire till very hot. The fire was scratched out and 8 to 16 loaves of bread were baked, even coffee cakes. They were then stored in milk cans in the basement for 2 to 3 weeks.

We always churned our own butter, made cook cheese, cottage cheese, and even "hand cheese". We pressed balls of cottage cheese, wrapped it, cured it for 4 weeks in earthen jars. It was a smelly job but we had some really delicious "hand cheese". We made our own ice cream, wines, apple cider, root beer and even beer was made and bottled. We used "Hops" a powder we purchased. Each spring quarts and quarts of maple syrup were cooked.

Naturally the winters were rough as we didn't have snow plow equipment and milk was taken to the factory with horses and sleighs. Of course milking was done by hand, put in cans and cooled with water pump by hand also. Even in 1933 we

were snowed in for 3 weeks, no school. Everyone did their own butchering for their years supply. Also made fire wood, posts and logs for lumber.

In spring we moved our utensils into the summer kitchen and lived in there till all the canning and outside work was completed. I remember my first kerosene stove. It wasn't as hot to cook on as the wood stove. Oh and all the flies without any spray for them, only flyribbons or tanglefoot.

Women never wore slacks, only ironed cotton dresses and starched aprons. Much washing was done on a simple wash board with only home made soap, this was made with lard scraps and eagle lye which was made from leaching wood ashes. A wood barrel was filled with hard wood ashes, each day the ashes were stirred and a funnel shaped hole was pressed in the center and filled with water. The water drains down and out of the cracks over boards into an iron kettle. this process was repeated each day for 3 weeks. The drained substance was poured from the iron kettle to earthen jars to settle. This drained liquid was our Eagle Lye used in making our soap.

I remember how my washing machine was run by belt and an old gas engine. That was better than turning the wringer or wash machine by hand. The water was heated in an old copper boiler or dipped out of the reservoir on the wood range. This was our only means of hot water. Ironing was done with irons heated on the wood stoves.

As for farm work, horses were the only means of power before the tractors. Land was worked and plowed with hand plow and a team. Grain was cut, shocked and thrashed with neighborhood crews. Corn was cut and handled with bundles and feedcutters to blow it up the silos.

These are just a few of the ways we had to do our work. We now appreciate the new and improved methods."

Sincerely,

Mrs. Louise Schuricht

#### CAIN FAMILY FARM - 119 YEARS

Starting United States to Wm. S. Trowbridge, Dated December 3, 1847.

Wm. S. Trowbridge and Abigail C. Trowbridge, his wife, to Benjamin F. Field, Dated March 14, 1848. North ½ of Section 10, Township 16, North Range 20 East.

Benjamin F. Field and wife Eliza Field to De Lorma Brooks, Dated November 11, 1850. N.E. ¼ of Section 10, Township 16, North Range 20 East. De Lorma Brooks and wife Lila Brooks to Joseph Dean, West ½ of N.E. ¼ of Section 10 in Township 16, North Range 20 East containing 80 acres, Dated August 17, 1851. Joseph Dean and Eliza Dean, his wife, to Patrick Cain, West ½ of N.E. ¼ of Section 10 in the Town of Russell, containing 80 acres, Dated February 25, 1857.

Patrick Cain, born in County Court, Ireland, settled in New York in his youth for several years, married and came to Wisconsin, settled in the Town of Rhine for a few years and then moved to the Town of Russell with his wife Jane M. Cain. Members of his family were Thomas, of the Town of Greenbush, George of Red Lake, Minnesota, John, Patrick and William Cain of the Town of Russell, Anna McCabe, Jane Goggins and Susan Reed of Calumet County, Mary Huberty of the Town of Russell.

Upon the death of Patrick Cain early in 1899, William Cain, son of Patrick Cain and his wife Florence Cain, obtained possession and ownership of farm. Florence Cain died in November of 1927. William Cain continued operation of farm until he died in may of 1950 when at that time Aileen Rose Hoehl, daughter of William

Cain, and Edward Hoehl her husband took possession and ownership of farm and are continuing operation at present date 1976. They have one daughter, Joan Dorn, who with her husband James Dorn own and operate the 120 acres of the former P. H. Cain farm, son of John Cain, also in Section No. 10 in the Town of Russell - 80 acres of this farm was part of the Patrick Cain farm and also 80 acres in Section No. 3 owned and operated by a son, Patrick, and his wife Elizabeth until his death in 1912. Elizabeth Cain continued operation of farm with her family until she married Anton Richart on November 28, 1916. Anton Richart and his wife Elizabeth continued operation of farm until 1955 when Cyrilla Zorn, daughter of Patrick and Elizabeth Cain, and Leo Zorn her husband purchased the farm and are operating same with their family at present date 1976.

