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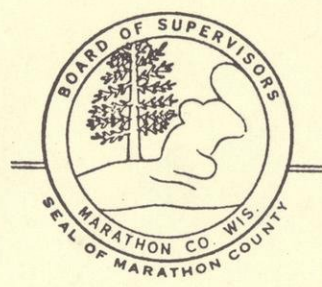
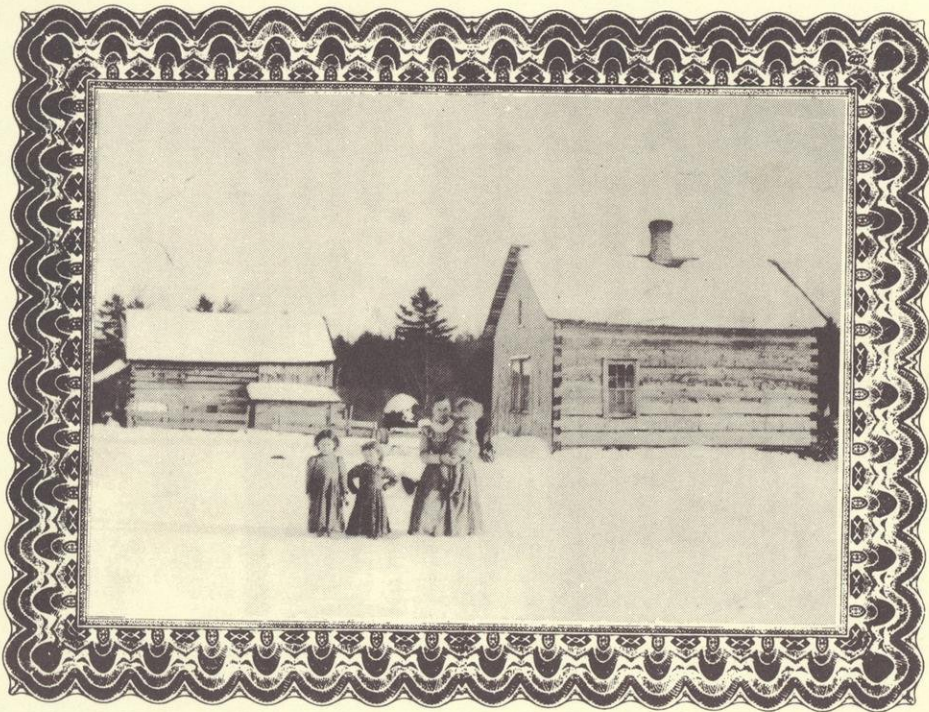
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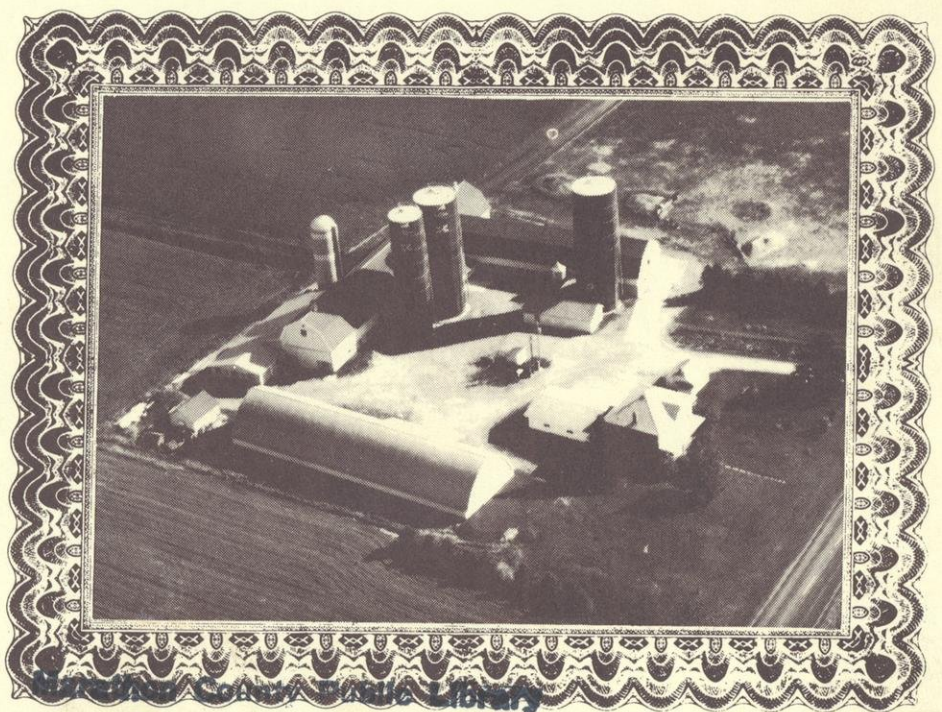
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1875

HOLTON'S HERITAGE



Extension Department 1975

1875 PICTURE: FRANK SCHOPPER FARM LOCATED IN SECTION 11.

1975 PICTURE: HERBERT GUMZ FARM LOCATED IN SECTION 10.

Marathon County Public Library
300 W. 15th St
Wausau, WI 54403

DEED

Dated July 13, 1815
Acknowledged December 18, 1815
Recorded August 25, 1857
Deed Book C, page 286
\$24,148.80

Reverend Samuel Peters, L. L. D.
of the City of New York
to
Benjamin Connor, of the City of
Philadelphia.

RECITES:

That whereas Hawnopajatan and Octhtongoomlisheau, Chiefs of the Nawdoisse Indians, did by their certain Deeds under their respective hands and seals, give, grant and convey to a certain Jonathon Carver a certain Territory or Tract of Land, which said Deed to the aforesaid Jonathon Carver is in the words and figures following, to-wit:

To Jonathon Carver, a Chief under the most mighty and potent George the Third, King of the English and other Nations, the fame of whose courageous warriors have reached our ears, and has been more fully told us by our good brother Jonathon aforesaid, whom we rejoice to see amongst us, and bring us good news from his Country. We chiefs of the Naudowissies, who have hereunto set our hands and seals, do by these presents, for ourselves and heirs forever, in return for the many presents and other good services done by the said Jonathon to ourselves and allies, give, grant and convey to him, the said Jonathon, and his heirs and assigns forever, the whole of a certain tract or territory of land, bounded as follows, viz: From the falls of St. Anthony running on the East bank of the Mississippi nearly South East as far as the South end of Lake Pepin where the Chippewa River joins the Mississippi and from thence Eastward five days travel accounting twenty English miles per day, and from thence North six days travel at twenty English miles per day, and from thence again to the Falls of St. Anthony in a direct straight line. We do for ourselves, our heirs and assigns forever, give unto the said Jonathon, his heirs and assigns forever, all the said lands with all the trees, rocks and rivers therein, reserving for ourselves and heirs the sole liberty of hunting and fishing on lands not planted or improved by the said Jonathon, his heirs or assigns. To which we have affixed our respective seals at the Great Cave, May 1, 1767.

Hawnopajatan (turtle drawing) his mark.
Octhtongoomlisheau (snake drawing) his mark.

Which said Deed is in the Records of the Plantation Office, White Hall, London.

And whereas the said Jonathon Carver departed this life on or about January 30, 1780, at the City of London in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, called England, leaving 2 sons and 5 daughters, joint heirs and sole inheritors of the aforesaid tract of land or territory, to-wit: Rufus, Jonathon, Mary, Abigail, Olive, Mindwell, and Martha.

And whereas, the aforesaid heirs and representatives of aforesaid Jonathon Carver, deceased, did in due form of law, grant, bargain, sell and convey the aforesaid territory or tract of land, together with the premises unto him, the aforesaid Samuel Peters, and to his heirs and assigns forever. Which said several conveyances made and executed by all and each of the heirs and representatives of the aforesaid Jonathon Carver, deceased, to him the aforesaid Samuel Peters, bear date in the year A. D. 1806.

Now therefore, this indenture witnesseth, that the said Samuel Peters for an in consideration of the sum of \$24,148.80 lawful money of the United States of America, to him in hand paid by the aforesaid Benjamin Connor at or immediately before the ensembling and delivery of these presents (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged), and him, the said Benjamin Connor, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns forever, released and discharged from the same, have granted, bargained and sold, released, confirmed and conveyed and by these presents doth grant, bargain and sell, release, confirm and convey unto him, the aforesaid Benjamin Connor, his heirs and assigns forever, 536,640 acres of land lying and being in the said territory.

At the foot of the foregoing Deed, and recorded as a part thereof, appears the following Certificate of Selection:

I, Stephen Schooley of Cincinnati, do hereby choose and select the following Sections in Township No. 29 North of Range No. 2 East, meridian: Nos. 1 to 29 inclusive, and the N½ of Section 30, and NE¼ (80 acres) of the S½ of said Section, and the South East half of the quarter (40 acres) of said S½ of said Section, all in Marathon County, Wisconsin, to embrace the 19,000 acres as deeded to me by Deed as recorded as above from Lauveur D. Connor.

Stephen Schooley (Seal)

Signed:

In presence of two witnesses.

NOTE: We find nothing on file or of record regarding the estate of Benjamin Connor, deceased.

THIS IS A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL
DEED SIGNING THE LAND OF THE
TOWN OF HOLTON FROM REVEREND
SAMUEL PETERS TO BENJAMIN CONNOR.

THIS IS THE REPORT FOUND IN A RECORD BOOK BY G.W. HOLETON

It was the first week in November that H. A. Ferguson, a noted hunter and woodsman of Black River, and myself left the town of Weston to look over the land along the Wis. Cen. R. R. We commenced to Sec. 40 or where Spencer is about the 14. We came upon a camp near where the colekilns now land at Colby. The parties had been looking for land, found what they wanted, but were not able to take the members, so as to enter it they employed H. A. Ferguson to do this for them. It proved to be Richard Poel and William Tennant and Rufus Barker. So we looked the land over. Made our choices and took out our papers at the same time.

On or about March 25, 1872 I met my wife and two children and my wife's sister (NOW Mrs. Homestead of Dorchester) at Stevens Point. There was a squad of men cutting out a supply road through the west side of this town and a camp of engineers on south side of Sec. 19.

Abbotsford, Wis. Feb. 8, 1896

My homestead papers was made out on or about the 19th of Nov., 1871 at Stevens Point by Album and Inaw. There was no settlers at that time here to my knowledge.

March 6th, 1872. My first load of goods and material for building was unloaded in now the town of Holeton. My brother, Charles, and I commenced building. William Shannon (then Bate) had build a shanty and moved in the latter part of February. His brother John and a brother-in-law named Sawyer were with Hubbard Moss and Richard and William Tennant. Rufus and Henry Barker was building their log cabins at the time.

March 6th, 1872. Families moving in. Inda Lyon and Henry Barker. Hubbard Moss, Richard and William Tennent. Henry Demarest about the last week in March.

1872. We arrived in this town the first day of April 1872. San Van Garder a few days later. Hiran Kay Hart had arrived in June and Rolof Auminson in July. Samuel Williams and Nels Empey and Thomas Peckham and boys came in the fall and while working for Sam Williams at work digging in a well. The chains came unhooked when lowering Peckham. He fell about 30 feet breaking one leg in three places. Stove up the heal on the other foot. No physician nearer than Stevens Point. He was carried by 5 men 14 miles through the woods on a hand barrow or rough stretcher. His suffering was terrible. This was about Nov. 5, 1872. I proved up on my land in December 1873 and received my patent from the government August 1st, 1874 signed by U. S. Grant and was now the first owner of land in the town I believe.

You will find in James Demney's letter the record of town officers as they appeared on our town records as drawn by our town clerk C. S. Guinette.

On the 15th day of April 1875 a school district was formed and was known as Dist. No. 1 of the Town of Hull and is the Dist No. One Town of Holeton. The first meeting of local voters was on May 4th, 1875. T. B. Carpenter chosen as chairman, James Barr, clerk protem, William Tennant was elected director. Rufus Barker Treasurer, G. W. Holeton Clerk.

Our school house was built of logs 16x28 7 feet high with double scoop roof. On Sundays sometimes we had preaching by Elder Dix and sometimes Mrs. Pitcher.

We formed a part of the township of Wein up to 1875 then was taken from Wein and attached to the town of Hull and in the spring of 1876 we held our first town meeting at R. C. Tennant's log cabin. A. G. Stonghton was our first chairman.

THIS IS HIS ORIGINAL HANDWRITING AS FOUND IN THE BOOK.

This is all I can write at present
and if you can get anything
from it that is worth putting in
print your welcome happens
you will excuse all mistakes

Respectfully Yours
G. W. Holeton

W
977,529
H744

CIVIL WAR VET ANSWERS LAST TAPS

George W. Holeton, last Civil war veteran of the community, passed away at his home at Abbotsford Saturday afternoon, May 9th, at the age of 90 years and 10 months, after a brief illness with congestion of the lungs. He was born at Poland, Ohio, July 9th, 1840, the son of Richard S. and Mary Ann Holeton and was married April 4th, 1867 to Emily Ann Ferguson, at Niles, Ohio. Preceded by his wife in death on February 19, 1922, he leaves to mourn his loss four children, Ralph C. of Wausau, George R. of Olds, Alberta, Canada, Gertrude Cole of Decatur, Ill., and Mary Maude Jerdee of Arkdale, Wis. There are also eleven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

4:70

Mr. Holeton was a Civil War veteran, enlisting at the age of 20 years as a private in Co. E, 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry. In the same regiment were two men who later became Presidents of the United States, Wm. McKinley, Captain of Company G, and R. B. Hayes, Major of the regiment.

Heckman Binding
Lawrence Doppensperger

Private Holeton became Corporal June 8, 1861, Sergeant on April 13, 1863 and later was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant under Captain McKinley and Major Hayes. He participated in 22 battles and a number of skirmishes and was wounded in the right leg, Sept. 14, 1862, at South Mountain, Md. He lay in an orchard for two days at Middleton before found and was taken to a hospital in Philadelphia where he spent three months before recovering sufficiently to return to his regiment. He was slightly wounded on several other occasions and received his honorable discharge August 3, 1865.

After his years of service, he returned to Niles, Ohio, where he resumed his trade of carpenter. In October, 1871, he came with his family to Marathon County, travelling by rail to Humbird, thence to Neillsville by stage, and on to Marathon County where he located on a soldier's homestead of 160 acres about four miles southeast of Dorchester. His homestead certificate No. 372 dated Aug. 1, 1874, was signed by Pres. U. S. Grant.

Always a good citizen vitally interested in affairs of the community, he had the first school district set off, District No. 1, April 15, 1875, and served as school clerk for 26 years, also serving as town chairman and in various other official capacities during the course of years. In 1876 the township in which he resided was named for him. About this time Mrs. Holeton's sister, now Mrs. Aug. Homstead of Dorchester, then a young girl of fifteen came to live with them. Mr. Holeton helped in the building of a church in his community and of the grist mill at Dorchester.

7 JAN. 77

13 Sept 76

In 1910 he retired from active work purchasing a home at Abbotsford where he and his wife moved and spent their remaining years.

Mr. Holeton was a member of the Presbyterian church at Abbotsford, also the Masonic Fraternity and order of Eastern Star and the last member of the G. A. R. Post at Colby.

Funeral services were held at the Abbotsford Armory, Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Chas. Wagner, presbyterian minister from Athens officiating. Military honors were accorded him by members of the American Legion Post who served as pallbearers, and composed a firing squad at the final rites in the Abbotsford cemetery where burial was made.

A fine old man, beloved by his neighbors and townspeople we see him today proudly bearing the colors as was his privilege at the last rites for his Civil war brethren so often in the past years. We pay tribute to this "grand old man" of the "Army of the Republic" who so faithfully served his country and fellowmen, and believe that we who are here should emulate his example in "doing the right as God gives us to see the right."



Owen Hughes.

G. W. HOLETON

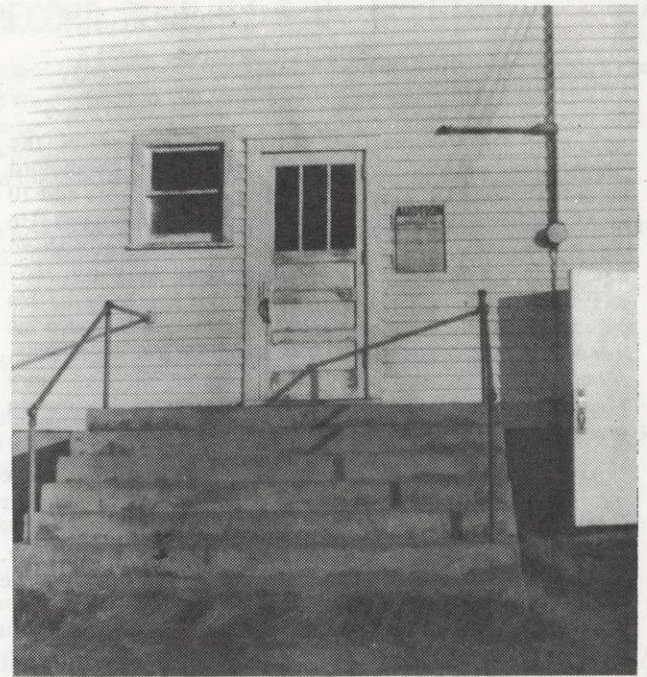
SCHOOLS

HOLTON NO. 1

There were seven school districts in the Town of Holton District No. 1 Pickard School, Sec. 20, District No. 2 Rosedale School Sec. 28, District No. 3 Bruckerville School Sec. 15, District No. 4 Draper School Sec. No. 8, District No. 5 Barry School Sec. 12, District No. 6 no name, Sec. 36, District No. 7 Wright School, Sec. 26.

District No. 1 was organized in April 15, 1875. The first school building was a log building 16 x 28 x 7 ft. high with double scoop roof. The first teacher was Louis A. Pradt. The first year's expenditure was \$147.81. This was mostly for school desks, books, stove and material. The first teacher's salary for Louis A. Pradt was \$8.00. The following year's expenditures were \$412.27 of which Louis A. Pradt received \$219.97.