#### RECOLLECTIONS

By: Edward Hoehl

My early days began when most of the traveling was done with horses and buggies. Most everyone owned a double and single seated buggy for summer travel and bobsled and horse-drawn cutters for winter traveling. Our local Dr. F. J. Fechter, with offices in St. Anna and Marytown, made daily trips to make house calls to Elkhart Lake and then to Marytown. In winter he alternated two teams of horses daily to make the rough trips through the snow. In later years a snowmobile built from automobiles was used. They were not too practical because on gravelly spots or deep snow they were handicapped. It was not too unusual to see run-away teams driverless in those days as the horses made split decisions as to what side to pass a post or tree.

In 1916 my father bought a Buick, his first automobile, for summer driving. Then in 1918, my first year at St. Ann Catholic School, and also the year of the World War going on and boys in War that I knew -- I'll never forget November 11, 1918, when the end of the War was announced -- everyone was relieved and saying there will never be another War. All the pupils in school, the Sisters, and the Priest marched in procession through the Village of St. Anna following the U. S. Flag (being carried by the older boys) with church bells ringing - quite a moment!

Another sad affair followed, that being the flu. It took many lives, young and old. I remember one Sunday morning in February, 1920 after attending Mass, going to the General Store (where the horse stable was located and horses were kept while attending Mass), Mr. Wendell Burg, former owner of the store and dance hall which was quarantined with the flu, came to the store door and told everyone outside that his son-in-law, Claude Feldner, age 27, present owner of the store had died of the flu, leaving his wife Mildred and two small children, Catherine and Vernon.

Next I recall when Dr. I. A. Walsdorf, Veterinarian, came to St. Anna and soon served a large area of Fond du Lac, Calumet and Sheboygan Counties. Then Dr. R. J. McNerny opened an office and lived in St. Anna to be our Dentist, also with an office in Marytown. Both doctors occupied an office in one building. Another big moment, in the Fall of 1921 an electric power line was built to St. Anna and my folks installed electric lights a short time before Christmas. It was a beautiful sight in church Christmas morning with the crib and trees decorated with lights. Mass at that time was held at 5 o'clock in the morning. But, all did not last very long as on February 22, 1922 a large sleet storm came along and put electric and telephone lines out of order. Many posts and wires went down, also trees were badly damaged. Power was not restored until some time in the month of May. The



hardship was not too great, as all gas and kerosene lamps were available also. Electric motors were not used at that time.

In summer of 1924 the flood came. Most of the crops were ruined - where there was a crop, it was impossible to harvest as you could not enter the fields with machinery. Water was very deep, especially in lower areas, grain binders would get mired in mud on top of the highest hills, corn crop was poor - drowned out and could not be replanted.

I received my eighth grade diploma in 1926, along with Alden Gross, Leroy Stemper, Walter Winter, Gilbert Mayer, Robert Fechter and Romaine Konz. This same year was the loss of the home and entire contents of the Anton Richart family by fire, as well as the Binder building and contents, which included soft drink parlor and General Store and two family living quarters. After these large fires and residents of St. Anna and the surrounding area decided to purchase and maintain a fire truck, using chemicals for fire fighting and later built cisterns in St. Anna and then purchased a pumper and truck for hauling water to fires. Peter Brandt was appointed the first Fire Chief of the St. Anna Volunteer Fire Dept. (Peter Brandt, with his brother Alvis had a carpenter and hardware trade together and with a crew put up many buildings covering a large area. They also had a carpenter shop which was previously St. Anna's first car repair shop and was located at the site of where Schwarz's Supper Club stands today.) Now the Fire Department started holding Annual Picnics. I also remember the Casper Shows put on by the Pete Weinkoetz family of Elkhart Lake -- that was an annual affair. Memories also include Peter Meyer coming to visit with Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Gregoire, (Mrs. Gregoire was his daughter). Mr. Meyer many years ago owned the General Store at the north end of St. Anna. He was also a Veteran of the Civil War.

I also remember a windmill mounted on the roof of the barn in the neighborhood which was used for cutting dry corn stalks in winter and had wire cables to the pump house for pumping water.

Family gatherings and special occasion always had that little keg of beer (and naturally some of us kids sipping some "Suds"). That all ended when the County went dry - so-called prohibition days. That I remember was the big talk and also Near Beer, which was low in alcohol content (to prevent getting drunk from drinking beer). But then the boot legging started and beer and whiskey or so-called schnapps was made in small lots and later years in big amounts and sold throughout the country. Local towns, villages and cities did not receive any revenue from it, therefore causing a depression in later years.

Other memories include the filling of the ice house in St. Anna at the General Store and Saloon, being done by farmers and townsmen every winter to supply their cooling needs in the summer. The ice was hauled from a pond one quarter of a mile east of St. Anna.

July 26, being St. Anna Kermis, drew a large crowd every year. Celebration started with morning Mass, then in the evening people would fill both parks and dance hall -- it was homecoming in St. Anna!

Back in 1926 my folks motored to Covertown, Minnesota to visit my father's brother, Henry. They had not seen each other for thirty years. Also a brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Marx, came to visit them from Bristol, South Dakota and they too hadn't seen each other in many years.