A new frame schoolhouse was built in 1881. The old log school house was torn down in 1882. In 1886 or 1887 the frame school house burned. A new school was built in 1887, a new wood shed in 1890. This school house built in 1887 was in use until the school was closed by consolidation in 1962. After 86 years of operation, a basement was put under the school in 1934. The school was modernized in 1942 - 1945. Electricity, furnace, indoor toilets, new seating. Young people wanting a higher education had to live in at the neighboring towns unless they were within walking distance of the school. The first Colby high school was organized about 1885. Abbotsford High School apparently about 1904, when a three year high school course was offered. In Dorchester a three year State Fee high school was established in 1906.



Teachers of Holton District Number One

- 1876-1877 L. A. Pradt
- 1877 1878 L. A. Pradt-Lilly Grace-nettie A. Shields.
- 1878-1879 L. A. Pradt-Florence E. Winchester
- 1879-1880 Harry Taylor-Florence E. Winchester-George W. Carley
- 1880-1881 George W. Carley-Eliza E. Briggs
- 1881-1882 Edgar Foster
- 1882-1883 Edgar Foster-Mollie Finerty
- 1883-1884 Mollie Finerty-Abbie Healy
- 1884-1885 Abbie Healy-E. E. Tennant
- 1885-1886 E. E. Tennant-Jennie Rogers-Permilia Robbins
- 1886-1887 George B. Carley-Clarie M. Whiting
- 1887-1888 Lorde Cole (Lorell)-Henry Hendrickson
- 1888-1889 Lorell M. Cole
- 1889-1890 Miss Jessie Cole-Carrie Vander Cook
- 1890-1891 Lewis Chapman
- 1891-1892 Eva M. Barker -Lewis Chapman
- 1892-1893 Eva M. Barker-Carrie Vandercook
- 1893-1894 Mrs. O. W. Pierce-G. P. Korbel-C. L. Hamilton
- 1894-1895 Miss Nellie Clark
- 1895-1896 Miss Nellie Clark
- 1896-1897 Roy Prosser
- 1897-1898 J. S. Kiehl
- 1898-1899 J. S. Kiehl-J. Neuenschenander
- 1899-1900 Fern Hutchinson
- 1900-1901 Edith Maynard-Grace Jarvis
- 1901-1902 Frank Kadonsky-Eva Barker
- 1902-1903 Eva Barker
- 1903-1904 Mabel Glass
- 1904-1905 Mabel Glass
- 1905-1906 Mabel Glass
- 1906-1907 Mabel Glass



Pickard School Town of Holton
December 1962, Closed 1961

1907-1908 Annie Pazdernik
 1908-1909 Carrie Van Kleich-Myrtle Parkhill
 1909-1910 Anna Marquardt
 1910-1911 Anna Marquardt
 1911-1913 Edna Rosin
 1913-1916 Rena Cramer
 1916-1920 Frances McMonagle
 1920-1921 Arlene Bast
 1921-1922 Kathryn O Niel-Norman Priebe-Ella Ridderbush
 1922-1923 Edith Bever
 1923-1924 Mrs. Rollie Kollor
 1924-1925 Mrs. Marjorie Weber-Mrs. Rollie Keller
 1925-1926 Arlene Bast
 1926-1928 Arlene Bast
 1928-1929 Lloyd Thompson
 1929-1930 Edna Ruesch
 1930-1931 Dorothy Neidhold
 1931-1933 Dorothy Neidhold
 1933-1934 Bessie Mohan
 1934-1936 Virginia Sullivan
 1936-1939 Herman Ziebarth
 1939-1941 Florence Thorn later Mrs. Clarence Weetz
 1941-1942 Lorraine Berens
 1942-1943 Katherine Veers
 1943-1944 Amalie Calmes
 1944-1946 Leona Garbarski
 1946-1949 Myrtle Pflanzner
 1949-1951 Ethel Hanson
 1951-1954 Lucille Mazam
 1954-1955 Mrs. Beatrice Jensen
 1955-1957 Lawrence Stettler
 1957-1958 Mavis Lueddecke-Lawrence Stettler
 1958-1960 Lawrence Stettler
 1960-1962 Mrs. Dona Balciar

FIRST TEACHER

According to records, Louis A. Pradt was the first teacher in Holton District No. 1. His parents, the C. R. Pradts lived in Section 28 on the farm now owned by Gene Ridderbush.

Besides Hon. Alexander Stewart, who for six years represented the ninth congressional district of Wisconsin, which included Marathon county, this county had a nother representative in the city of Washington, in the person of Hon. Louis A. Pradt, not in the halls of Congress, but in another and very important position of assistant attorney general connected with the Department of Justice, appointed to that place by President William McKinley in 1897 and reappointed in 1901. His official duties required him to represent the government in all cases brought by claimants against the United States in the Court of Claims, the only court where a private party can sue the government. Claims for overcharges on tariff duties against the revenue department; for spoilation, and all sorts of claims against the government, are litigated and disposed of in this court, and not a few seemingly preposterous claims are coming up for adjudication, and as an instance of this sort of claims made against the government only one need be mentioned, although claims of that kind are not over rare. In his term of office there was a claim filed by the heirs of a deceased person for millions of dollars. The curious part of it was that the original claimant had made his will, disposed of all his property to his heirs, and never mentioned this claim against the government. Thousands of claims are filed every year and the office was and is no

sinecure, but requires thorough knowledge of law and application to dry legal work, and diligence to dig out the real facts in each case, which are mostly hidden by claimants to the best of their ability.

Appeals from this court are directly taken to the highest court in the land, and it became the duty of Mr. L. A. Pradt, the assistant attorney general, to represent the government in the Supreme Court of the United States. Nevertheless while at Washington he was always glad to meet and extend a friendly hand and welcome to any of his old neighbors and acquaintances, a true, faithful representative of the hospitable spirit of Wausau.

L. A. Pradt may well be numbered with the distinguished citizens and able members of the bar at Wausau, to which city he came as a practitioner in the law, immediately following his graduation from the University of Wisconsin, at Madison. He was born in Pennsylvania, and is a son of Charles and Esther Pradt.

In 1856 the parents of Mr. Pradt came to Sheboygan County, Wis., where he was reared and received a public school training, and in 1872 he accompanied them to the western part of Marathon county. For 12 years he occupied his time mainly in teaching school, both in Sheboygan and Marathon counties, and then entered the law department of the University of Michigan, where he was graduated in 1881, in the same year being admitted to the bar and his first law office was opened at Wausau. In 1884, with others, he organized the Wausau Law and Land Association, four of the original members subsequently retiring, but Mr. Pradt and Hon. Neal Brown remaining and, with Frederick W. Genrich, who was admitted to the firm in 1899, continuing the old organization under the present firm style of Brown, Pradt & Genrich. This is a very influential body, made up of veteran lawyers, and its connections with important litigation cover all this section. In 1896 Mr. Pradt was elected city attorney of Wausau and served as such until 1897, when he was appointed by the late President McKinley, assistant attorney general of the United States and his home was in the city of Washington during the succeeding nine years. In 1906 he resigned this office and went into private practice in the capital, all this time continuing his association with the firm at Wausau. In the summer of 1909 Mr. Pradt returned to Wausau and this city continues to be his home. His public services were in every way creditable and during his many years of Washington life he formed many permanent friendships with other able and prominent men from all over the country. During his long absence from this city he never forgot, in all the stress of great public business, the interests of Wausau and in every way possible to him advanced its enterprises. He organized the Wausau Country Club, of which he was elected president and still serves as such. In his political affiliation Mr. Pradt has always been a Republican and from 1891 until 1897 served as chairman of the Marathon County Republican Committee.

In 1890 Mr. Pradt was married to Miss Charlotte Atwater of Milwaukee, and they have three children: Louis, Alan and Charlotte. Mrs. L. A. Pradt, herself an accomplished musician, is the president of the Ladies' Tuesday Musical Club, and delights in receiving at her home the literary and music-loving people of Wausau.

**ROSE DALE SCHOOL
HOLTON DISTRICT NO. 2**

The clerk's records for the years 1875-1876 are missing. The treasurer's records begin with Dec. 18, 1875 showing mostly expenses for building of school. Total expenditures were \$239.94; teacher salary \$91.00, work on out house \$3.75, legal services 2.00, district record \$8.00, interest money \$5.39, building of school \$129.80, total \$239.94.

At the fifth annual meeting the job of cutting ten cords of hardwood 30 inches long, to be all body wood, was let to Gustave Strebe at 48c per cord. The wood was to be delivered during the ensuing winter. Wood cutting was let out for many years on bids.

In 1884 a motion was made and carried to build a new school house the following year.

At the eleventh annual meeting, 1885, the old school house was sold to H. W. Pradt for \$4.00 to take away as soon as present term was ended.

At the 12th annual meeting, it mentions the Joint District No. 2 of the Towns of Holton and Johnson.

On July 3, 1895, a district board meeting was held to review applications for a teacher. Three female and two male applications were considered. The board voted to hire a female teacher. They hired Edith M. Cowles for eight months at \$35.00 per month.

On July 3, 1922 at the annual meeting it was voted to build a new school house. The vote was 29 yes, 4 noes. Herbert Jacobi, Wm. Meier and Henry Parge were appointed as building committee. The school house was completed in 1924. The first teacher was Hattie Berry.



Mr. Fred Meske, son Milton, and granddaughter Lila Mae attended this school.

BRUCKERVILLE SCHOOL

The first teacher was Emma Rosin 1896-1897. One of the first pupils, Mary Banish Bollech, celebrated her 90th birthday August 1975. The next teacher, Kurt Beyreis' records show only to 1900.

A new two room school house was built in 1905. Mr. Hedrick and other work toward this accomplishment. Mr. Frank Gumz signed bond for new school. Louis Stelzel was school board member for 30 years, 1926 - 1956. Visitors 1897 - 1901 -- George E. Olson, Ole Olson, Mrs. Else Olson, John Empey, Joe F. Konecny, Miss Elsa Ludwig, Nelson Empey, Chas. Beyreis, Richard Buchholz, Amelia Scheibe, Christine Picha, Ida Scheibe.

Bruckerville School,
TOWN OF HOLTON,
MARTHON CO., WIS.

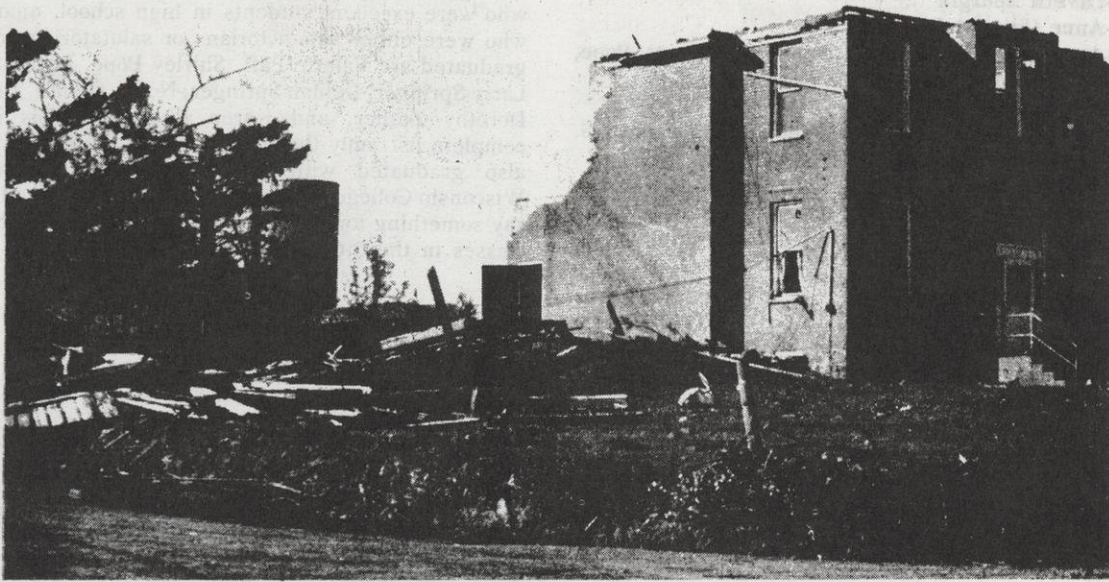
September 11, 1905—June 8, 1906.

Suy E. Carleton, Teacher.

SCHOOL OFFICERS.
Joseph Lamer, Director. Chas. Beyries, Clerk.
Nelson Empey, Treasurer.

PUPILS.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Hattie Bartnick | Helen Hoffman |
| Anna Bartnick | Joe Jantch |
| Mattie Bartnick | Hattie Jantch |
| George Bartnick | Willie Jantch |
| Albert Bartnick | Minnie Johnson |
| Fred Bartnick | Lawrence Keihl |
| Anna Beyries | George Keihl |
| Katie Beyries | Anna Lamer |
| Ferna Beyries | Rosa Lamer |
| Earnest Beyries | Joe Lamer |
| Willie Bollick | Otto Meuller |
| John Bochyinn | Lucy Meuller |
| Clara Denyine | Richie Meuller |
| Willie Denyine | John Rauscher |
| Margret Denyine | Mary Shopper |
| Luis Dresher | Anna Shopper |
| Mary Eggert | Rosa Shopper |
| Erna Eggert | Frank Shopper |
| Nellie Empey | Henry Venski |
| Willie Empey | Anna Zohorka |
| Annie Gridel | Joseph Peterson |
| Flora Gridel | Geo. Danyer |
| Walter Gridel | Oscar Witt |
| Otto Gumy | Mary Wit |
| Edith Gumy | Archie Beyries |
| Mary Hoffman | Edith Neike |
| Margert Hoffman | Clara Meuller |



BRUCKERVILLE SCHOOL--The old Bruckerville school building located on County Trunk A between Dorchester and Jerkwater was almost completely destroyed in the Tuesday tornado. The twister hit the area about 4 p.m. Sept. 28, 1971

TEACHERS OF THE DRAPER SCHOOL FROM 1879

We believe this to be the first teacher according to receipt stubs found by Mrs. Grant Pope. After moving into the Draper school, a box of old papers had been left there. A few are missing from about the 1900's to 1910.

- 1879--Louise Brinker, \$40.00-2 months.
- 1880--May Wicker, \$21.00 for three months.
- 1880--Elmer Tennant, \$57.00 for Oct., Nov.
- 1881--Dennis Demoss built school, Andrew Hanson school board, salary \$70.00.
- 1882--Elmer Tennant.
- 1883--E. Foster taught two months. (Joseph Knoecny wood for school).
- 1884--Julia Finnerty \$25.00.
- 1885--Julia Finnerty \$30.00 - Aug.
- 1886--Emelie Kiehl, \$25.00 a mo., taught 8 months.
- 1887--Lizzie Brown, \$30.00 3 mo., Aug. & Sept. \$26.00.
- 1888 Maude Damon, \$28.00 Sept. to Dec., Dir. Demes Cleamost, Clerk Andrew Hanson.
- 1888--Mattie Kiehl, \$56.00 3 mo., treas. Louie Johnson, Ilie J. Brusten.
- 1889 -- ----
- 1890--Ira L. Cole \$40.00
- 1891--Mrs. Charlotte Flosom \$50.00 - 2 mo.
- 1892--Pauline Kiehl \$28.00. (John Jantsch built the present school for \$600.00.
- 1892--C. Folsom. Edd Pope built woodshed-hung bell and put up flag pole.
- 1893--Maratha Hendricks \$84.00-3 mo.
- 1894--Ella Chapman \$26.00-1 mo.
- 1894--Emma Rosin \$26.00 1 mo.
- 1895--Emma Rosin
- 1896--Mildred McKenna, taught 6 mo., \$26.00
- 1897--M. McKenna
- 1898-- --

- From here on to 1908 do not have any records.
- The above was taken from two old receipt books found in my school home attic.
- 1908--Kurt Byreis
- 1909 ----
- 1910 --
- 1911--John Lang
- 1912 -- Beatrice Ketchpaw
- 1913 --
- 1914 -- Hawttie Munkrwitz, Hattie Hubbard
- 1915--Leonard Paff
- 1916--Chas. Johnson
- 1917--Leona Wagner
- 1918--Rich Thurman
- 1919 --
- 1920 --
- 1921 -- Hattie Rachow Stelzel
- 1922 --
- 1923 -- Herman Hetfield, \$85.00, school board R. Umlauf, J. Konecny, O. Oehler.
- 1924 -- Laurain Boheim
- 1925 -- Selma Kuhnert, Erna Neeck \$100.00.
- 1926 -- Rose Michel 8 mo.
- 1927 -- Dorothy Georgas
- 1929 -- Helen Hollman 8 mos.
- 1930 -- Helen Hollman, school board Oscar Kuenzel, Rudolph Umlauf, Morga Underwood.
- 1931--Ellener Maxam Pope
- 1932--Ellener Maxam Pope, school board Grant Pope, Morgan Underwood.
- 1933 -- Margaret (Melvin) Wedeman
- 1934--Edna Sullivan Bloom
- 1935 ----
- 1936--Fay Neidhold
- 1937--Leona Platta
- 1938--Leona Platta

1939--LaVern Spurgin, school board Grant Pope, Morgan Underwood, Edd Bittner.
 1940--LaVern Spurgin
 1941--Anne (Strunk) Miller
 1942--Anne (Strunk) Miller, school board Grant Pope, Martin Stelzel, Edd Bittner.
 1943--Anne (Strunk) Miller.
 1944--Anne (Strunk) Miller, school board Edd Bittner, G. Pope, R. Umlauf.
 1945--Phylis (Guerke) Wenzel
 1946--Myrtle (Kellner) Prestaback.
 1947--
 1948 --
 1949 --
 1950--Myrtle Kellner
 1951--Mrs. Langteau
 1952--Margaret (Strunk) Oehler
 1953--Margaret (Strunk) Oehler, Deloris Habekc, school board Martin Stelzel, Frank Umlauf
 1955 -- Grace Habekc, school board Dewey Oehler, F. Umlauf
 1956--Deloris Habekc
 1957--Beatrice Strunk, school board Martin Stelzel, Don Juedes, Joe Konecny
 1958---
 1959 --
 1960--
 1961--
 1962--Beatrice Strunk, school board Joe Konecny, Don Juedes, Joe Konecny.