In 1928 my father lost his entire herd of milk cows through a tubercular test. Other entire herds were lost in the neighborhood through that same test. It was a compulsory test in Sheboygan County at that time. Then in 1929 the depression was at it's peak, not much money, jobs or credit. My father died in 1930 and my mother continued operating the farm with her family. In 1933 beer and liquor came back

and grain prices were on the gain and more money was again available.

I know of several families of five generations, especially the Cain, Dickrell, Gross, Jeanty, Krupp, Roehrig, Schmitz, Turba, Winkel and Zorn families - all from the St. Anna Congregation.

Then the happy year of 1935 when Rose Cain and I were married in St. Anna Catholic Church by the Rev. J. H. Schmitt, Pastor for many years in St. Anna. A marriage which now is in it's forty-first year.

Dear Marsh Maids:

"I will try to give you a little history of Town Russell. After our marriage we lived at Hilbert until 1919. We bought the John DeLaHunt farm. Nick knew that it was good land, but the buildings were very poor. We made the contract on a Saturday the later part of May and on Sunday evening a tornado hit Town Russel and wrecked a long shed that was standing along the road from east to west. Also killed 3 of the best cows, so we had a big loss right off. We moved there on July 7th, just wish I had a picture of that barn. It was standing to the west of the barn on Leo's place. The cattle barn was just a little barn, had to step over a sill about 2 ft. high to go into the barn. The barn floor was just stones and a little manger along the sides. Had no silo and no foundation under the barn.

In 1922 we built the foundation for the new barn and the next spring we built the barn, raised it April 21, 1923. Nick made the timbers at the Holzman farm which now belongs to Carl Birkholz. The wood for the rafters came from the Fred Diefenthaler farm. We had about 100 men there to raise the barn and we fed all those men a dinner in our little house which is still there. Had all the neighbor women helping and also relatives and friends. We didn't have any electricity just our wood stove and an oil stove. We baked all the pies and bread, it sure was work.

The Cheese Factory where Bernard Schmidt now lives was owned by Joseph Konz. Matt Winkel lived in a house which was later sold to Leonard Ausloos and he remodeled it and had a mink ranch.

We had a school house up across from the cheese factory and another school house where Edgar Depies has the chick hatchery. There was also a cheese factory across the road which is now the home of the Donald Bieck family.

We had a lot of severe winters, no snow plows so the men had to shovel to open the roads or sometimes they opened the fences so we could drive thru the fields. The swamp road was kept in pretty good shape so we could get to Kiel to do our shopping. The businessmen from Kiel helped to build that road and to keep it in shape.

The place where George Dickrell now lives had a log house when Nicks folks bought it in or about 1893 or 4 and they lived in it for a number of years. The road which is now Highway H was called the Irish Road because only a few Germans lived there and the rest of the people were Irish. I'm not quite sure but it seems to me that there used to be a Cheese Factory where Aaron Schuricht lives and Joe Konz was cheesemaker there at first. I believe George Smith could tell you a lot more because he lived there all his life.

That ice storm we had in 1922 was worse than the one we had this year but we had wood stoves, kerosene lamps and we milked by hand. We had threshing machines in those years and farmers helped each other. The grain bundles were stored in the barns until fall. Nick used to make most of the straw stacks. Had no cars in those days, milk was taken to the cheese factory every morning with horses and milk wagon or in winter with sleighs. Wood was made in winter and then

sawed into smaller pieces in spring so they could be split. There were very few deer around years ago.

During the depression we butchered our hogs, made liver sausage and pork sausage and cut the nice pieces into roasts and chops and peddled them in town so we could get a little cash to buy groceries. Got 10c a lb. for the sausage, 10c for lard and for the meat 12c a lb. Did that all winter long until spring every week. During the depression some farmers lost all they had worked for. They were just forced. We were just lucky we had our money borrowed from a good man, otherwise we wouldn't have made it. Times sure have changed since then."

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Nick Dickrell

Dear Marsh Maids Homemakers:

My father Arthur Holzman came from Germany and my mother's maiden name was Louise Raeder. She was born on the Hayssen farm No. 2. We lived in Town Russell for 40 years. I am the youngest from a family of 10. My two older brothers and 4 older sisters were born on the farm now owned by Walter Stauss. My other sister and 2 brothers and I were born in the house now owned by Carl Birkholz. They always said my sister Ella was moved over in her cradle in the sled in the winter. Out of our family of ten, 3 of us are still living, Mrs. Henry (Hattie) Ruppel, Sheboygan, Mrs. Walter (Ella) Buckner, Plymouth and myself Mrs. Arno (Erma) Conrad of Elkhart Lake.

I went to the old Nieth School through 6th grade. My teachers were Vincent Mann and Ernest Baumann and Mrs. Nick (Alice Bastian) Zorn living in Elkhart Lake. I remember the round heater we had for heat. We had to carry wood for the heater. Water we would get from the cheese factory in winter as the pump would freeze. We had no electricity, outdoor plumbing and no "toilet tissue" so we used the next best thing, the Sears Roebuck Catalog. Our outdoor johns were "air-conditioned", not the kind we have today.