The first Draper school house was built of logs in the year 1881 by a man named Dennis Demoss. It was built on an acre of donated land on what is now the Ed Bittner farm. It was made of logs with homemade benches instead of desks. In 1892 a new frame school was built, the old one being moved to Joe Miller Sr. farm on the hill to be used as a home until they built their brick house in about 1908. Classes apparently had been held in someone's home as the first teacher listed in early times on some old receipt stubs found by Mrs. Grant Pope after they moved into Draper School. The teacher at this time in the year 1879 was Louise Brinker. John Jantsch Sr. built the new school in 1892. It was remodeled in 1933. A basement was built, a large bookcase put in and other improvements made. This was done with the help of W.P.A. workers. The school remained as it was until the Popes remodeled it into a very attractive home in 1967.

From 1879 until the spring of 1962 there were 49 teachers listed altogether, but there is a gap in our information from 1898 until 1910. During the 1914-15 term of school one of the teachers, Leonard Paff, had the children put on plays at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the last day of school, and with the money they raised they bought a used organ. August Sauter was always the ticket salesman.

One year some of the bigger boys went into the woods and cut down some trees, made holes, and set them in by the school house. They nailed up some tables for their school picnic, and then it rained!

It was the center of neighborhood activities. After the P.T.A. was organized, they met regularly in the school.

There was no well at the school. The school children came to the Bittners and Konecnys pumps and got the water until about 1940 when a well was drilled there and modern rest rooms and a water fountain were put in, water also being piped to the basement where hot lunches were served. Anna Brecke was the first cook, then Helen Umlauf Riegert, Mrs.

Jim Milliken, Dorothy Tischendorf Konecny and Minnie Stelzl. for teachers and school board members see lists.

Draper school has produced a number of young people who were excellent students in high school, among those who were either valedictorian or salutatorian when they graduated are Valerie Paff, Shirley Pope, Leona Springer, Larry Springer, Delilah Springer, Nellie Oehler Tischendorf, Dorothy Zuther, and Karen Bednarek. This is not a complete list, only those we know of. Larry Springer was also graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin College of Engineering in 1968. This all seems to say something for the teachers who managed to handle all classes in the little one room school houses.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Konecny. Mrs. taught school in Draper in 1894.



The Draper School of Town of Holton, District No. 4 about 1904--The children of the Millers, Bittners, Popes, Konecny, Kranaik, Blazels, Pliers, and some we do not know.

BARRY SCHOOL HOLTON DISTRICT NO. 5

The records for Barry School are incomplete. According to Frank Schopper, the first school house was built in 1907 and the first teacher was Ella Ridderbush.

- 1917-1918 Elsie Erebene
- 1918-1919 Leona Twaroske
- 1919-1920 E. Gourdette
- 1920-1921--Margaret Franz
- 1921-1922 Rosalie Mervin
- 1923-1924 Marjorie Weber
- 1924-1925 Anna Jackel
- 1925-1926 Mary Fuller
- 1926-1927 Mary Fuller
- 1927-1928 Lillian Flessing
- 1928-1929 Lillian Flessing
- 1929-1930 Dorothy Christenson
- 1930-1931 Esther Ernst
- 1931-1932 Edwin Garbish
- 1932-1933 Edwin Garbish
- 1933-1934 Edwin Garbish
- 1934-1935 Annabelle Zahorka
- 1935-1936 Annabelle Zahorka
- 1936-1937 Annabelle Zahorka
- 1937-1938 Annabelle Zahorka

The only record book on the Barry school is from 1917-1938. This book is at the Abbotsford High School.

WRIGHT SCHOOL HOLTON DISTRICT NO. 7

The records for Wright school are also incomplete and run only from the years 1955 - 1959. This book is at the Abbotsford School.

- 1955-1956 Mrs. Winnifred Hartzel
- 1955-1956 Mrs. Helen Boggard
- 1956-1957 Mrs. Helen Boggard
- 1957-1958 Mrs. Helen Boggard
- 1958-1959 Mrs. Helen Boggard

A notation in back of ledger states, valuations for 1956 \$299,400; 1957 \$305,000, 1958 \$326,400, 1959 \$358,200.

Also a notation in back of ledger states well drilled in 1948 by C. Lang, depth 75 feet, to water from surface 16 feet, steel casing.

DRAPER SCHOOL ROAD

Some incidents along Draper School Road through the years.

When John Jantsch Sr. and his son Henry built Draper School there was only a large log across the river as a foot bridge. This created a problem when the river was high. The first school house was of logs and was moved up on the hill by Joseph Miller to be used as a home. The hill between the Miller and Bittner farms was the scene of much activity in winter. The children and sometimes adults using their sleds. The river was a popular place for skating in winter and fishing in summer, but now with the cars the hill is not so safe and since the fish are being netted out of the river each spring the fishing doesn't amount to much either. The beauty of this little valley remains, however, and we enjoy it.

The old ridge which was built sometime between 1892 and 1906 gave way in the early sixties. We happened to have witnessed it. Two loads of logs were coming along the road. After the second load passed over, the bridge had disappeared, but the load had passed over safely.



This school building is now owned by Grant and Viola Pope. They built a wood shed for a garage and the inside of school was modernized to fit the trend of the school into living quarters.

In early days I. Greschonig sold a 40 acre place for \$3,000, put the money in the bank drawing 3 per cent interest. They lived on an acre of the Bittner place. On this acre they raised a pig, kept a cow and a flock of chickens, helped the neighbors out especially in butchering, getting meat for payment. From this they had a good living. They did a lot of entertaining in their 14 x 22 2 room log house. Mrs. G. was an exceptionally good cook. People still remember some of her specialties and how delicious they were. They were like grandparents to all the children in the community.

A tornado came this way in the mid-sixties. It completely destroyed Jack Miller's barn and tore the roof off the Pernsteiner barn and also caused damage at the Clyde Pope and Joe Konecny places.

Those who live along the road at present are: Beginning at Hwy. 13, Francis and Delores Seubert, Pete and Betty Blazel, Mae Underwood, Jerry and Kathy Tischendorf, Clarence and Ione Block, the Gary Gerbert family, Jack and Ann Miller, Roger and Ruth Schmidt, Ed and Julia Bittner, Grant and Viola Pope, Joe and George Konecny, Joseph and Dorothy Konecny, Dennis and Arlene Tischendorf, Anton and Koncel, Nick and Beatrice Helfert, Richard and Nancyh Shottliff, Frank and Lucy Schopper, Vick and Betty Zak, Richard and Phyllis Brandl.

FAMILIES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOLTON



MAR-TAY AND DRAPER ROADS HISTORY 1890 - 1975

Community history of the Mar-Tay Co. line Road.

HENRY GEBERT HISTORY

In the extreme N. W. corner of the Town of Holton on the Marathon-Taylor County line road and Hiway 13 lies a 120 acre farm owned presently by Henry and Esther (Rhyner) Gebert. They purchased this farm after renting it for seven years from Paul Krause of Milwaukee. They tilled the soil and raised a family of six children; namely, Lucille-Mrs. Herman Sebold, Jeanette-Mrs. John Robida, Clarence, Greta-Mrs. Gene Ross, and Luanne-Mrs. Peter Wanke. They have 35 grandchildren and a number of great-grandchildren.

They operated a restaurant and tavern along with farming for 25 years. This business was located on their farm. They operated the farm until 1968 when they sold all their cattle and are renting the land.

Heinie and Esther will soon be celebrating 60th anniversary.

Going east of Hiway 13 on this Mar-Tay Road, there was land in here that some of the Breckes homesteaded. There are no buildings.

A family by the name of Albert Meyers lived next. They had four children, Dorothy and Edith and two brothers who attended the Draper school. They sold their farm in about 1938 to Grant Pope, a neighbor.

The Max Schafer family was next in line. They farmed about 100 acres. He married Bertha Lueddecke. Mr. Schaefer was a woodsman and enjoyed taking his axe and walking about 5 miles to the woods where he would cut timber all day and walk back at night. They had a granary where many community parties were held and many good times. They had six children; namely, Walter, Ella-Mrs. Mike Gumz, Clara-Mrs. Chas. Walhardt, Reiny, Arnold, and Elsie-Mrs. Clarence Danen. This farm was then sold to John and Jeanette (Begert) Robida in 1947. They were married in 1941 and lived in Owen four years. The Robidas farmed a number of years. They had four children, Karen-Mrs. Andrew Apfelbeck, Rony, Gwen-Mrs. Rusty Harris, and Trudy. Johnnie as he was known, along with farming, was employed by the Four Corners Cheese factory in Clark Co. They sold their farm in 1969 and moved near Dorchester, and John is doing carpenter work now as his hobby.

The Ed Brecke Sr. farm lies next. His mother lived with him on this 100 acre lot. He built a house and barn on here and lived here a few years. He then sold to Grant and Viola Pope about 1929. Later they sold to Kayo and Ramona Pope who are farming there now with their three small children, Shaye, Kelly and Kyler.

Arnold and Elna (Nixdorf) Walhardt purchased the old Hilmer Brecke farm of about 40 acres, from Elmer Johns who had been the present owner. After selling, the Johns moved to Marshfield. He was a cattle buyer in this community. The Walhardts sold the land and are still living in the home. Mr. Walhardt was employed at the Stetsonville Hardware for many years and has been retired about five years now. They have one son, Larry, and two grandchildren.

Herb and Marie (Beyrl) Walhardt live on the Mar-Taylor Road and Big Eau Pleine river. They purchased the farm from his father, Charles, and Clara (Schafer) Walhardt in about 1950. Art and Tena (Brecke) Schafer were the pioneers of this farm in the early 1900's. They sold to Charles. Herb is a mechanic and employed by the Handel Garage in Medford. Mrs. Walhardt is a nurse at the Medford hospital. They have nine children.

Edward and Sig (Hekenen) Brecke are farming next to the Walhardts and also mink ranchers for many years. They purchased the farm from his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brecke who were pioneers of this community. The Martin Breckes had six children. The three living are Edward, LaNae-Mrs. Wm. Werner, and Mary Lou-Mrs. Les Hirt, Norma, Mabel and Myrtle have passed away.

Oscar Kuenzel and wife were also farmers in the community and a director for the Draper school community a number of years. His wife passed away and he sold his farm and entered the nursing home in Medford.

The Bedneraks, Ed and Lorina, were married in 1942 and moved on their pioneer grandparents' farm, the Joe Maders, who lived here in the early 1900's. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carlson, parents of Lorina, and daughter of the Maders, also lived on this farm before the Bednareks

making this three generations. The Bednareks had three children, Anne-Mrs. Lorin Markow, Frank, and Karen-Mrs. Paul Chauvin.

THE GRANT POPE HISTORY

Mr. and Mrs. Frant Pope (nee Viola Roder of Milan) just married (1924). Moved on a farm on the Marathon Taylor Co. line road, town of Holton, renting a 40 acres known as the Hilmer Brecke farm, living their about five years and then purchasing the Ed Brecke 100 acre farm adjacent to this west. Four children were born to them; namely, Armin, who passed away at the age of 15, Joyce-Mrs. Clarence Pokallus, Abbotsford, Gene, after serving 20 yrs. in the armed forces and married to Carol Ecklund, and now living in River Falls, Wis., and Kayo married to Ramona Metz, purchased the home farm from Grant and Viola, also bought his grandfather's farm where Clyde Pope farmed, making this a three generation farm of the Popes.

Mr. and Mrs. Pope, while living on the farm, were quite active in community affairs. In the 1930's Grant helped with the meetings and organizing of the rural electric co-op. They worked day and night to get the lines in, having a few encounters such as some folks thought the high powered lines would kill their cattle. One lady met the linemen with an axe to keep them off her property, and many more such incidents. Finally we received the lights and use of electricity, and believe us "we were in heaven." We are indeed happy to have this. Grant also became very interested in other co-ops. The Farmers Union which held meetings in the homes and taking part in legislation. He also was officer of county meetings in Taylor Co. and was employed as manager of the Stetsonville Farmers Union Oil Co-op for a few years, farming nights, as these were the depression days of 1930's. Those days we hired help on the farm for \$12.00 to \$20.00 a month and good help. Grant also served on the Midland board in Dorchester.

As to Mrs. Pope, she was active in The Little Eau Pleine 4-H Club for 15 years, which had been named and originally organized by Mrs. Pitzke in the early 1900's. She said she hoped this club would keep its name after the river passing through. Later we learned from a pioneer, Ed Brecke Sr. the correct name of river was "Big Eau Pleine." Mrs. Pope organized the Deer Creek Farmers Union Juniors about 1940. Many from Town of Holton joined. At present Mrs. Myron Brecke and Mrs. Herb Walhardt are leaders. The Draper Club also was very active in this community of which Mrs. Pope and neighbors took part. One incident we can remember when we had a meeting and a big snow storm had closed the roads Mrs. Elmer Johns, Mrs. Martin Brecke, and Mrs. Grant Pope hitched a horse onto a go-devel (a 3 cornered affair made out of logs) and attended the party, we believe was at the Morgan Underwood home on Draper Road.

Then the "good ol'" PTA's in the Draper school with home talent plays and skits. They always served a delicious lunch and that also brought many folks in. The little school was filled with excitement from youngsters to grandparents who never missed. They also came from other schools and Dorchester. We were sorry we had to abandon all this and have our school closed in 1962.

Oh, yes, Mrs. Pope took up touring in 1952 for many of the lonely seniors and homemakers and is still working in that line as of now.

The Popes sold their farm to Kayo, their son, in 1968 and are retired in the Draper School which they remodeled with

the help of a very intelligent carpenter, Joe Weber, Dorchester, who also lived in this community formerly on County Trunk F near Mar-Tay. Co. line. Four generations of Popes have gone to this school so this is indeed a memory home to Grant and Vi.

Grandma Mary Pope after she arrived here from Germany in the late 1800's, son Grant Pope, and his descendents, Armin, Joyce Rae, Gene and Kayo, and Gene's son Gee attended one year.

The Popes are now interested in three senior groups, two in Taylor County, and one in Dorchester, Clark Co. as we are situated in the extreme N.W. part of Marathon Co. we are entertained by neighboring counties. Besides touring and traveling these are their hi-lites of the day.

In Grant's younger days he was employed as a chef of the logging camps around Park Falls and also a street car conductor in Milwaukee. Mrs. Pope worked in the Lincoln Exchange Telephone Co. in Milwaukee.

We forgot to mention that the neighbors got together for ice cream parties and this was "real" ice cream, homemade and cranked by hand in 2-5 gallon freezers. They would meet about twice a month at different neighbors, each taking their turn at "cranking." Our grown children still remind us of these good times.

In the early days they had very few cars and in winter when the roads were closed they would haul milk with the winter house such as we have campers as of today and everyone that had to shop sent their list along with driver.

THE ED POPE HISTORY

Pioneers of the late 1800's. Mary Konecny came to this country 1882 along with her brother Joseph and parents Joseph F and Anne (Winkler) Konecny from Bohemia Austria settling on a tract of woods on which Joe and son George Konecny are now living. Their first few days were spent with the Poles who lived on the Bruckerville Road across from the school which is torn down now.

Mary was married to Eddwin Pope of Oshkosh in Bessmer, Mich. about 1887 where she was a waitress in a hotel and he a cook. They purchased a hotel in Hurley and operated this a few years and then moved East of Dorchester about 1892. They were the first pioneers of this land, lived in a log house first, then built a brick home and new timber barn to replace the log barn. Many hardships came to these families. They walked to town, Mrs. Pope had said, and carried a sack of flour home and groceries as they had no horses or cows to transport them. Ed was active as a school board member at one time when he wasn't cooking in the woods.

They also operated a large vegetable garden and hauled them to surrounding towns with one horse and open wagon. One incident here, they had given Grant a new hatchet and while parents were gone one day, he made use of his hatchet by hickety hachety into each of their prized cabbages. Well, when the parents arrived home, we believe Grant preferred standing for a week.

The children born to this union were as follows: Edna-Mrs. Wm. Ludwig, Anna-Mrs. Martin Brecke, Ruth-Mrs. Wesley Froland, Wm., Grant (Dick), Marie-Mrs. Morris Baillies, Clyde, Eugene.

Mrs. Pope was one of the charter members of the 50 year Draper Club which celebration took place in 1970 in Dorchester. She passed on a few years prior to this celebration but her daughter Anna, Mrs. M. Brecke, attended and was honored as a charter member. Mr. Pope passed away in the 1930's and Mrs. Pope in the 1950's.

Their farm was purchased by their son Clyde who was married to Ellener Maxam, and three children were born to his union. Namely Shirley-Mrs. Jerry Buss, Sharon-Mrs. Ken Ellenbecker, and Dale. They farmed a number of years and then sold to Kayo Pope, a nephew.

William and Caroline (Skrivani) Tischendorf were married and moved onto their 80 acres of timberland in the north central part of the town of Holton in 1915 when they began clearing the land for farming and building the farm buildings. The original barn stands yet. Their five children were born and raised on the home farm. This past August 18 also marks their 60th Wedding Anniversary. The farm is now owned by a son-in-law and daughter, Shirley, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Graff. They and their nine children have lived there since 1957 when they purchased the farm after moving here from Detroit, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Tischendorf are still living in the Town of Holton near the home place.

Children of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Tischendorf are Geraldine-Mrs. David Nenn of Lake Forest, Ill., Alton of Town of Holton, Milton of Hubertus, Wis., Shirley-Mrs. Robert Graff of the Town of Holton, Dennis of the Town of Holton.

Besides farming, Mr. Tischendorf also was a carpenter before retirement and still does some as a hobby. Mrs. Tischendorf's parents were Mr. and Mrs. Steve Skrivani who lived on the Ambrose Oehler farm and now owned by Joe Konecny Jr.