Sincerely,  
Erma Conrad

Dear Homemakers:

"After being married 11 years and living in Sheboygan, we decided to try farming, so in 1935, with a job in Sheboygan impossible to find and having two sons to raise we bought our present farm from Nick Zorn, who had been farming here for quite a number of years. Nick in turn had purchased this farm from Philip Sinz. Sinz at one time was a member of the county board. He made the trip to Sheboygan for board meetings with a horse and buggy, about 25 miles and on the way he picked up my grandfather, Carl Schlichting Sr. who was also a board member.

In those days, "1935" money was scarce and we were unable to buy new equipment so we went to farm auctions and bought used machinery, a team of horses and a used McCormick Deering tractor with steel wheels. We also bought cows the same way, a few at a time as we could afford it. It took quite a few years to build up a good herd of cows.

Later on we remodeled the house, put in a water system, bathroom etc. The buildings on our farm are over 100 years old, but the house is built like a fort, and should be good for many more years yet. We have now discontinued dairy farming and are doing some cash cropping. We have made no definite plans for the future.

The first winter we were on this farm "1935-1936" there were many snow storms and we were snowed in for 9 weeks. We had to haul our milk to the cheese factory with a bob sled and a team of horses and across fields. It was a big day when a county crew finally came with a large caterpillar and opened the roads.

About Sexton who lived near the marsh, I remember when the channels were dredged in the marsh to dry it out and C. Broughton from the Sheboygan Press, who saw to it that the dam was built and the marsh reflooded, and about the big peat fires that burned before it was reflooded and could be seen nights from many miles away. "

Sincerely,  
Reuben Schlichting

The Marsh Maids Homemakers Club:

"I'm sorry that I cannot help you with your project. I came to Town Russell in April 1919. The only building I can remember that is not in existence is the old school house that my husband went to. A new school house was built in 1930. Then not to many years later the children were picked up by school buses and the school house was sold, remodeled, and now is the "Depies Feed and Hatchery".

Sincerely,  
Anita Conrad

Dear Homemakers:

"We moved to Town Russell in 1918. At that time we could drive to Kiel through the swamp road. Our road here was so muddie in spring that the horses went in mud up to their knees. We cleared about 10 acres of land and made a stone fence by the road and when they fixed the road they crushed most of the stones and put them in the road.

About 120 years ago my grandfather lived in the log house which is now the Anna Schirmer home but at that time it was on what now is known as the Highview Road, the house was across the road from the Henry Hammeister place and was later moved to its present location. Some of my uncles were born there. We had no telephone or electricity and our cows were all tied with chains. My grandfather would be 144 years old.

My husband used to grade the roads in our part of town with the horse grader. Our work on the farm was all done with horses at that time."

Sincerely,  
Elsie Toepel

Dear Marsh Maids Homemakers:

"In response to your letter I haven't too much to write. What interested me when I was a girl was in winter when they cut ice cakes in Morgans pond across the road from our farm. They did all the cutting with long ice saws. Carl David and some other men did the cutting, when it was time to store it from morning until night. They hauled the ice cakes with sleigh and horses to the business places of Wendel Burg, the old building that was the ice-house is still standing west of the present building of Schuppels and to Meyer's and later to Adolph Gross where Charles Polster is now for their use. The ice cakes were stored in the ice houses with clean shavings for insulation. When us children came home from school we liked to spend some time watching them.

John Heiderer had a saw mill where the farmers brought logs to cut into lumber on the corner where the road goes to church on the east side of the road he had his saw mill. It was a great business in early spring. Farmers that had the time helped him. The buildings are gone a long time. We used to stop and watch them also when we went home from school."

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Henry Turba

Dear Marsh Maids Homemakers:

"We're sending you some of the things we thought of, which you have probably gotten from others all ready. We don't have dates available here in Florida. We intend to be back home within 2 weeks and can check with you then.

The first Russell Church was a small building which stood on the cemetery south of the woods and dining hall, after some years this church was not large enough so my grandfather, George Brickbauer offered to give them the land to build a larger new church which is on the present location. He also boarded the carpeters. The first shelter for the horses was a roof and a wall on the west side of the road where the horse and buggies were driven under and tied up. Later a new large horse barn was built and after horses were no longer used because the cars replaced them the building was remodeled and rebuilt into the present Dining Hall.

For the old church and old parsonage the land was donated by Hetzel. Later the house was used for a horse, cow and chicken barn and a new house was built in the late 1800s and later around 1910 a new horse barn was built which is now the garage. The barn had hay upstairs. The farmers had to give the minister one bag of oats and some hay once a year. Later the land south of the cemetery was added to the John Platz farm now owned by Mildred Henschel.

Now about the cheese factory, the house that Anna Schirmer lived in was built from logs and stood on the east end of the Gust Brickbauer farm right next to the town line, near the Hammeister farm. It was moved twice. First it was moved from the east side to the west side of the Brickbauer farm which is now owned by Walter Kraus. The first time it was put on the east side of the road where now the school or chicken feed and hatchery is standing and later it was moved across the road to where it now stands. It was used for a home for the cheesemaker. This took place in the late 1800s or early 1900s.

Some of the early cheesemakers were Gust Brickbauer, E. C. Pingel, Art Zorn, Al Dedow, Cyril Stemper and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Wordell. The old cheese factory burned down in about the late 1930s.

Some of the "Good Old Days" in Town Russell as some of us remember or heard tell of - The story of the Old Man Sexton of course is one of the outstanding ones but I personally remember him as he used to come and visit with my folks and I was a small boy and would climb on his lap and go thru his pockets. Of course I'd almost always find a red, white and blue striped bag full of candy. My little sister Eva crawling on the floor and older sisters Anita and Nelda and brother Oswald liked candy too. Somehow there was always enough for all of us. Then another man was A. G. Goldammer owner of the store in Elkhart Lake where my folks shopped. Even if we kids weren't along he always sent a little red, white and blue striped bag of candy along which we enjoyed. Can you imagine grocery stores doing that now?

Another interesting building was across from Mildred Henschel now owned by Buchholz. Here was a tavern and little store which was owned by Engelkings who later moved to Milwaukee. Later Phil Sinz built a small house and barn. Later,

George Bauernfiend built the present large house, which he later sold to Gust Schuricht who later moved in with his son Bill Schuricht after his wife passed away. After that some farmers bought it and it became the Cherry Grove Cheese Factory. There were a lot of cherry trees there.

The little red and white school we went to stood on the corner north of Anna Schirmer's house. It had 2 entrance halls, one for the girls on the right and one for the boys on the left, where we also kept our coats and rubbers. Of course it was a no-no for boys to enter in or thru the girls entry or for the girls thru the boys entry. It also depended on how strict the teachers were. The same of course was true of the outdoor plumbing. The separate little houses, not to forget the woodshed. Wood had to be carried into school for the big heater. Another daily job was for 2 students to get water from the cheese factory for the drinking fountains cause the water was no good from the pump at school. Of course that was more of a privilege then a chore."

Sincerely,  
Elmer and Meta Brickbauer

One afternoon Lizzie Gross invited Jeanette and me to visit and chat with her about what she remembered about the good old days, which we found very interesting. She said, "I came to St. Anna in 1909 after my marriage to Adolph Gross. We ran the store and tavern in St. Anna for 8 years, his brother Willie was with us first but didn't stay too long. We had everything, it was lots nicer then we didn't have to go so far. Later, that place burned down and was replaced by the brick building now called C. and J's. and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Polster. Adolph didn't like it too well in the tavern business so we went on the farm where Mark Schneider now lives. We were there for 5 or 6 years. I had to learn how to milk cows and at that time we milked them outside and they weren't even tied up. We lived in New Holstein for a couple of years and Adolph did painting and I took in sewing but we liked it better on the farm so we moved again and bought the house now owned by Ray Poch and Hilmar Voelker Jr. owns the land. We stayed there for 22 years. Our only child, Cletus was born there after 14 years of marriage. I well remember when that shipping fever was going around and we lost 9 of our best cows. I cried then. During the depression years we had to dump our milk whatever we couldn't use ourselves as there were no factories open to take the milk. We made cottage cheese, cook cheese and butter and sold it to have a little money to buy groceries. I remember sugar selling for 5c a lb."

"We celebrated our Golden Wedding April 27, 1959. We received the Papal Blessing from Rome thru Father Albert Binder."

Lizzie's closing remark was "I done my best and if St. Peter don't give me a good report card it's just too bad".

In a talk I had with Leo and Cyrilla Zorn one evening we were recalling events such as the time the "black flu" as some people called it hit the area. Among some of the residents of Town Russell that it claimed were Pauline (Dorn) Schmitz, my fathers first wife, Ed Dorns first wife, Veronica Schmitz, John Kobringer and Claude Feldner who was the operator of the General Store and tavern in St. Anna at the time.

Leo remembered a kindly old gent known as "Old Prince Henry" who sold nursery stock etc. He carried his suitcase and walked from place to place. Another regular caller was "Sam Christel" who traveled with his horse and wagon which contained just about anything you could want - he would stay overnite when the

time came to call it a day and would reward the "missus" with a token of appreciation.

While reminiscing with Oscar and Hulda Conrad he told me they used to pick a lot of mushrooms in the woods in and around their place. He also talked about the night they made Chivarie for my dad and mother which George Smith also talked about. Oscar said my brother George and I were just small "shavers" and we snuck around behind the woods to hear the noise and celebrating going on.

These are a few of the notes I jotted down one forenoon when Matt Winkel dropped by in answer to our letter. He came up with an old, old picture of the Russell Cheese Factory and many other interesting ones.