KONECNY

Joseph Frank Konecny was born May 8, 1871 in Bohemia Austria. He came to this country in 1882 on the ship, Peter the King, with his parents, Joseph F. Konecny and Anne (Winkler) Konecny. They came to the present location of the Konecny farm in 1883. He married Emma Rosin in 1897. Six children were born to this marriage. Joseph C. married the former Mayme Erickson and two children were born to this marriage, Joseph S. and George. He now owns the farm and operates it with his son George. Section - 04 - 29 - 02, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 479 - 214.

TISCHENDORF

Richard Bruno Tischendorf, a mason, was born in Schmellen - Saxony Germany on March 19, 1876. He came to this country in 1890 with his parents, Gustave Henry Tischendorf, a butcher and shoemaker, and Ernestine (Muellen) Tischendorf. In 1900 he married Martha Haufe settling on the present Tischendorf farm. Three children were born to this marriage. George, a carpenter, farmed after the death of his father in 1938. George married the former Florence Gurney, a teacher, in 1925. Four children were born to this marriage, and after the death of both George and Florence, the farm is now owned by the youngest son, Gerald Tischendorf. Section 05- 29 - 02, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 36 - 112.

W $\frac{1}{2}$ of E $\frac{1}{2}$ of SE $\frac{3}{4}$ of Sec. 8, Township 29

In 1889 Frederick Kalepp and his wife Christina bought land in the Town of Holton from a J. Brucker of the firm of Brucker, Ludloff and Co. In 1896 he divided this land. His son Otto Kalepp and wife Hettwig brought 40 acres in Section 8. Later the 40 acres across the road, which was owned by Herman Schroeder, Mrs. Kalepp's father, was purchased. The Kalepps farmed these 80 acres for 41 years. In 1941 Donald Juedes, their grandson, purchased the

ancestral farm. Don married the former Audrey Gebert and there were four children--Dorothy-Mrs. Dan Schmidt, Linda-Mrs. James Haas, Sandra-Mrs. Brad Denzine, and Kathryn. They farmed for 31 years. During this time they added another 40 acres to the farm. In 1973 the Juedes family sold their farm which was in the family for 84 years.

JEROME STEEVENS FAMILY

The farm where the Jerome Steevens family now resides in the northern part of the Town of Holton was first deeded to John Moran in 1877 by the U. S. Government, then to Thomas Kirk, followed by Samuel Kirk. In 1886 it was sold to Frank Bartnik who in 1904 sold it to Ignatz Rauscher. After his death in 1914 his widow Kamilla deeded the farm to Edward Rauscher who lived there with his wife Theresa until his death in November 1942. They had three children, Frank, Stetsonville, and Celia (Salzwedel) and Betty (Renolds) of Wausau.

Jerome Steevens and his wife, the former Marietta Gebert of the Town of Deer Creek, purchased the farm after their marriage in 1943. They are the parents of three children, Barry, Dale and Sheryl. Marietta is the great-granddaughter of early settlers in the Town of Holton - August and Emilie Mitzloff.

HISTORY OF JOHN JANTSCH SR. AND FAMILY

John and Mary Jantsch immigrated from Czechoslovakia, formerly the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, with a son in 1881. The first year was spent in Stevens Point where a daughter was born. They settled in the Town of Holton in 1882, on eighty acres one mile north of the Bruckerville school.

A one room logger's shanty was their first home. Six years later a log house was built. In 1914 the present frame home was built, now owned by Joe Helfert.

They were blessed with nine children; namely, Henry, Mary, John, Anna, Emma, Rose, Joseph, William, and Hattie, seven of whom still survive.

They attended the Bruckerville school. Joe was the first in the district to receive a diploma, and the first to continue on to high school and college.

Mr. Jantsch was a carpenter and built many homes and barns throughout the community. He retired in 1921 and moved to Dorchester. He died in 1934, Mary in 1946.

MARTIN PAPESCH

Martin Papesch was born August 16, 1872 in Germany. He came to the United States when he was nine years old, in 1881. He sold and installed some of the first lightning rods in the community. He also helped organize the Bruckerville Phone Company, bringing some of the first telephones to the community. He was a director of the Dorchester State Bank for many years. He was also interested in the Dorchester Co-op Grocery and Feed stores and Marathon, Clark Cheese Factory at Abbotsford. He also sold Acorn barn equipment. He died in January 1943.

KADONSKY FAMILY

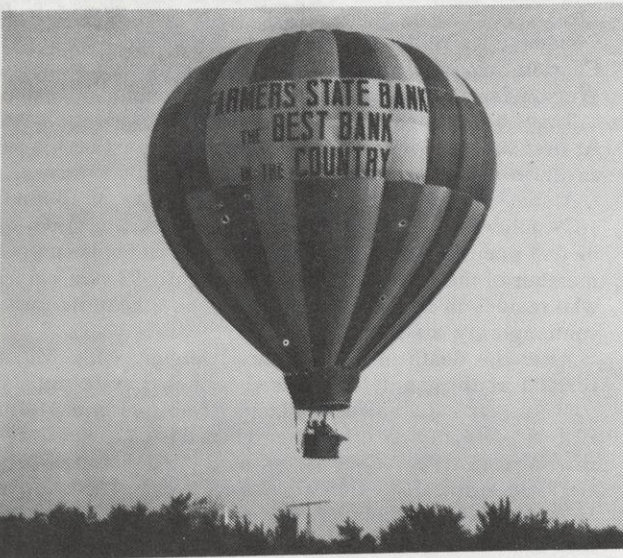
In 1866 John Kadonsky Sr. and his wife Mary left Bohemia for their new home in America. They planned to come a few years earlier but were delayed because of the Civil War in the United States. It took six weeks for them to cross the Atlantic in a sailboat. They settled in Milwaukee, Wis.

In 1878 they traded their home in Milwaukee for the present Kadonsky farm in Section 17, Town of Holton. They came to the farm on March 4, 1878 with their children, Christine, later married to Frank Stoughton, Kathrine, married to Peter Kinzell, John Jr., married to Amelia Umlauf, Frank, married to Adelle Klement and Anna married to Louis Buchholz. As of this date, October 1975, two of the five children are still living, the twins, Frank and Anna. They will be 98 years old next month.

John Jr. and his wife Amelia had two sons, George and Clarence presently living on the home farm. Isadore Umlauf also made his home with them.

George was married to Elizabeth Kalson in 1949. They have five children. Patricia, a home economics teacher married to Dr. Gerald Brecke, George Jr., manager of a large department store, William of Washington, D. C., married Carol Jean Schuh, Steven, a senior at University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, owner and operator, with Carol Stoiber of the only hot air balloon service to ever operate out of the Town of Holton, and Angela, a student at the Dorchester Elementary School in Dorchester.

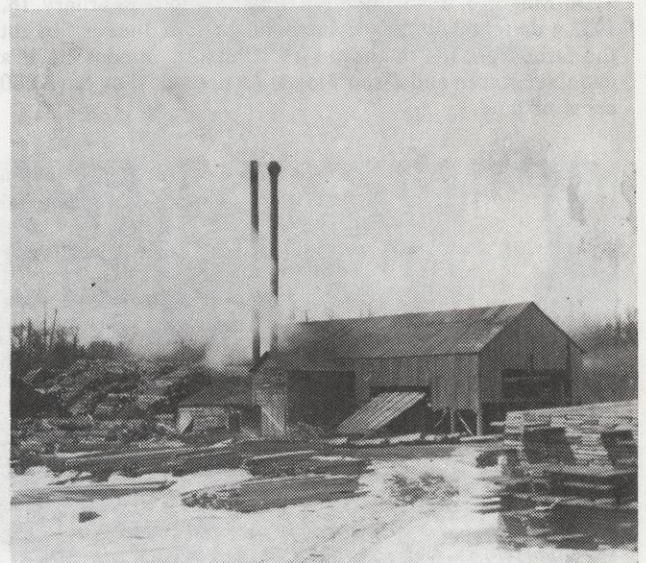
The Kadonsky family was very active in community affairs. John was involved in organizing the Farmers State Bank at Stetsonville, the Dorchester Cooperative, and the local telephone company. He also served on the Pickard School board and the town board. George is presently the Town of Holton assessor and clerk, a member of the Colby Public School Board of Education, on the board of directors of the Farmers State Bank and 4-H woodworking leader. George's wife, Elizabeth, better known as Betty, is active in several local clubs and is the director of the Marathon County Homemakers Chorus which will take part in the Marathon County Bicentennial program. She composed the music to the Homemakers Creed and the Homemakers Prayer of Wisconsin.



Steve Kadonsky doing a promotional for the Farmers State Bank of Stetsonville. The balloon is 75 feet high and 55 feet wide.

ED NOTBOHM HISTORY OF 1900

Ed Notbohm and wife, the former Emma Brunner, purchased a 160 acre tract of land 7½ miles N.E. of Abbottsford, coming from Milwaukee. This was a mile west of Bushman's corner. He paid \$750.00. He built a house and 40 x 80 ft. mill and set up a stone boat mill which he purchased in southern Wisconsin. He then bought an old discarded mill, had to build a new carriage which had 5 saws, an edger, and Mr. Loos of Colby built a trimmer that made a complete sawmill. Used stones to house the boiler and lined inside with soft brick. Bought a heavy team of horses in Chicago stock yards, paid \$175 for them, also a heavy new harness handmade by a cousin - placed all in a box car and shipped to Abbottsford, then drove them out to farm which later was the Zahorka farm. They lived there about seven years, then sold and moved to Abbottsford where Mr. Notbohm built several new homes for railroad men and then went into real estate. In the 1920's he moved to El Monte, Calif. He passed away in 1965. He was a brother of the late Mrs. Wm. Roder and an uncle of Mrs. Grant Pope, Dorchester.



Ed Notbohm's Sawmill ½ mile S, 2 mile W of Milan - 1908.

RANKL FAMILY

Clarence Rankl was born in Milwaukee on October 28, 1904. He moved with his parents to Section 16 in the Town of Holton in April 1915.

Ethel Scheibe was born in the Town of Holton August 24, 1909. Ethel and Clarence were married in 1931. They lived on this farm all of their married life. They purchased the farm in 1940 and sold the farm to their son Guy in 1970. The Rankls had three sons, Jerome, James and Guy.

Jerome is operating a dairy farm in Section 20, Town of Holton. James is a graduate of U.W.-Madison. He is a hydrologist in Wyoming. Guy is operating the home dairy farm.

Ethel and Clarence Rankl are still very active in community affairs.

**SECTION 8 TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH RANGE 2 EAST
MR. AND MRS. MELVIN JUEDES**

A certain Indian Chief conveyed a certain territory or tract of land on May 1, 1767 to Jonathon Carver who died Jan. 3, 1780, leaving two sons and five daughters and sole inheritance, that said heirs duly conveyed their interest to Samuel Peters, who by deed dated July 13, 1815, conveyed 536,640 acres of said land to Benjamin Connor subject to his choice of location. Benjamin Connor died Dec. 1835 leaving first party at his heir at law. Therefore, first party conveys to second party 19,000 acres of said land, the same including Section 8, Township 29 North, Range 2 East. According to certificate of selection of Stephen Schooley attached to this deed Section 8, Township 29 North Range 2 East and other land. Made pursuant to the Act of Congress approved May 20, 1862 to secure homesteads to active settlers on the Public Domain.

The United States of America to prosper Stimson May 24, 1879.

On Nov. 30, 1882, Franz Umlauf and wife purchased 80 acres of land. On Sept. 12, 1902, a son, Rudolph Umlauf and wife Anna purchased the land and 40 acres more. They had 7 children.

On March 6, 1948 Rudolph Umlauf died. February 18, 1952 a daughter Ruth and husband Melvin Juedes bought the farm from his mother, Mrs. Umlauf. Juedes have a daughter Karen and a son Floyd. At present they have 200 acres of land.



Rudolph Umlauf cooking Maple sap 1925.



Melvin Juedes farm 1925, formerly Rudolph Umlauf's farm. Mrs. Juedes (Ruth) is a daughter of Rudolph Umlauf.

ALBERT VENZKE

Albert Venzke was born in Boesen Germany Jan. 8, 1854. As a young man he came to Wisconsin. He worked as a logger and settled in the Town of Holton. On July 15, 1883 he was united in marriage with Yohanna Berndt and they had three children. She died when the youngest, Oscar, was born. He was adopted by the Kuenzels and is the only living at the present. He resides at the Medford Nursing Home.

Albert then married Anna (Ludwig) Schultz, who was a widow with four children, three daughters and a son. The son died as a young child. They, in turn, had four sons, Emil, Albert, Herman and Henry who are all deceased.

In 1889 Albert bought 60 acres of land in the Town of Holton from Fred Rutbrock. In 1921 Henry bought it from his father and it is still in the Venzke family as it is now owned by Benno one of Albert's grandsons. (Emil's son.)

In 1894 Albert lost his left arm. He tried to part two horses who were fighting across the fence. The horse then turned on him and chewed his arm. In those days you weren't rushed to a hospital. The doctor amputated what was left of his arm on the table in the family kitchen without an anesthetic. The horse had to be shot.

He died March 2, 1921 and Anna died May 13, 1933.

EDWIN KRAUSE FAMILY

Ed and Hattie Krause moved to the Town of Holton. They lived in Section 28 and 29. They had one child Merna Krause who married William Hopfensberger.

Ed Krause farmed, did custom work such as hay baling, threshing, field work, and also operated a wrecking yard for farm machinery until his death in February 1955. Hattie is a patient at the Heritage Nursing Home in Schofield.

Ed was a World War I Veteran. The flag used at the military funeral was given by Hattie to the Town of Holton in honor of Ed. This flag is on display in the town hall at all times.

THE MITZLAFF FAMILY

August Mitzlaff and his wife Emiliee, nee Beyey, emigrated from Germany in the 1860's first settling in Milwaukee where sons Albert, Charles, George and Herman were born. With several other families, Fred Meske, Hintz, Griesbach and Schultz they moved to the wooded town of Holton and later exchanged farms with Charles Schultz who owned the land now comprising the Watson farmland and Bernard Polzin home.

They built a two story log house and cleared their land. At first supplies were carried home by August on his back as there were only trails through the woods.

A son Louis was born to them in the town of Holton in 1879, followed by a daughter Emilie (Emma) and Anna who died of pneumonia when six months old. The only surviving member of the family is Emma, a sprightly 93 year old lady who resides in Maryland and maintains a keen interest in contemporary affairs.

After the death of her husband, August, Mrs. Mitzlaff resided at the family homestead with her sons until she passed away in 1913. Her son Louis and his wife, the former Elsie Schmidt of Stetsonville, purchased the farm after their marriage in 1904. Four daughters were born to them, Geraldine-Mrs. John Gebert; Beatrice-Mrs. Chris Jensen, LaVerna-Mrs. Reuben Platteler, deceased, and Adeline-Mrs. Gordon Nolte.

Louis and Elsie Mitzlaff had a route delivering milk to families in Abbotsford for about three years. Being a

carpenter he built his own home and one for his brother-in-law. He and Otto Schuster of Little Black had one of the first silos put up in this area, and from 1921-24 was a salesman for a silo company.

Louis passed away in 1941 and his wife Elsie rented out the farm and later lived in Milwaukee with her daughter Adeline until her death in 1956. Bernard Polzin then purchased the house and Einar Watson the land.

MELVIN FAMILY HISTORY

James and Lydia Melvin moved to the township of Holton in April of 1929 to a farm 1½ miles east of Abbotsford on Highway 29 (section 32). They farmed there until James died in 1945 and Lydia moved to Abbotsford where she lived until her death in 1959.

James and Lydia had seven children. Loretta married Harley German and they presently farm south of Owen.

Elizabeth married the late George Hempfner and she now lives in Florence, South Carolina.

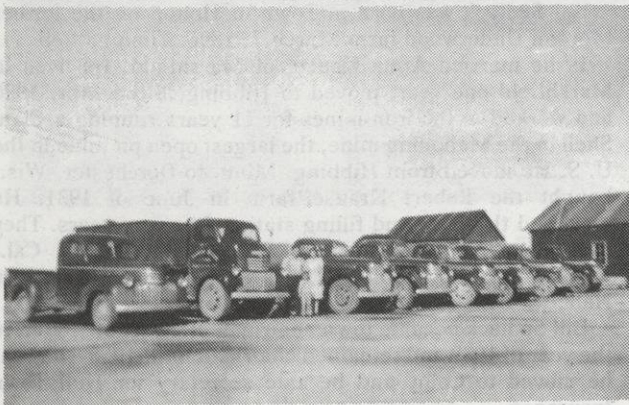
Margaret was a school teacher at the Brady School north of Curtiss and at other rural schools in this area. She married Henry Weideman in 1936 and lived on their farm in the town of Holton (section 31) until her death in 1956.

Francis Melvin began a sand and gravel business in 1932. He married the former Ruth Ockerlander of Dorchester in 1936 and they purchased the Albert H. Strebe land ¼ mile east of Abbotsford on Highway 29 (section 31) in 1941. This land was later annexed to the city of Abbotsford in 1961. Their first pit was the "Kleiman Pit" on the Eau Pleine River (section 26) in the town of Holton bought in 1945. Until his death in 1974, Francis molded his business from the single 2 yard truck he started with to a fleet of ready mix concrete and gravel trucks.

Genevieve was a waitress at Baxter's Restaurant in Abbotsford (present location of the Coast to Coast store) and she married Rolland Gasch in 1939 and resided on their farm in the town of Hull until her death in 1964.

Archie Melvin married the former Elaine Klettner in 1941 and they purchased their present farm and home located two miles east of Abbotsford on Highway 29 (section 32). In the 1930's he was a truck driver and he recalls hauling gravel from the "Kleiman Pit" in 1¼ yard dump plank wagons hauled by horses for road work. He also has many memories of log hauling in winters. For the past 20 years Archie has run grader for the town of Holton.

William Melvin joined the Army, served overseas in two wars, and retired with the rank of Captain after 20 years service. He now lives in Kansas City, Kansas.



Francis Melvin's fleet of trucks 1945 - 1946. Francis, Ruth, and Neal.

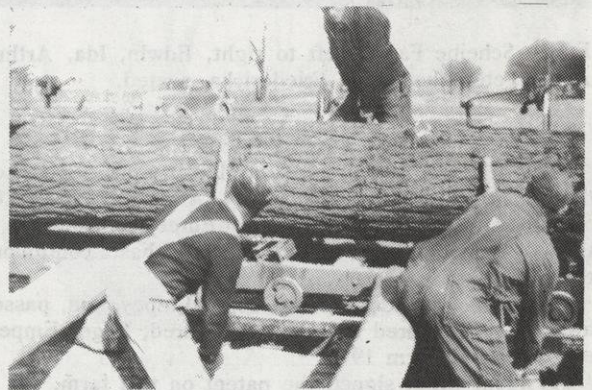


Francis Melvin's first backhoe in Kleiman's pit - 1944.

GIERL FAMILY

Robert Gierl and wife Laura and son Morris moved from Abbotsford May, 1918, to a farm in Section 34. Son Morris and family still operate this farm. Robert Gierl purchased this farm from Clark (Doc) Ingersoll and Matt Sherman of Abbotsford.

Morris married Caroline Lehman. They have one daughter and four sons. The daughter Helen is married to Robert Wiedeman, Curtiss. The four sons are Robert, Donald, David and Richard.



Sawing a huge pine log on Morris Gierl farm.

SCHEIBE FAMILY

Gottlieb and Friedaricka Scheibe settled in the Town of Holton in Section 20 in 1881. Gottlieb died in 1906. Fredaricka died in 1922. They brought eight children with them, Herman, Henry, Charles, Robert, Edwin, Amelia, Ida, and Anna. In 1906 Edwin purchased the home farm and farmed until 1931 when he retired.

Henry purchased 120 acres in Section 21 for \$1,000 in 1890. He farmed until 1929 when he retired and sold the farm to Henry Jr. who farmed until 1935 when he passed away.

Then Henry Jr.'s brother George purchased the farm and farmed until 1975 when he sold the farm to his son Richard Scheibe.

Charles Scheibe purchased 160 acres in Section 16 in 1893. He farmed this farm until 1940 when he sold the farm to his stepson Clarence Rankl who farmed it until 1970 when he sold the farm to his son Guy Rank.

There were three Scheibe brothers who had farms on this road and within a mile. For many years it was called the Scheibe Road.



Edwin Scheibe Farm. Left to right, Edwin, Ida, Arthur, Anna, Peter Thompson, Friedaricka, seated.

THE EMPEY FAMILY

In the fall of 1872 Nels Empey settled on a piece of land on the southwest corner of Section 14. After more than 100 years the farm has never been out of Empey control. This is the only family in the Town of Holton that has a continuous record of over 100 years.

Nels Empey founder, 1872; George Empey, son, passed away in 1974; Eldred Empey, son, retired; Roger Empey, son, operating farm 1975.

President Grant signed the patent on this farm.

On Thursday, August 8, 1975, Roger and Judy Empey were recognized as century farmers at the Wisconsin Valley Fair, Wausau.

Section 11

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Joseph Schopper, Town of Holton, R. 1, Dorchester

Francis Joseph Schopper's grandparents, Mary Ann and Raimond Schopper came to America from Austria in 1883 with their three children, Mary-Mrs. Ed Sprotte, Frank, and Frances-Mrs. August Klaar. Their oldest son Charles had to serve time in the Army, he came a year later. The Raimond Schopper family lived in a house on the adjoining farm. When Charles came he cleared the land and built a house and barn on his 40 acres.

Charles Schopper married Mathilda Rauscher in Sept. 1893. To this union were born five children. Mary-Mrs. Frank Sacher, Canada; Francis Joseph, Anna-Mrs. T. Beane, St. Paul, Rose-Mrs. Mathew Piccolo, New Jersey; Bertha-Mrs. Russell Tweedie, Milwaukee.

Charles was kicked by a colt on Friday, Aug. 2, died Sunday, Aug. 4, 1901, at age 38. His widow Mathilda married Leo Schopf in April of 1902. To this union were born three children, Theresa-Mrs. Chas. Finucci, Edward, Oregon, Mrs. Emma Sexton, New York City.

In 1919 Frank built the home in which they are living at the present time. In 1923 Frank took over the operation of the farm. His mother lived with him.

On June 29, 1927 Francis Joseph married Lucy Theresa Wagner at Milwaukee. They have four daughters, Dolores-Mrs. Dale Elliott, Chippewa Falls; Mary Ann-Mrs. Jerome Reynolds, R. 1, Dorchester; Joan-Mrs. Donald Kempf, Wausau; Dorothy-Mrs. John Jirschele, Friendship. They have 15 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild.

On June 18, 1971 they were honored with recognition for successful completion of 44 years of farming. Being the oldest active dairy couple in the town of Holton, sponsored by the Holton 4-H Club through Clarence Rankl.

Frank J. Schopper was born on this farm Oct. 10, 1895 where he lived all his life and is still farming. Mr. and Mrs. Schopper are members of St. Louis Catholic Church in Dorchester. Mrs. Schopper is still active in church and community affairs. She served as Deanery president from 1968 to 1970. Mrs. Schopper served as clerk of the former Barry School, Town of Holton (no longer in existence) for two terms.

She is a member of Bruckerville Homemakers Club since 1928. They celebrated the 50th anniversary of the club on March 25, 1975. At the present time Mrs. Schopper is president of the Bruckerville Homemakers Club.

BILL SEDLACK

Bill Sedlack was born in Town of Holton on the former Morgan Underwood farm March 7, 1896. Then on Feb. 11, 1919 he married Anna Kautza of Marshfield. He lived in Marshfield one year, moved to Hibbing, Minn. Apr. 1920 and worked in the iron mines for 11 years running a Clam Shell in the Mahoning mine, the largest open pit mine in the U. S. He moved from Hibbing, Minn. to Dorchester, Wis., bought the Robert Krause farm in June of 1931. He managed the farm and filling station for many years. They have four living children, Robert at Alameda, Cal.; Bernice-Mrs. Roy Robida, Stetsonville; Agnes-Mrs. Lavern Habeck, Oshkosh; Alice-Mrs. Lloyd Scidmore, Colby.

Bill Sedlack became town chairman of Town of Holton in the year of 1939 and remained chairman until 1950, the year he moved to Colby and became secretary for Hull Town Insurance.

BITTNER'S

Among the early settlers were Joseph and Marie Bittner who arrived in Ironwood, Mich. from Germany in 1888. On May 5, 1893 they moved to a farm in the town of Holton, Marathon Co. with daughters Hilda and Marie. Ed and his sister, Bertha Springer, of Dorchester still survive.

Their new home consisted of a log cabin and 1 acre of cleared land. A tornado had torn through the area a few years before, making the job of clearing quite difficult.

Draper school was located on the place even at that time and was in constant use until 1962.

Ed, the only son of Joseph, was clerk of the school board for six years.

In 1967 Bittners sold the school to Dick and Viola Pope who, with the help of Joe Weber, a former resident of Holton township now residing in Dorchester, and a fine carpenter, carefully planned the remodeling making use of the large glassed in bookcase and the big chimney, wisely using the space. They have a very attractive 4 bedroom home with a stairway and balcony leading to the upstairs bedrooms. The outside of the school was left nearly the same except for afresh coat of paint and added shutters.

Joseph and son Ed farmed the place continuously for 82 years.

Ed, with his second wife, formerly Julia Thielke of Fort Peck, Mont., are living in retirement at the farm. Ed's first wife Oltillia Frischmann Block of Wausau, died in 1953. The west branch of the Eau Pleine River forms most of the eastern boundary of the farm.

Joseph Bittner was tragically killed in a farm accident Sept. 13, 1913 when the team of spirited young horses hitched to a mower ran away and he was thrown into the implement. Bittners farm is one of three on the road that has remained in the family name since the 1800's.



Bittner family taken 1909. In the Bittner name since 1893. Left to right, Joseph Bittner, the father, Ed Bittner presently lives there, Mrs. Bittner, the mother, Bertha, Mrs. Springer, Hilda, Mrs. Springer, Antonia, Mary. All deceased except Edward and Bertha.

MESKE'S

Fred and Bertha Meske Sr. came to Abbotsford from Germany in April of 1883. He was a shoemaker by trade so cutting wood and logs had to be learned.

To earn some money he worked in the logging camp in winter for \$15 per month. After several years here they bought 80 acres, all solid timber land, in the town of Holton from Carl Freimund.

They built a small frame house. Fred Jr. was born in 1888. They worked hard and cleared land and cut the timber and put the logs in piles to burn them as there was no sale for them at that time.

In 1912 Fred Jr. married Vera Johnson and they took over the farm, with his parents moving to Abbotsford.

Fred Jr. and his wife cleared much more land and built a bigger barn and silo and remodeled the house. Their son Milton was born in 1913. He worked several years at Crane's feed store. Milton took over the farm in 1942 and Fred Jr. and his wife moved into Abbotsford. After spending several years at other work, they have lived in the town since 1948.

Milton built the barn larger and also a bigger silo. In 1950 he sold the farm and since farmed near Curtiss on a larger farm until 1972 when they sold that farm and moved into Abbotsford. Milton and wife have three children, Lila, Ruth, and Dennis.

HENRY PARGE FAMILY

Henry Parge, born Sept. 14, 1873, in the town of Mequon, Milwaukee County, came in 1882 to the town of Holton with his parents and attended grade schools in the area.

He attended the University of Wisconsin and received a Masters Cheesemakers degree. For a number of years he operated a cheese factory near Dorchester which burned down. He then devoted the rest of his life to the farming business.

Parge also served on the board of supervisors and as clerk in the Town of Holton. On April 29, 1900 he was married to Ida Freimund at St. John's Lutheran Church in the town of Holton.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Parge had three children, Arthur and Otto, and one daughter, Mrs. Alma Bedroske.



Henry and Ida Jacobi Jr.

EDWIN WEIDEMAN FAMILY

The Edwin Weideman farm, located a mile east of Abbotsford, which has been handed down in the family for three generations, is celebrating a hundred years of success.

The farm was originally purchased in 1873 by Frederick and Louise Walther, Edwin Weideman's grandfather. Since then the farm has been owned by August and Bertha Weideman, Frederick Walther's son-in-law, and now Edwin and Esther Weideman.

Frederick Walther and Louise Kelma were married in Germany and had two children prior to coming to this country. During the voyage one of the small children died and was buried at sea. Upon arriving in this country, Walthers worked in New York to earn enough money to come to the Abbotsford area.

According to the farm abstract of title, the farm was purchased in 1873 for four hundred dollars from the Wisconsin Central Railroad Company. While living on the farm, two more children were born to the Walthers one of which is buried on the family farm.

Their first house was a one room building which was removed in the 1950's. Walther's livelihood was mainly derived from logging. One old family story about Walthers said that he had walked to Colby which had the only store to buy groceries. Upon arriving at the store, he was refused from buying five cents worth of salt because the store owner would not sell anything on credit. Walther was known to carry sacks of flour home on his back, and lived to be almost 97 years old.

Most of the present-day buildings on the farm were built by August Weideman, a carpenter by trade. August Weideman with Walthers also cleared most of the land and began farming on an increased scale after August's marriage to Walter's daughter, Bertha, in 1895.

August Weideman, born in Sheboygan Falls in 1869, moved to Abbotsford at the age of seventeen with his parents. The land and farm remained in Walther's name until 1936 when it was turned over to August Weideman. August worked the farm some 41 years before gaining ownership and then 8 years later, in 1943, he turned the title over to his son and present day owner, Edwin Weideman.

Early in the farming history of August Weideman, milk and butter were delivered to families in Abbotsford. Even in these early days of the late 1800's, August had many progressive ideas in farming.

At this time he began farming with purebred, registered Guernsey cows and also registered purebred hogs. One purebred boar as recalled by a family member was registered under the name Varock Jersey. About 1920, they were one of the first families in the area to have electricity by use of a home power plant and one of the first tractors in the area was bought to the farm in 1926.

There were six children, Nora, Lizzie, Henry, Freda, Edwin, and Anna, born to August and Bertha Weideman, with the youngest son, Edwin, later obtaining ownership to the farm. Edwin Weideman married Esther Mueller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Mueller of Abbotsford in 1937. They lived and farmed with August Weideman, and in 1943 the farm was obtained from August Weideman.

Prior to his marriage, Edwin Weideman, with relatives and friends, had an icing business which supplied ice to Abbotsford for several years. Edwin and Esther Weideman continued dairy farming on the farm and had five children, Alfred, Judy, Donald, Dennis, and Roger.

Various buildings on the farm such as the house, built in 1900, was remodeled in 1949, and the barn built in 1898, had a foundation and floor replaced with new cement in 1953. The Weidemans are living on the original farm and are renting adjacent farm acres.

THE JACOBI FAMILY

Henry Jacobi was born in the Town of Wilson in Sheboygan County, coming to the town of Holton during the year of 1878, where he bought 80 acres of timber land from the Wisconsin Central Railroad Company.

After a few years, Mr. Jacobi purchased the 80 acres adjoining his land to the west. These two pieces of land were all woods, with no roads of any kind.

He had one neighbor, Joe Kleiman, a Civil War veteran

who had homesteaded 160 acres to the east of Jacobi's land. There was much wild game; the deer were so plentiful they came right up to the house and ate the potato peelings that had been thrown out. Mr. Jacobi was chairman of the town of Holton for a few years, and had to walk to Wausau to attend county board meetings. He would follow the surveyors' blaze lines. When he reached the town of Wein, there were roads and settlers along the way where he could stay over night and continue his journey in the morning.

When the Wisconsin Central Railroad logged off the pine, N. J. White built a sawmill on the Eau Pleine river a half mile to the south near where Sherman Harrop lives. Mr. Jacobi used to work in the logging camp and cut down the pine, some being four to five feet on the stump. Those days they did not saw down the trees; they had to chop them down, haul the logs to the river and float them down to the mill. Mr. Jacobi had to help drive or float the logs downstream to the mill.

He was a carpenter by trade, and built many of the frame barns, and some of the houses.

During 1900, he built on the 80 acres west of the old place and moved back there. In 1912 his sons Henry Jr. and Herbert took over the farms. He moved to Colby on The Dix place northwest of town, and in 1919 sold the place and moved to Abbotsford, purchasing the Frank Fisher home. Three years later he sold it to Mr. Fults and bought a house on Highway 13 south of 29 where he continued to live until his death Jan. 21, 1935, at the age of 78 years.



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jacobi Sr.

FRANK KADONSKY FAMILY

Frank J. Kadonsky came to this area in 1877 with his family at the age of six months to homestead a farm northeast of Abbotsford, now known as the George Kadonsky farm.

He attended schools in the area and graduated from the Colby High School. The only high school in the area at that time. He taught rural schools for some years before going on to the University of Wisconsin where he graduated in 1908.

He established the Marathon County Agricultural School which later became the Marathon County Normal. He helped organize the Farmers State Bank at Stetsonville. He was married in 1919 and settled on the north side of Abbotsford, later moving to a home just east of the grade school gym. This home was later moved north to its present location and owned by August Barnett.

Frank Kadonsky, who was employed by the Soo Line as a land development agent, is enjoying good health at the age of 95 and is a resident of St. Joseph's Home in Kenosha. His wife died in 1938 and is buried in Abbotsford.

They had four children, Robert, John, Francis, and Irene.

HISTORY OF NORTHERN PART OF TOWNSHIP

A list of most of those who lived on Draper School Road beginning in the 1800's.

Starting at Highway 13 is Suebert's Calf Ranch. The Old Star Cheese Factory was run by M. F. Laurie and afterward by Albert Hoffman. Part of the farmland that constitutes the present place was owned by John Plier and then Martin Springer. Mrs. Bertha Springer sold the farm to Francis Suebert in 1964. The farm across the road was once owned by a man named Johnson, then Charlie Sauter, Frank Long and Herman Baumer.

The next farm east is Pete Blazels. A family named Rau preceded the Blazels. The place on the east is presently owned by Mae Underwood. Bill Tischendorf, a cousin to the present Bill T., lived there first.

A bit farther along the road is the home that Richard Tischendorf owned. Many of the Tischendorfs were stone masons, besides being farmers.

Some early settlers along the road were the Nagels. Charlie farmed, his brother Frank was a justice of the peace, and having some knowledge of law, he worked with estates. No buildings remain on their former place.

August Papesch, then his son Martin, farmed the Block place. After Martin, Leonard Paff, son-in-law of August, took over. Leonard had been a teacher at the Draper School when Marathon County ran a contest to choose the neatest and most attractive farm in the county. Paffs took second place. These were the parents of Lone, the present Mrs. Block. Martin Papesch was active in community affairs, at one time being Director of Dorchester Bank, and held many other offices.

On the north side of the road is the Gary Gebert home. Joe Hennlich, who was a bachelor, was one of the first on this place, then Joe Weber for a time. Richard Schmidt Sr., next Jim Milliken, after that Bernard Pernsteiner and family for a few more years.

On the north side of the road just across the road from Blocks is the present Jack Miller home. In earlier days two families of Sedlacks, next the Fred Ridderbusch family lived there, then for a short time a couple named Furguson. Next was Morgan Underwood, after this the Lawrence Bingford family moved in. They came up from Iowa. After they moved to their new home on Highway 13 near Dorchester, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Purschwitz lived there for a time. After this Jack Miller sold his farm and moved to this house selling most of the land, along with his farm, to Roger Schmidt.

Next on the side hill is the Bittner place. A family named Meyer owned the place before Bittner.

Next place down is the school where Dick and Viola Pope live now having remodeled it into a nice home.