He said, "My parents were Mr. and Mrs. Philip Winkel nee Mary Schumacher and our home was what is now known as the Leonard Ausloos place. I was only 7 years old when my mother died in 1902 and I stayed with my grandparents for several years. Then I came back and stayed with my dad. When I was 20 years old my father had a stroke and also passed away. In those days it was customary to post auction notices at the cheese factory and when I went to post it at Konz factory he said to me, "What are you going to do now?" Look for a job I said and he said, "You can come and work for me," that's how I got my start as a cheesemaker. I worked for him for four years, then I worked at Sheboygan Verifine in the laboratory for awhile but I liked it better out in the country so I came back. Later, I bought the present Bernard Schmidt cheese factory from a Nett who had purchased it from Mr. Konz. He also at one time had a cheese factory west of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Schuricht and also owned one by the Krupps out of St. Anna.

"I ran the factory alone for about 2 years then I married the former Olive Raeder and we ran the factory for about 18 years. Later, we lived on the farm where our son Matt Jr. is today and we built our home in Elkhart Lake then."

"We had three sons, Earl, Matt Jr. and Robert and twin girls Lois and Louise."

Dear Marsh Maids,

Received your letter and you want some information of the life history of the Town of Russell. I could tell you quite a story but writing at the age of 80 is more difficult. I also had a letter from Mrs. Lena Schuler about the Anna Schirmer house. Well, this is about the life history of the Brickbauers. Carl's grandfather, George Brickbauer, was born in Germany in 1836 and came across in about 1860 and settled on the farm known as the Beno Meyer farm and owned by Jerry Meyer. They would walk from Sheboygan carrying their flour and groceries and ate beachnuts and wild rabbits and in later years they bought the cheese factory known as the Pingel Cheese Factory. They also had the post office in the factory getting the mail twice a week from Plymouth. This was the first Post Office and was called the Nieth P.O.

In 1895, George Brickbauer bought the farm from a Delahunt now the Walter Kraus farm. The house was so poor and in 1895, Gust Brickbauer was married to Dora Beck and they settled on this farm and in March of 1896 Carl was born at the George Brickbauer place. As the house was so poor, roof leaking so then in the spring of 1896 they moved the house now known as the Anna Schirmer place from across the road from Henry Hammeister to the present location. I guess it was owned by a Ramminger and they lived in this house until 1901. Then Gust Brickbauer built the house now owned by Walter Kraus and moved the old log house across the road where it still is.

Carl and Minnie Schuricht were married in 1918 and took over the Gust Brickbauer place now known as Krause and in 1942 Carl sold the farm to the

Krauses and we moved to Cascade and lived there until 1973 when we moved to Lakeland, Florida and are enjoying the warm country.

Another thing which comes to mind, in about 1915-1916, the Brickbauers built the first electric line from Elkhart Lake to the Gust Brickbauer farm and to the Russell Church. They burned the lights for the first time on Christmas eve that year. Then in 1922 we had that ice storm and the wires were all down. We had no electricity until May, so we had to wash on the wash board for almost three months and no telephone. We had a wood stove to cook, water pump and an outdoor toilet and the telephone we got along without.

Sincerely,

Carl and Minnie Brickbauer

An interview I had with Nick Jeanty who came a calling one evening with George Smith gave me a chance to look thru many old slips, deeds etc. We sure were surprised when he came up with the deed with the signature of John Sexton and his wife Mary.

His memory of where the different people lived was amazing. He said Philip Sinz had the Rueben Schlichting farm. Then he built the house across from where Mildred Henschel now lives which later housed the Federation Cheese Factory.

From what he remembered he hauled cheese when he was about 16 with horse and buggy to Wagner and Bahr at Kiel. When Bernard Schmidt took over the factory in 1928 he was a bachelor so Nick said we had some good card games there. That was Ervin and Walter Roedar, Shorty Richard, Alvin Gregoire and myself. We would have these games until gradually each of them got married. Then "that was over with".

The first Town Hall for Russell was the dance hall at St. Anna. When we went to vote we had to go outside because the voting place had to be so many feet from the tavern.

Where Nick Gregoire lived used to be a Mike Grogin farm. She was a Cain girl. Pethans farm was a Grogin farm too. They moved to Chilton and it was sold to a La Croix. Nick Jeanty Sr. married the daughter, Elizabeth.

Harry Smith and Henry Turba were officers in 1938 or 1939 when the Town Hall was moved above the cheese factory, where it is today.

Dear Readers:

Now after reading and typing up all the letters and interviews I had with so many of you, I'd like to express my deepest appreciation to you all and I'm sorry we couldn't use all the pictures we received. It was a hard job deciding which ones to put in our booklet.

I'm going to write a few of the things I remember of my early days in Russell being born and raised here and spending most of my years here outside of several years when I was employed in Plymouth, Sheboygan and Milwaukee.

I remember going to the Taft School for five years. We always walked to school then. Even later when I went to St. Ann school, the only time we got a ride was when the weather was really bad, so we got our share of exercise. When I attended Elkhart Lake High School, we had car pools because there were no buses then yet.