Three generations of Konecnys have lived across the road. Each head of the family was named Joseph. The fourth Joseph Konecny lives on the hill just east of the parental home. Joseph the third and his son George are living there yet on the old farm in the valley. The Konecnys were among the very earliest settlers, arriving in the late 80's. The Konecny home on the hill had been owned in turn by Steve Skrivani, Gabriel Jacob Ambrose Oehler, Ed Bittner and now Joseph S. Konecny.

The present Dennis Tischendorf farm had formerly been farmed by Martin Jacob Sr. and Dewey Oehler.

Next place east on the south side of Draper Road was the farm that belonged to Henry Rau. Next was the Clarence Viegut family. The present owners are Anton and Eleanor Koncel.

Nick Helfert lives next on north side of road. We have no information on former owners.

The Cloverdale Cheese Factory was operated by Martin Parson for many years. After his death in 1960 it was sold to Richard Humsader who operated it for several years. The present owner is Richard Sholliff. However, it is no longer being operated as a cheese factory.

Next place east is Frank Schopper. This place has been in the family since the 80's.

John Mueller owned the Zak farm before his son-in-law took over.

The Frank Schoppers and Konecny family are the oldest settlers on the road, both families having arrived in the early 1880's. The Konecny, Schopper, Bittner homes are the only ones occupied by people with the original family name since the 1800's.

JOHN PINTER SR. FAMILY

John Pinter, Sr. brought his wife and five children to Wisconsin in 1907 from Manistee, Michigan. They farmed north of Dorchester until 1910 when they moved to the Otto Kalepp farm in the Town of Holton. On Oct. 1, 1913, they settled on the George Holeton homestead in section 20, which John Sr. bought from Holton in 1919.

On Sept. 1, 1931, a son, John Jr. married Olivia Decker from Dorchester, at which time he purchased the farm from his father in partnership with his brother, Joseph. The farm has since been passed on to a son, Gerald and family, who bought it from John Jr. in 1960. Another son, Lawrence, lives with his family on the former Fred Meske farm which he bought from Howard Kramer in 1956. A daughter, Mary Anne (Mrs. Alva Hickman Jr.) lives with her husband and family in Wausau. John and Olivia now live in retirement on a small farm in the Town of Holton.

Joseph Pinter passed to his eternal rest in 1966.

Daughters of John Pinter Sr. include Vera (Pinter) Herrmann, who lives in retirement with her husband William on their farm in the Town of Holton; Anna (Pinter) Bostad, who lives in retirement in Abbotsford after having farmed with her daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and LaVerne Viegut, until 1973, when she sold her farm to the Rod Ruesch family; and Marie (Pinter) Ruesch, who lives in retirement with her husband Gilbert in Wisconsin Rapids. They have two children, Dick and Anita.



Hauling firewood.

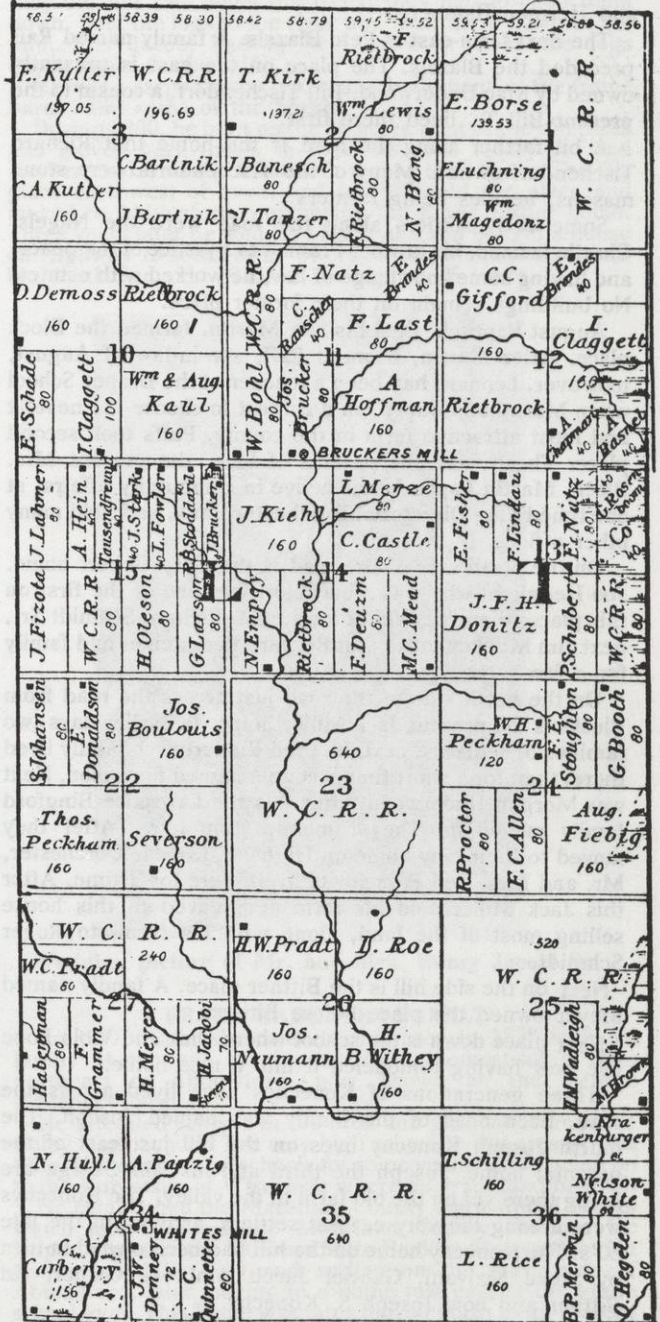
1882 PLAT

Township

No. 29

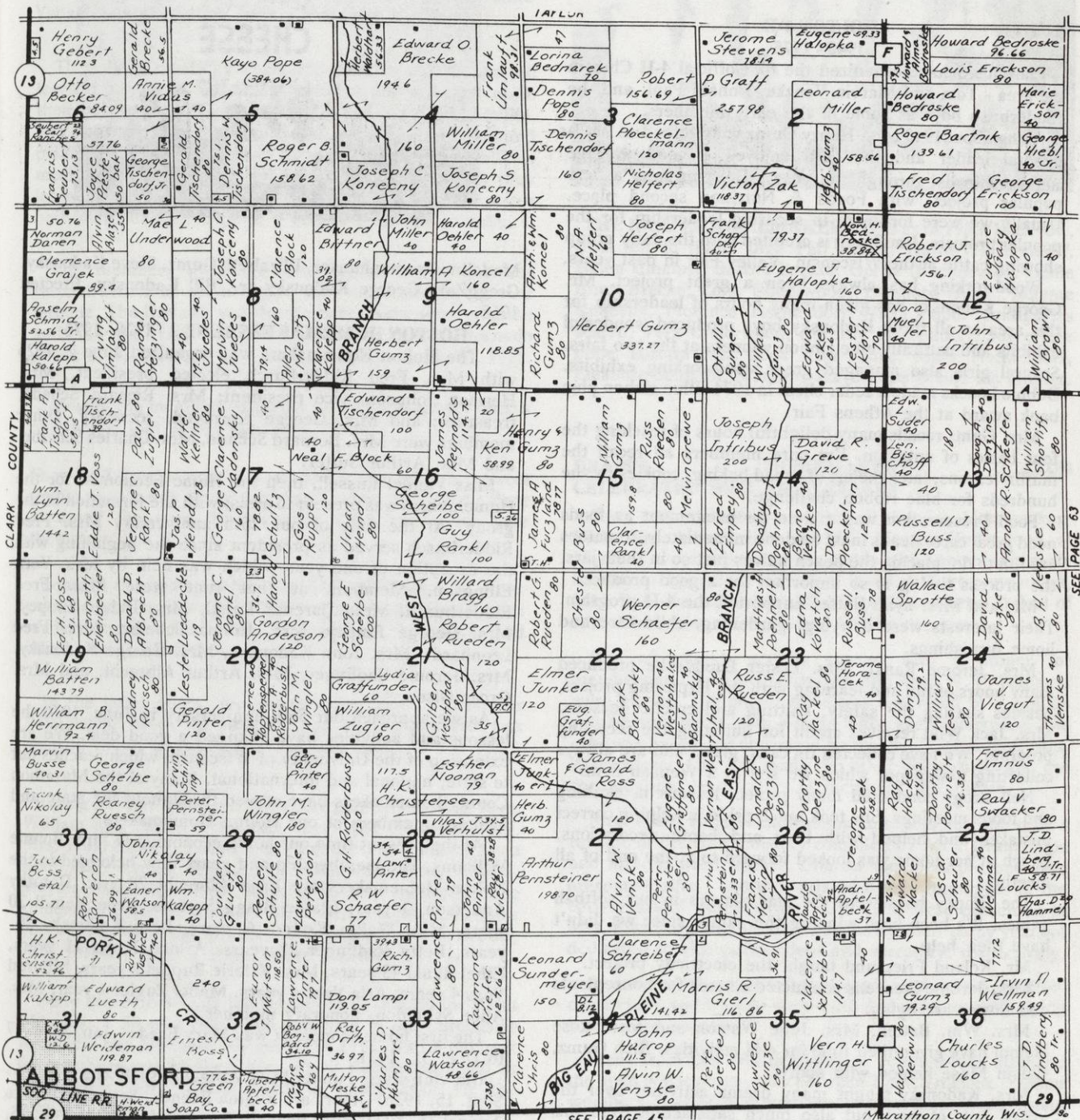
Range

No. 2 East.



1975 PLAT

HOLTON T.29N.-R.2E.



CLARK COUNTY

470 Kiefner Map Publ's, Inc., Rev 1975

SEE PAGE 45

Marathon County, Wis.

SEE PAGE 63



ORGANIZATIONS

HOLTON 4-H 1940 - 1975

Clarence Schade organized the first official 4-H Club in the area - Tom and Marvin Venzke, Donald Paul, and the Ridderbush boys as some of the early members.

Along about 1940 Mrs. Henry Gumz volunteered to act as general leader and the club enjoyed a good average membership list through the years. Dairying was a very popular project, with Foods & Nutrition second place. Usually we were fortunate in securing leadership for the popular projects. Jim Bragg is credited with the dairy group showing cattle at the Wisconsin Valley Fair in past years.

Woodworking has always been a great project. Mr. George Kadonsky has given many hours of leadership for this area as all three Kadonsky boys produced wonderful exhibits and naturally blue ribbon winners at the two fairs. Several girls also managed great woodworking exhibits. Debbie Loucks made a cedar chest in 1974. Blue ribbon plus bank award at the Athens Fair.

Mrs. Gumz recalls many delightful hours of teaching the four basics of nutrition. I'm sure members all recall the muffin lessons, later the art of bread baking, cookies by the hundreds for blue ribbon challenge.

Food Preservation was a time for excitement as foods need great care. Beans must be done immediately, tomatoes are fun to do, placing the peach halves just so in their jars, the process timing is so important for a good product.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Batten supported the 4-H program. Their interests were dairying, gardening, child care and home furnishings.

Mrs. Jerome Rankl, Mrs. Lester Lueddecke produced many hours of fun and learning with the Exploring project, besides sharing the safety, knitting and crochet lessons. Mrs. Jack Wild receives credit for initiating the recycling program. We have collected tin cans, glass, and are always collecting newspaper which we sell to a Wausau firm.

Nell Brogy conducted many project lessons in clothing and foods meetings. She took much pride in helping correct mistakes and helped with float and booth decorations. Lunch at her home was looked forward to at the end of all meetings.

The Empey boys were the star players in our softball games. It's been hard winning the games since we didn't have their help.

Mr. Roland Friemund taught the electricity project.

Mrs. Jerome Steevens conducted classes for houseplants and flower arranging.

Mrs. Wm. Batten, Mrs. Julie Watson and Mrs. Rose Heindl have given their time for 4-H activities. Rich Gumz, Calvin Muse helped with sports.

Mrs. Kadonsky taught many drama activities over the years. Lots of work but also much satisfaction from this performance. Mrs. Dale Ridderbush assisted several times.

4-H has been a prominent activity in this township. We encourage its support through many more years.

Mrs. Elizabeth (Henry) Gumz has been a leader of the Holton 4-H Club for nearly 40 years. Throughout the years

Mrs. Gumz has received many citations for her untiring efforts in 4-H work. Many generations of 4-H youth will always remember Mrs. Gumz as a very gracious lady who always had a kind word for everyone.



Madeline Tromanhauser, Elizabeth Gumz, Steve Kadonsky, Gregg Zak, George Kadonsky Jr., Bill Kadonsky. Erected 1968.

HOLTON HOMEMAKERS JUNE 2 - 1926 - 1976

The Holton Homemakers was organized June 2, 1926 with Mrs. Fred Ridderbusch elected president, Mrs. Herman Johnson, vice president; Mrs. Richard Schade, treasurer; and Mrs. George Korntved, secretary. Other members were Mrs. Bernard Schade, Mrs. Charles Scheibe, and Mrs. Arthur Sutter.

Miss Vangel Russell, then the Home Economist for the Homemakers was present to assist with the formation of the group. At the time of our 25th anniversary Mrs. Fred Ridderbusch served as president since the beginning with the exception of one year, which was held by Mrs. Vern Ellingson. Members at that time were Mrs. Fred Ridderbusch, Mrs. Clarence Rankl, Mrs. Eldred Empey, Mrs. George Empey, Mrs. Emma Scheibe, Mrs. Fred Leonhardt, Mrs. John Kadonsky, Mrs. George Kadonsky, Mrs. Jerome Radlinger, Mrs. Arthur Albrecht, and Mrs. Oscar Olson.

As we approach our 50th anniversary in June, 1976 the lessons and activities have changed a good deal. We are extension of the University of Wisconsin which reaches out to state, national and international. Many of the Marathon County homemakers have served throughout the state and includes members of our Holton Homemakers.

At the present time our home economist is Mrs. Bonnie Williams. The membership and years they belonged to the Holton Homemakers are Erna Albrecht 28 yrs., Dorothy Anderson, 1 year; Elaine Bragg 5 years, Rose Heindl 20 years, Mrs. Walter Kellner 6 years. Betty Kadonsky 26 years, Betty Radlinger 28 years, Arlene Rankl 21 years, Ethel Rankl 45 years, Mrs. Valerie Ruppel 2 years, Mildred Voss 4 years, Arla Voss 4 years, Mabel Zugier 1 year, Mrs. Alice Sybeldon, honorary member.

The first home economist was Mary Brade - Jan. 20, 1917 to Dec. 31, 1921.

Our club started under Miss Vangel Russell Aug. 1, 1925 - Sept. 15, 1926. Others are Regina Feeney, Sept. 16, 1926 to August 15, 1927; Ruth Feeney, August 16, 1927 to Feb. 15, 1927; Edith Bangham March 15, 1929 to Dec. 9, 1935; Merle Ramer, Sept. 19, 1938 to Dec. 31, 1948; Ann Nygaard, March 1, 1949 to April 5, 1950, Eileen Niedermeier, May 1, 1950 to June 30, 1964; Ardith Murphy July 1, 1964 to Jan. 29, 1971; Bonnie Williams, March 1971 to present.

**DRAPER HOMEMAKER CLUB
1920 - 1970**

by Mrs. Grant Pope

The club was organized in 1921 in the Draper school with 12 members joining. Namely, Mesdames Mary Pope, President; Nellie Oehler Sr., vice president; Myrtle Miller, secretary and treasurer; Lillie Underwood, Anna Brecke, Ann Hennlich, Anna Unlauff, Elsie Rau, Olga (Paff) Maik, Hattie (Rackow) Stelzel, Rose Jacobs, and J. Plier with Miss Vangel Russel as their county extension leader.

They held meetings regularly once a month and all learned how to fit and adjust patterns and sew and make their own clothes. They made hats and hat blocks, quilts, and quilt tops, bedspreads, stencil painting and free hand painting, also learned how to make and cook nutritious meals of meats and vegetables. In the earlier days, they learned to use pressure cookers, and can, also hot water bath method, and to place a proper patch on overalls.

The members furnished and helped serve food for reconstruction of a barn that was destroyed by fire or tornado. The Unlauff and Brecke barns were some of these and then again later on Country Trunk A when the tornado struck along the road they did the same on Sept. 28, 1971.

Most of the members attended meetings regularly once a month and met at the members' homes.

They held picnics once a year, and when they lost interest in this, then it was decided to travel, when Mrs. Grant Pope arranged the tour. This was in 1953 and every year thereafter.

Some of the homemakers attended night school to learn cake decorating and Julia Bittner and Betty Blazel have made many beautiful cakes for weddings, birthdays, and other parties since then.

In the latter years, the group gave skits or plays for "Dorchester Days" in June for 3 or 4 years and this was enjoyed by all as practicing was hilarious.

Going back to 1949, new members had been added, Mrs. William and Paul Tischendorf, Mary and Bertha Bittner, Mrs. Tillie Bittner, Viola Pope, Florence Tischendorf, Alma Bedroske, Emma Baumer, R. Schmidt, Betty Blazel, Mayme Konecny, Ann Miller, Esther Umlauf, mae Underwood, Sophie Oehler, Mrs. Ben Juedas, and later years there were Sig Brecke, Ruth Juedes, Francis Paff, Julia Bittner, Ellener Pope, Anne Koncel.

Betty Blazel and Ruth Juedes served as officers for about 14 years. A 50 year celebration was held in the Dorchester municipal hall for about 100 guests in 1971, with a banquet for members and families. Mrs. Carol Hommema acted as toastmaster. Mrs. Blazel baked a lovely cake for the occasion.

A few years after the club dissolved, we are sorry to say, with the passing of a number of our members. The membership was too small to continue.



THE DRAPER HOMEMAKER CLUB as of 1938. Back row, from left to right, Olga Paff, Maik, Hattie Tischendorf, Helen Umaluft, Bertha Brecke, Gertie (Lueddecke), Leslie Anna Brecke, Lillie Underwood, Eleanore Oelke, Mayme Konecny, Florence Tischendorf, Viola Pope. Youngsters seated, Vera Underwood, Dorothy Tischendorf, Joyce Rae Pope, Loretta Paff, Leda Jean Johns, Mary Tischendorf, Eleanore Schmidt. Standing Kayo Pope beside his mother.

**DRAPER HOMEMAKERS CLUB
CELEBRATED 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Two active charter members of Draper Homemakers Club, Mrs. Anna Brecke and Mrs. Morgan Underwood, of Medford, were present for the club's 50th anniversary party Sunday in Municipal Hall. Two inactive charter members, Mrs. Rose Jacobs of Marshfield and Mrs. Hattie Stelzel of Abbotsford also were present for the occasion.

The afternoon's activity started with a dinner for members and their husbands. Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Lehnertz were guests. The dinner table was decorated in a Golden Anniversary motif, with a large 50th cake centerpiece. The cake was baked and decorated by the club's president, Mrs. Alvin Blazel. She also made the other decorations and the corsages and boutonniers of members and guests.

Mrs. Frank Hommema was toastmistress and she read a resume of the club's history compiled by Mrs. Grant Pope and Mrs. Edward Bittner. Charter members present were presented gifts, and they related briefly highlights of the early years of club activities. Gifts also were presented to Mrs. Blazel and Mrs. Melvin Juedes for their many years of dedicated service as president and secretary, respectively.

A number of congratulatory cards and messages from other clubs and friends were read and gifts accompanying some were opened.

Many from this and neighboring communities attended the open house observance between 2 and 5 o'clock. Former members, friends, and members of other clubs were among those who came to the observance. Mrs. Ted Schmidt entertained with accordion music during the afternoon. The anniversary cake was cut and served with the lunch at afternoon's close.

Draper Homemakers Club was organized in 1921 in Draper school house northeast of the village with 12 members, Mmes. Mary Pope as president, Nellie Oehler Sr., vice president; Myrtle Miller, secretary-treasurer; Tillie Underwood, Anna Brecke, Anna Hennlich, Anna Umlauf, Elsie Rau, Olga Paff, Rose Jacob, John Plier and Miss Hattie Rachow.

It was an active organization from the start. Meetings were held once a month, and nothing kept the members from attending taking their children along.

They were always ready to help when neighbors suffered misfortune. The club gave blankets to babies at birth, and in one instance sewed an entire layette. Each bride who was a club member was presented a quilt made by the members.

Club activities have remained essentially the same through the years. Members work with a county leader, learning to make things with materials at hand, cook nutritious meals, sew for themselves, and a large variety of arts and crafts. Each year they have a summer picnic with their families and other social and educational meetings.

Mrs. Grant Pope has organized sightseeing tours for homemakers the past 19 years. They usually are one day trips to points in Wisconsin and adjoining states. Mrs. Arnold Waldhart assisted her in the project the first eight years.

In 1950 the club participated in Dr. Foley Day when Dorchester honored him for 50 years practicing medicine. Last year they put on a skit for Dorchester Days stunt night with Mrs. Waldhart again assisting her in the project.

Membership during the years has varied, reaching a high of 30 and now is 12, the same as when the club started. They are Mmes. Alvin Blazel president, Edward Bittner, vice president; Melvin Juedes, secretary; Arnold Waldhart, treasurer; Grant Pope, Frank Hommema, Anna Brecke, Edward Brecke, Sophie Oehler, Florence Tischendorf, Selma Hemphill, Morgan Underwood.

ROSEDALE CLUB

The Rosedale Club was organized by Miss Mary Brady in 1921. The first president was Mrs. Henry Parge. There were nine charter members. In 1949 five of these members were still active. They raised money for various things, they bought a piano, radio and curtains for the local school, they raised a fund for the upkeep of the Holton cemetery, plus many donations. Quite a number of golden and silver anniversaries of club members were celebrated.

Between 1950 and 1960 we sold brushes, vanilla and greeting cards to raise money. 1961-1962 we kept busy making handbags and waste baskets from foam rubber, also made decorative coat hangers, flowers, and bird cages.

1963 Mrs. Bernard Polzin entered a Christmas cookie contest over WDLB and won first prize, a \$50 savings bond.

1967 we had 15 members left.

1971 - highlight of year was 50th anniversary of our club. A dinner was held at restaurant for members and husbands and honorary members.

1972 - we had a wig demonstration, also had a French foreign exchange student speak.

1973 - We had a speaker from Social Services demonstrate on making lingerie.

1974 - Our club was asked to perform a skit for the entertainment at County Day.



The Draper Club--left to right, seated, Anna Brecke, Ruth Juedas, Betty Blazel, Julia Bittner, Carol Hommema, Lillie Underwood. Standing left to right, Viola Pope, Selma Hempel, Sig. Brecke, Elna Walhardt, Sophie Oehler, Florence Tischendorf.





CHURCHES

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Served by missionary pastors, Rev. Steger and Rev. Schuette, W. C. Brink, until 1882. After 1882 served by pastors of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Dorchester until 1924. Family names of first members are Arndt, Griesbach, Schultz, Metzloff, Kleiman, Mattick, Lew, Westphal, Hoeft, Jacobi, Freimund, Heinz, Kramer, Meske, Weideman.

In 1924 the church merged with Christ Lutheran Church, Abbotsford. This church had a parish cemetery which is still being used and is located on the N.E. corner of Section 32.



St. John's Lutheran Church, Town of Holton.

Along Highway 13 in Section 6 a new Jehovah Witness Church was built in 1961. It now has a membership of 145. The name of the church is Kingdom Hall. A new addition will be added in 1975. The land was donated by a pioneer, Miss Emma Nelson.

ENTERTAINMENT

About the turn of the century there were several amusement parks in the area mostly located near villages. Here the citizens would take their families with horses and buggies, tied the horses to trees, and enjoyed the entertainment. These parks were crowded on Sunday in the summer months. These places were sometimes called beer gardens. Then too the Town of Holton residents went to Abbotsford, Dorchester, Colby and Milan for their entertainment usually held in the local opera house. There was roller skating, medicine shows, political rallies, movies, dances, local high school proms, the Tri-County Farm Institute held in Dorchester, sponsored by the local business places and the Clark, Taylor and Marathon County Extension offices. The local businessmen donated prizes

galore for this event usually held for three days.

Holton residents were also fortunate to have the Skerbeck's Circus close by. The Skerbecks lived and operated their circus out of Dorchester for many years.

The era of the Roaring Twenties--the first radio, the first talking and colored movies, and Prohibition, when nearly every gent carried a bottle of moonshine in his hip pocket, when one could purchase moonshine at more than a dozen places in the Town of Holton day or night, and with this came the barn and granary dances. Farmers who had good floors in their granaries or barns held dances. This was a thriving business for many years. Local talent usually provided the music. These dances faded out with the repeal of Prohibition.

Each school in the town was a source of entertainment and social gatherings. Some of the highlights were the annual Christmas program, annual picnic which was always attended by the entire family, basket or box socials, each school having at least one or two a year, also card parties, ice cream socials, pie socials.

The Town of Holton had a championship baseball team in about 1910 - 1920 known as the Holton Tigers. One year when they won the championship they went to Phillips to play Phillips at the Price County Fair. They lost this game 5 to 3.

Players--Guy Peckham, Mike Bochagin, pitcher; Albert Hackel, pitcher; Henry Svenen, Charley Goal, George Emrey, Charlie Speck, Alfred Schiebe, manager and catcher, Fred Distlehorst, pitcher, Emil Venske, Ben Marquardt, Louie Peckham, Heine Mattick.

ABBOTSFORD SPORTSMEN PARK

In 1962 the Abbotsford Sportsmen Club purchased five acres of land in Section 21 from Mr. and Mrs. James Noonan for the purpose of building a dam on the Big Eau Pleine River. They proceeded to build the dam and improve the grounds. Roads were built, trees planted, a bath house was built, and many other improvements were made. There is now a beautiful grove on the grounds. The club received the rights from the State of Wisconsin and the Township of Holton for this project. Fred Ridderbusch was one of the early founders of the Sportsman Park.



Rabbit hunting in the Town of Holton 1916.

HOLTON TOWNSHIP

In an interview with Emil Hoeft, he recalls many things pertaining to the history of the southern section of the township of Holton. His father Theodore Hoeft Sr. came to this area with George Holton for whom the township was named in 1873. Within a few years after his arrival he bought the homestead rights of eighty acres from John Sterling, father of Ned Sterling, who resides in Abbotsford. He was married to Dorthea Zollthers in 1883. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Hoeft was as follows: Ida, Emil, George, Theodore Jr., and Elsa. Mr. Hoeft was a farmer and Carpenter and many of the buildings he constructed are still standing. Three of Mr. Hoeft's brothers also settled in the same neighborhood, Gustave, August and Rudolph.

Mr. Hoeft recalls several incidents that show some of the hardships that the early settlers had to undergo. There is the case of the settler living alone, who became ill with pneumonia and became so weak that it was impossible for him to go outside of his shanty. When all the wood was burned the temperature reached the freezing mark and he put the potatoes in bed with him to keep them from freezing. He was found by some of his neighbors who took care of him and he lived to be an old man. In another case, a powerful man by the name of John Welch is credited with carrying 300 pounds of salt pork to his home two miles from Abbotsford. Mr. Hoeft recalls that on several occasions his father carried as much as 100 pounds of produce six miles to Colby and returned home with as heavy a load.

Mr. Hoeft tells about cutting firewood. He remembers a birch tree that was over four feet in diameter and the first four blocks, when split, made four cords of wood. Most of the wood cut was used for home consumption as there was very little market for it. Most of the timber, with the exception of pine, was put in piles and burned.

Below are some of the early settlers Mr. Hoeft can recall who settled in the south half of the township of Holton before 1885:

Nieman Hodge
Mike Oddnete
John Sterling
Tom Pecham
Wm. Pecham
George Holton
Joe Kleiman
Chris Prange
Gust Schultz
Henry Boss
Julius Graffender
Wm. Pratt
Fred Kramer
Henry Jacobi
Gust Strebe
August Strebe
Wm. Strebe
Fred Weideman
Frank Pecha
Nuten Deny
Jens Johnson
Charles Ouimette
Fred Meske
G. Westphal
Kadonshey

TOWN OF HOLTON BEFORE SCHOOLS

Prior to 1875 when the Town of Holton was surveyed, at the conclusion of the survey the surveyor commented the township would make very good farm land, no marshes, many rivers or creeks and swales for good drainage.

In 1871 - 1872 when the first settlers started to move in, most of the first settlers were Yankees, the Barkers, Holeytons, Tennants, Sparks and a few other nationalities. The first plat book of the township was in 1882. This shows nearly 4,000 acres belonging to the Wisconsin Central Railroad and several logging companies. About this time Germans from Sheboygan County started to move in and settled mostly in the southern part of the township.

In the depression year of 1893 the mining industry in Upper Michigan was virtually closed down creating much unemployment. Many of these people of Bohemian extraction came down and settled in the northern part of the township. This about concludes the large influx of immigration into the township.

The first Annual Town Meeting was held in a log cabin on the R. C. Tennant farm in Section 20, now the Jerome Rankl farm. The second annual meeting was held in Holton School District No. 1 school house. The 11th annual meeting was held in the Breckerville school house District No. 3. They were held here until 1894 when the 19th annual town meeting was held in the Town Hall. The town hall was built in 1893 and was repaired throughout the years. In 1974-1975 the Green Thumb project, a Federally funded project, renovated the entire interior of the town hall. The GreenThumb project is funded by the federal government to supplement Social Security income.

In 1973 the township bought an additional acre of land for further expansion if necessary. The township now has two large equipment buildings.



Emma Nelson. Her father died in 1926. From then on she lived alone on a farm circled by wooded area on Sec. 6. She carried her groceries out from Dorchester by foot, also farmed until 1962 and passed away May 12, 1965.

PROGRESS

In reviewing the past sixty years of progress in the Town of Holton one cannot overlook the important part the University of Wisconsin Extension - Marathon County played in agriculture and in cultural living. The agricultural program, homemaker programs, 4-H youth programs each in their own worked for the enlightenment of the community.

County agents Rogan, MacAleavy, Corey each worked hard to put many programs over in the Town of Holton. Rogan brought forward the liming program which today is a commonplace practice on every farm in the Town of Holton. MacAleavy and Corey did the ground work in the eradication of tuberculosis in dairy herds. Many meetings were held in the town hall to put this program over. For many years now we have had TB clean herds in the Town of Holton and Marathon County. This also brought about the complete eradication of tuberculosis among human beings which was a dread disease prior to 1900 when many people died in the Town of Holton from tuberculosis, then known as consumption.

Also Mac Aleavy and Corey began the fight to eradicate Brucellosis in dairy herds which was a real scourge in the Town of Holton. Many farmers lost their farms, many sold their entire herds, cleaned up the barns and bought a new herd, and started over again (at a great loss). Finally, a vaccine was discovered. This vaccine was to vaccinate calves from 6 to 9 months of age. This would prevent them from contracting (Bangs) brucellosis later on when they became cows. Many other programs were started by the University Extension Service.

Soil and water conservation also played a large part in draining and shaping lands in the Town of Holton. This helped to bring more acreage to better use. The first cooperator in Marathon County was Otto Veers, Town of Day, Sec. 14. The first cooperators in the Town of Holton were L. F. Loucks, 1947, Terraces Sec. 36, Joe Budrus, 1946, Terraces, Section 21; Ed Suder, 1948, Terraces Section 14; George Tischendorf 1948, Terraces, Section 6; Nick Helfert, 1947, Section 3; Harold Oehlen, 1948, Terraces, Section 9, Clarence Rankl, 1948, Terraces, Section 16.

Marathon County has two Soil and Water Conservation district offices, the only county in the state with two offices. One office was located in Wausau, the other in Stratford. This service started in 1942.



BUSINESS

In 1954 a large dance hall was built in Section 26 by Carl Apfelbeck and son Hubert, and son-in-law, Jack Trobley. It was called the Whispering Pines Ballroom. After several years it closed down and for many years it was used as a fertilizer storage warehouse. In 1969 Andrew Apfelbeck started a body repair shop in this building. In 1970 Andrew built a new home adjacent to the body shop.

KALEPP FISH FARMS

The Kalepp fish farms advertise the only private muskie hatchery in Wisconsin. They have ponds in Section 17 and Section 8. The Kalepp family in the township is also a pioneer family. Wm. Kalepp settled here prior to 1882.

DORCHESTER CORNERS

Frank Allar built a small filling station and concession stand on the southwest corner of Section 7 on the junction of 13 and County Trunk A. This was later torn down and replaced by a beautiful stone building. It is now a filling station, tavern and eating place. Frank Allar started this place about 1924. The tavern is now owned by Steve Heintz.

SEUBERT CALF RANCHERS

The Seubert Calf Ranches are located in Section 6. Francis Suebert was raised on a family farm in Central Wisconsin, married in 1945. He transported milk for the Medford Creamery 1944-1954. Started shipping calves to North Dakota in 1952. Owned and operated a mink ranch on the site which now houses the calf operation - 1954 - 1958. Continued expansion into 12 other midwestern states and is manager of Wisconsin Dairy Herd Replacement Co-op, Dorchester Division 1963 - 1964. The business was incorporated in 1972--Francis Suebert president and director, son Jerry J. Seubert, vice-president.

JERKWATER

The first store and saloon was built about 1903 - 1904 by a man by the name of Schubert. The store and saloon was on the first floor and dance hall upstairs. Several years later a dance hall was built on the west end and later another addition was added.

This place was owned for many years by the Albert Knaack Family. It is now operated by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bockanyin. It is now being operated as a tavern and supper club.

Robert Venske built a garage at Jerkwater in 1948. He repairs all makes of cars and tractors. Mr. Venske built a new home in 1958. Jerkwater is located on the S.E. Corner of Section 11 at the Junction of County Trunks A and F.

ROLL OF HONOR

World War I

Guy Peckham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Peckham.
Carl Tischendorf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Tischendorf
Albert Knaack, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Knaack.
Edward Knaack, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Knaack.

World War II

Lester Schade, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schade
Bernard Boss, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Boss
Isadore Hackel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hackel.
Carl Helfert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Helfert.
Harvey Mueller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Mueller.
Nick Wibben, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Wibbon.
Francis Mueller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mueller.

GREAT STORMS

The great blizzard of March 18, 1917 was the greatest in the memory of the writer. Trains on the Soo Line were snowed in for four days. They had to be shoveled out by crews of men. Many roads in the Town of Holton had to be shoveled by hand so farmers could get their milk hauled. Horses would flounder in the deep drifts.

The tornado of Friday, June 13, 1930 did much damage. The tornado hit about 8 p.m. There were no injuries or deaths. Property damage ran into the thousands. The storm hit the Town of Holton on the Junction of Highway 13 and the Town Hall Road going west to east for about five miles following the road this distance. About 10 barns went completely down. Many were damaged, many small buildings were blown away, but not many homes were damaged.

The tornado again hit the Town of Holton on Sept. 28, 1971 at 4 p.m. It hit the Town of Holton about the identical place where the storm hit in 1930 but then veered northeast until it hit the Brucker Road or County Trunk A and then proceeded straight east for about five miles. This was a more severe storm. It was estimated about one million dollars damage for Marathon County. Many barns and small buildings were destroyed. Many homes were also damaged. There were no fatalities. There were two injuries, Paul Zugier in Section 18 received a broken leg, and Melvin Gewe, Section 15, received minor injuries. The Bruckerville School House, which was a two story brick building, was completely demolished and later razed. Gruve's home and barn were complete demolished. The home was also razed and a new home built.



Kenneth Gumz farm - Tornado damage Sept. 28, 1971

Another tornado was recorded in 1898 starting where the new school house is north of Colby, proceeding northeast and going through Athens. This cyclone cut a swath about 80 rods wide and did much property damage.