Another thing I remember how we would enjoy picking wild flowers. There were lots of Lady Slippers, May flowers, Spring Beauties and many others that we see very few of today. We also used to pick wild cranberries down by the swamp and would make jelly and wine from them. We had our homemade fish poles and a path

trod thru the swamp where we kids would gather meaning the Smiths, Conrads and us for an interesting day of catching mostly bullheads and some panfish. The long awaited day of the entire summer was when we could go to the county fair. Later we belonged to the 4-H clubs and would exhibit things too. This was a real treat because for most farm children there was always work to be done. We had a large garden and lots of cherry and apple trees so there was always canning, we had no freezers yet, and baking besides helping with the milking and lots of the field work as well. When we baked and canned we had to have a big fire going in that familiar wood stove no matter how hot it was outside, so we had to iron then too. We had the old fashion irons that were heated on the wood stove. When I think back I wonder how we did it all and I'm really thankful that we have it a little easier now.

Then in 1921 when I got married we took over the farm from my folks who moved to Kiel the following year. Those years we made hay with the hay loader, had to pull the slings up and dump them and then spread it in the mow, the grain we bindered and had to set the shocks and then came thrashing day. The women would be up before it was even light to do all the baking of pie and kuchen so they could use the ovens for roasting the meat. One thing you needed was plenty of food because a hungrier bunch you've never seen. Way back when we used to break the corn cobs out by hand then when you had a couple rows broke out they would cut the stalks with the corn binder and haul them home and put them thru the feed cutter to fill the silo. Then we would have to pick up all those cobs by hand and feed them thru the corn husker which would remove the husks before they went into the corn crib. Some of them would use these clean husks to make covers for the beds in those unheated upstairs bedrooms. Another thing that I'm sure many of us grew up with was that familiar pot. I ran across a poem I've kept these many years that tells it real well and I'd like to share it with you all.

#### THE PASSING OF THE POT

As far back in childhood,  
As memory may go,  
One household vessel greets me --  
That wasn't meant for show.

Beneath the bed 'twas anchored,  
Where only few could see,  
But served the entire family  
With equal privacy.

Some called the critter "Peggy,"  
And some the "Thunder-mug,"  
And others called it "Badger,"  
A few called it a jug.

To bring it in at evening  
Was bad enough no doubt,  
But Heaven help the person  
Who had to tote it out.

Our big one was enormous  
And would accommodate  
A water melon party  
Composed of six or eight.

When nights were dark and rainy,  
It was a useful urn,  
On icy winter mornings,  
The cold rim seemed to burn.

At times when things were rushing,  
And "business" extra good,  
Each took his turn a-waiting,  
Or did the best he could.

Sometimes when in a hurry,  
To our disgust and shame,  
We fumbled in the darkness,  
And slightly missed our aim.

The special one for company  
Was decorated well,  
But just the same it rendered  
That old familiar smell.

Today this modernism  
Relieves me a lot,  
And only in my vision --  
I see that homely pot.  
H. C. Wells

Gradually each of these methods have been replaced by newer and easier methods and the family farm as we knew it is disappearing. Whether it is better or worse only time will tell, but that is progress and that is the way it must be.

Rosie Arndt



Interior of the Taft School, teacher Angela Meyer, 1936. First row - Alverda Schuricht, Eileen Smith, Kathleen Schmitz, La Verne Conrad. Second row - Ardell Schuricht, Aaron Schuricht, Valentine Conrad, Jerome Dickrell, George Dickrell. Third row - Bernice Conrad, Oswen Diefenthaler, Harold Cain, Irene Schuricht, Alta Mae Smith.



Taft School, 1905. Back Row: Harry Smith, Louis Schuricht, George Smith, Joe Stemper, William Schuricht, Lamina Cain, Teacher Anna Leonard, Catherine Frankman, Marion Smith, Stella Cain, Celia Cain, Minnie Schuricht, Valeria Cain, Mamie Cain. Front row: William Conrad, Emmet Cain, Art Diefenthaler, Ervin Huberty, Elsie Conrad, Ida Conrad, Marcella Cain, Edgar Conrad, Martha Hoehl and Vorina Hoehl.

Carl Birkholz taken January, 1948 on their farm, formerly the Kessel farm.



A two story log house typical of many of the first homes in the town. Philip Conrad lived in this one which was located on the southwest curve of what is now Sexton Road 1 mile south of H on the Arno Adams farm. This house later collapsed, the barn was taken down log by log and moved to the then Serve Schmitz farm where it still stands.



A picture of the cheese factory and town hall, the site of many of the town's activities. Corner of H and Sexton Road.



Martin Olson plowing on the William Schuricht farm.



Julius and Meta Brickbauer taken in front of Shuberts Studio in Kiel.



Merry-Go-Round Card Club, 1915. Back row - Bill Reiser, Justin Harkins, George Smith, Raymond Gregorie, William Hansman, Bernard Frankman, Pat Cain, Henry Jeanty. Second row - Mildred Berg, Harry Smith, Olive Reiser, Lucille King. Front row - Hilda Jeanty, Mary Jeanty, Marie Harkins, Jennie Cain, Marion Smith, Sarah Voelker, Katherine Gannon, Katherine Jeanty.



Math Winkel, age 21, 1919, Ford.



William and Louies Schuricht and Buick, 1915.



A general store and dining hall and one of the shantys that were located deep in the Sheboygan Marsh when the camp for the workers of the lime kiln were in the area. The second from the left is Gus Schuricht and Martin Olson, one of the cooks, is on the right with the apron.



Making hay on the Hilmer Voelker farm. Joe on top of the wagon, Gilbert on the hay rake.



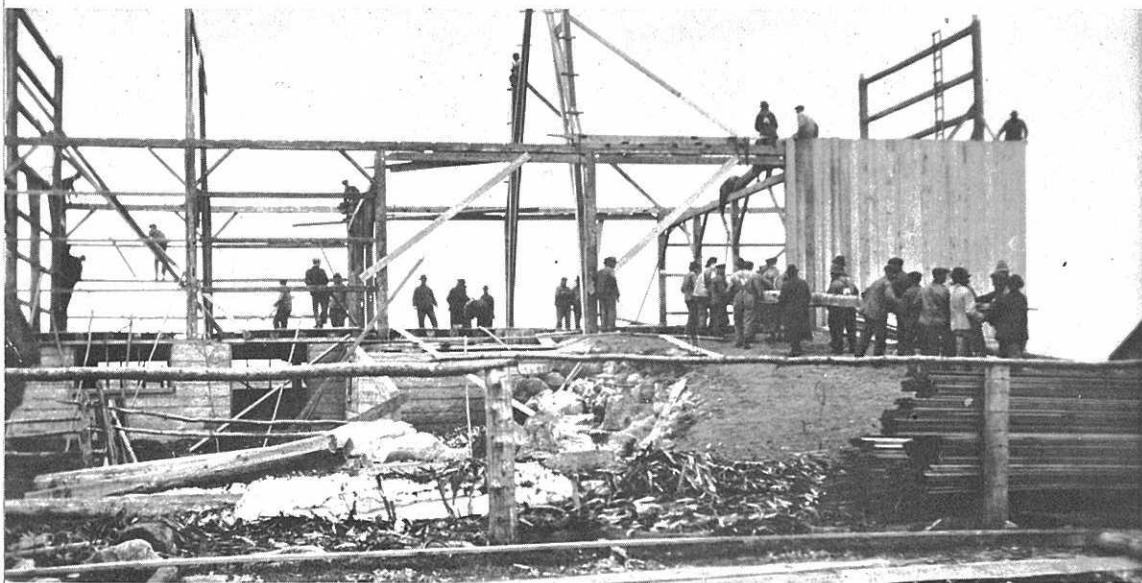
Binding grain on the Voelker farm, one of the original farms in the area purchased from the government by Valentine Voelker. Hilmer Voelker on the grain binder and Joe Mintz, hired man, Chilton, 1849.



Steam engine thrashing scene. Oscar Conrad, Milton Schuler, Alfred Matthias, Ardell Schuricht.



Town Russell District No. 1 - County Trunk J. and Black Street Corner, 1912. 1st row - Erich Schnetze, Oswald Becker, Elmer Brickbauer, Oris Polster, Nick Zorn, Oscar Hildebrandt, Hattie Holzmann, William Klauk, Roland Wriedt, Verona Henschel, Raymond Conrad, Hugo Hildebrandt, Eleanore Brickbauer, George Kienan, Ruth Kienan, Marie Pingel, Vernon Holtzmann, Earl Pingel. 2nd row - Oswald Brickbauer, Lena Holtzmann, Raymond Wriedt, Dewey Pingel, Arthur Brickbauer, Hilda Hammeister, Arthur Holtzmann, Ben Conrad, Anita Brickbauer, Ella Conrad, William Kramer, teacher, Albert Henschel, Nelda Brickbauer, Marie DeLaHunt, Evangeline Keenan, Helene Schnetze, Clara Conrad.



Barn raising of one of the first hip-roof barns, taken on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. J. Dickrell, 1923.



This picture was taken March 2, 1970, the final day of sturgeon fishing on Lake Winnebago. These Town of Russell residents and their prize catches, left to right are Elroy Arndt, Bill Cain, Jim Dorn and Leo Zorn. Town of Russell being fairly close to Stockbridge, the sturgeon capital of the world, has quite a number of enthusiastic fishermen.



Town Russell leaders gathered in Bernard Schmidt's kitchen to save the cost of heating the town hall during their winter meetings. From left, Bernard Schmidt, treasurer; Robert Winkel, chairman; Edward Hoehl, clerk; Melvin Kraus, supervisor, and Aaron Schuricht, supervisor. Together they govern the least populated and one of the most remote of the county's towns.