On June 4 of 1914, the Town of Holton had a severe rain storm. It supposedly rained 11 inches in 2 hours. Many farmers could not get their cows home to milk them that evening. The bridge across the Eau Pleine River between Sec. 16-21 was washed away. Two Town of Holton residents almost lost their lives at this place. They were Frank Gumz and Ernest Hoeft. The bridge was still standing but the fill on the east side was washed out. When they got to the washout the current took them down river. The men swam to safety, also one horse. One horse, wagon, and harnesses were lost.

Also during this rain storm two girls were killed by a stroke of lightning on the Nat Mateofsky farm. The girls were playing in their bedroom. The Mateofsky farm was located in Sec. 17. The farm is now owned by Walter Kellner. One of the girls who lost her life was a daughter of Nat Mateofsky. The other girl was a daughter of a neighbor across the road by the name of Clark. The girls' names were Mildred Clark and Ethel Mateofsky. Both girls were seven years old.



Kenneth Gumz farm - Tornado Sept. 28, 1971



West Branch Big Eau Pleine River crossing Highway 29
September 2, 1938.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE GREAT DROUGHT OF THE THIRTIES

With the start of the thirties, the weather began to change. It got dry and hot. Temperatures ran well above 100 on many days in June, July, and August with no moisture. Farmers did not have enough feed for their cattle so farming changed. Many farmers took their cattle north in Taylor County where cattle could make a living on brush and swamp grass. Many cattle were lost.

Farmers who raised potatoes and peas had to discontinue these crops because they could rely more on hay and oats for feed for their cattle. Peas and potatoes could not stand the lack of moisture and the extreme heat. Also there were many insects because of these conditions. There are now no more peas or potatoes grown for commercial use in the Town of Holton. The worst year for drought and heat was 1934. Many emergency crops were planted. After the drought and insects had killed the first crop, sudan grass and millet were the two main emergency crops planted.

Starting in 1930 the Great Depression began to hurt the Town of Holton farmers. There was no money. Nothing had a value. For instance, a 50 lb. sack of flour was .75, yes seventy-five cents, no mistake. Many did not have the 75 cents. Much barter was done.

The writer remembers taking a load of wood to Dorchester at Christmas time and trading it for a jacket. Everyone tried to help his neighbor in any way he could. Many banks closed because of lack of funds. The Dorchester Bank did not close. There was a bank moratorium for the whole United States for 3 days. No banks were open. Then the government issued script so the banks had cash on hand when they opened. Then the government started many work projects, P.W.A., C.C.C., and many others.

Much granite was hauled from the Bill Hennlich and Skilbred Bros. pits with P.W.A. monies. The bridge crossing on the Eau Pleine River in Section 27-28 was built with government grants. There were also funds available to repair and renovate school houses.

Many farmers had their farms foreclosed and lost everything they had. Then the government placed a

moratorium on foreclosures. There were also seed and feed programs which the Town of Holton farmers took advantage of.

Also in 1933 there was a milk strike which lasted several weeks. In 1967 there was a N.F.O. milk withholding.

BURIALS

Prior to 1900 some burials were made on the home farms and were mostly children.

In Section 12 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Proft buried two pre-school aged girls who died of diphtheria. They were buried on the home plot. This plot will be found on Marathon County A on the north side of the road. There are several evergreen trees on this plot.

In Section 14, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Kiehl and two children were buried on the home farm plot. About 1912 these remains were removed and buried in a Dorchester cemetery. Mr. Kiehl was at one time Town Chairman of the Town of Holton.

In Section 15 Mr. and Mrs. A. Hein buried an infant on the farm plot. This was also along Marathon highway County A.

In Section 34, 3 children of the Chas. S. Quimette family was buried on the farm plot.

In Section 29 the now John Wingler farm, one of the pioneers was buried on his farm. The name of the pioneer was Frank Winter. He was injured by a falling branch while cutting timber. He died several days later leaving a wife and several children.

After careful research, there appears to be a definite search for gold in Section 35, around 1880 on the now Morris Gierl property.

MAIL CARRIERS

The first mail route in the Town of Holton began in 1906 out of the Dorchester post office. Frank Fleckenstein was the first carrier. He carried the first mail by bicycle. Throughout the years mail was carried in many ways, horseback, horse and buggy, snowmobile. After 1937 it was carried by auto.

The Abbotsford route in the southern part of the Town of Holton began about 1907. The first carrier was F. Hunt. George Barker was mail carrier for many years in the Town of Holton.



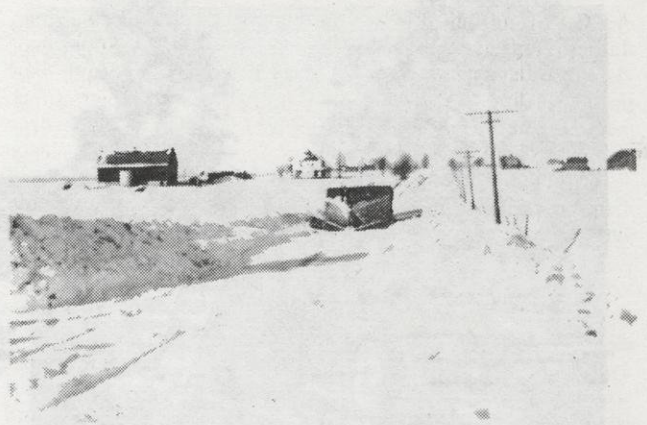
William Jantsch

I thought the following would be worthwhile for the Centennial Book, since I was born and raised in Holton and served the people more years than any other mail carrier. I started on the route in September 1920. The route was 27 miles. In 1934 the routes were consolidated with Abbotsford making two routes instead of three and I then had 41 miles. Little by little more miles were added until they reached 71 miles when I retired on Dec. 30, 1964, for a total of 44 years.

During that time I used 26 cars, eight horses, and one snowmobile. The horses were used in winter the first 14 years, the snowmobile four years. After that the roads were kept open all winter. The estimated miles driven was 650,000.



William Jantsch



Town of Holton's first snow removal equipment.

The Town of Holton purchased its first power tractor to maintain roads in 1922. It was a Clintonville four wheel drive tractor. In 1937 the township purchased a ten ton Caterpillar tractor with a snow plow. From then on the roads remained open all year around. This came about because the government decreed that all roads must remain free of snow if we were to receive mail.

MILESTONES

First telephone lines were built by the citizens. Poles were mostly Balsam. Henry Suenen, who lived in Section 20, was the lineman and put the wires on the line running east to west on the Town Hall road. This line went to the Abbotsford exchange, date 1908-1909. North of the Town Hall Road all lines went to the Dorchester exchange. Most all lines were put underground in 1974.

The first granite hauled for hard surfacing of roads was hauled from the Henry Scheibe pit in Section 16 to the Village of Dorchester. This granite was used to hard surface Main Street of Dorchester in 1919. From then on many gravel pits were opened in the Town of Holton and hard surfacing of roads in the township began.

Also granite from the Bill Henlick and Skilbred pits was used to hard surface Highway 13. Much of this granite was hauled in the winter months with horses and sleighs as the farmers had time to haul in the winter. All granite hauled in 1975 came from the Marathon City and Mosinee pits.

First R.E.A. electric lines were built in 1937. Many farmers took advantage of this service. Those that did not had to wait for a number of years because of shortages of materials and copper due to World War II.

Did You Know?

The first frame barn was on the R. C. Tennant Place, Section 20.

The first frame house was on the G. I. Walbridge Farm in Section 29 owned for many years by Frank Hopfensberger, now owned by Ervin Schilling.

FIRST OFFICERS 1876 - 1877

A. G. Stoughton	Chairman
James Denny	Supervisor
G. G. Fulstrom	Supervisor
John Sterling	Town Clerk
Joel Tennant	Treasurer
Naaman Hodge	Assessor
George W. Holeton	Justice of Peace
Hubbard Moss	Constable
Oren Glass	Constable

PRESENT OFFICERS 1975 - 1976

Lawrence Hopfensberger	Chairman
Gerald Pinter	Supervisor
Jerome Stevens	Supervisor
George Kadonsky	Town Clerk
James Bragg	Treasurer
George Kadonsky	Assessor
Benno Venske	Constable
Ethel Rankl	Health Chairman

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING 1887

A special town meeting was held on the third day of December 1887 in pursuance of a call signed by 12 freeloaders, electors in the town requesting that a special meeting be held for the purpose of levying a tax of One Hundred Dollars for maintenance of the poor in the Town of Holeton. The question was settled by ballot, total votes cast, 8 total votes for 8. Unanimous.

CHANGE OF NAME OF HOLTON

In the township records there was a town board meeting held on May 3, 1895. At this meeting the name Holeton was still used.

At a meeting held March 31, 1896, the name Holton was used for the first time and thereafter there is no explanation given for the change.

Holton's population was 1,011 in 1950, 984 in 1960, and 924 in 1970.

Holton's cattle population over four months was 6,388 in 1975.

Total Real Estate Valuation \$9,800,100.

Total Personal Property \$2,025,900
Total R. E. and P.P. \$11,866,000

Holton's valuation ranks high in Marathon County, not including townships adjacent to Wausau or Marshfield.

TOWN OF HOLTON NAMED FOR VET IS 100 YEARS OLD

The Town of Holton recently held its 100th annual meeting. The township's records and those of Marathon County have only one year's difference.

Clarence Rankl, Holton's official historian and formerly town chairman and representative on the Marathon County Board of Supervisors for many years, is now compiling a history of the community.

The township was named after George W. Holeton, civil war veteran who died in 1931. "Nobody seems to know why the 'e' was dropped by the township," Rankl said. "It's a mystery."

History of the territory which included Holton goes back to 1815, however, when Jonathon Carver, an Englishman, purchased 536,640 acres of land (which included Holton) from chiefs of the Nawdoisse Indians "for many presents and good deeds."

The papers were signed by Chief Hawnopajatan, who drew a picture of a turtle as his mark, and Chief Ochtongoomlisheau, who drew a picture of a snake as his mark. The territory actually extended into Minnesota.

The territory was sold and resold after Carver's purchase until the United States of American in 1873 deeded some of Section 10 to Irving Wyatt. (The Town of Holton originally included more land than it shows at present -- almost another township.)

George W. Holeton was considered the first homesteader in the area. He proved his homestead in December 1873 and received his deed to the 160 acres signed by Ulysses S. Grant in August 1874.

Holeton had an interesting Army experience. He enlisted as a private and rose to lieutenant. He served in a regiment under Capt. William McKinley and Maj. Rutherford B. Hayes, later destined to become presidents of the United States.

Holeton served as school clerk for 26 years and also as town chairman. He retired from farming in 1910 and purchased a home in Abbotsford. The township was named after him in 1876.

A. G. Stoughton was the township's first chairman, and Louis A. Pradt its first school teacher. Pradt later became an attorney in Wausau, and a civic leader.

First school in Holton was a log cabin on what is now the Jerome Rankl farm. A new schoolhouse was built in 1881 but this burned and another was built in 1887. This one was used--and improved over the years until 1962, when the school district was consolidated.

The school district's first year's expenses totaled \$147.81. Some of the sums were listed in the early ledger as school desks, \$33.12; cutting wood, \$7.50, and delivering stove, 50 cents. Pradt's salary started at around \$14 per month. He lived about a mile and half away from the schoolhouse with his parents, the C. R. Pradts.

The first Colby High School was organized in 1885, and the first Abbotsford High School had a three year course only and was organized in 1904. The high school in December was established in 1906 and was a "state fee" school, \$2 tuition being required from non-residents of the district.

At its beginning the Town of Holton included 36 sections. Every other section was owned by the railroad. The township was a part of the Town of Hull but in 1876 became a separate township, which included the Town of Johnson.

The Town of Holton has access to four communities -- Abbotsford, Dorchester, Colby and Unity. Agricultural land is considered good. Its principal charm, however, is in its rich early history, which included extensive logging and lumbering activities. It included other communities, like Bruckerville, a brisk logging town which has disappeared.

Present officers of the township are Chairman Lawrence Hopfensperger, with Jerome Steevens and Gerald Pinter, the supervisors.

BRUCKERVILLE

The beginning of Bruckerville was Brucker's Mill located in Section 11. This land is now owned by William Gumz. Joseph Brucker also owned land in Section 15 now owned by David Grewe. On the N.E. corner of Section 15 was the Brucker place and also a school house known as the Bruckerville School Dist. No. 3. This was the only two room school house in the Town of Holton. In 1882 Edmund Ludwig who immigrated from Germany with his wife and nine children purchased the Brucker place. The Ludwigs farmed, had a store, postal service, church, and Sunday school services until they sold the farm to Alvin Neidhold in 1908. In 1931 Alvin Neidhold sold the farm to Ray Dodge who farmed until 1944 when he sold the farm to Melvin Grewe. Melvin Grewe sold this farm to his son David in 1974.

R. B. Stoddard owned 80 acres of land just west of the Brucker place in Section 15. He built and operated a sawmill on this place for many years. In about 1890 he sold this mill to C. K. and Martin Ellingson. They operated it until 1899 when they opened a mill at Milan.

The Ludwigs still have two grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren living in Holton.

During and before the Civil War and prior to the time the Town of Holton was laid out, the Brucker Road, now Marathon County A, was designated by the United States Government as a military road.

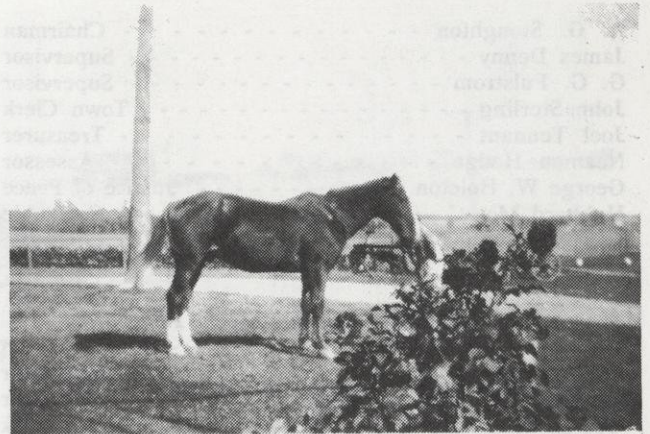
PORKY CREEK

It is said that the founder of the Town of Holton who lived in Section 20 walked to Colby for supplies. On his return trip he had to cross a creek. The creek was high so he had to cross at a rapids. A porcupine was sitting on the rapids. Mr. Holeton threw his hunting knife at the porcupine and killed it. Mr. Holeton had to wait sometime before he was sure the animal was dead. While waiting Mr. Holeton named this creek Porky Creek. Porky Creek runs through Section 30, 32, and 33.

CORNER STONES

The Town of Holton was first surveyed prior to the time it became a township. When it was surveyed wooden stakes were used for corner stones. These were mostly made of Tamarack. These wooden corner stones were placed on every ½ mile in the township. In 1901 these wooden cornerstones were replaced by stone cornerstones. These corner stones were about 3 ft. long and about 6 inches square with an X marked on top. Nels Empey, a pioneer, and his son John placed these corner stones.

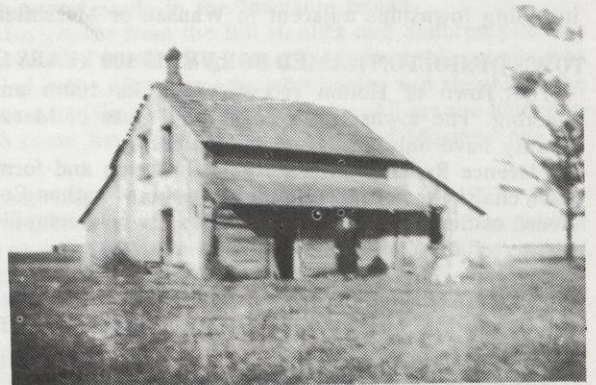
In 1975 Marathon County will resurvey the township and will replace and repair all missing corner stones. This project is federally funded.



Yes--horses need their teeth cleaned too. Here is the late Doc Foley's last pony, Nick, which he used with another horse "Bonnie" to visit many of you in the early 1900's. Armin Pope, aged 4 years, believed his pony should have good habits. The ponies were purchased by Grant Pope after Doc had no use for them and they were used by children.



Speaking of work--Here is Ed Pope and daughter Edna selling their vegetable products in Medford leaving them in stores and private homes. This was in about 1900.



The "honeymoon" cottage and home for Anna Pope and Martin Brecke in 1913 and lived here for about ten years before moving into their newly built home on the Mar-Tay Road.

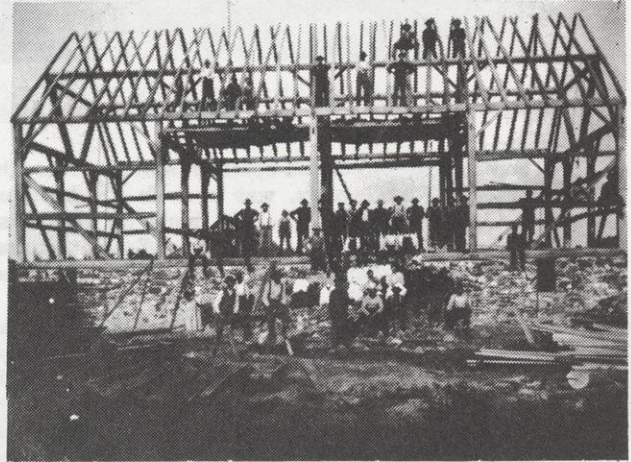
SAWMILLS

The first saw mills recorded were the White's Mill in Section 34 and Brucker's Mill in Section 11. These will be found in the 1882 Plat of the Town of Holton, Marathon County. This is the first printed plat of Marathon County. Later there were many other saw mills -- Stoddard's Mill at Bruckerville, later operated by C. K. and Martin Ellingson, Sec. 15. Paul Bartnick Mill in Section 12. Joe Umlauf Shingle Mill in Section 16. Bushman Mill in Section 25. Wm. Westphal Section 26. Frank Bartnick Mill in Section 1. The Chas. Brown Mill in Section 31. The Brecke Mill located in Taylor Co. with Lodging and Maintenance Buildings located in Section 5 Town of Holton.

Today there is one mill owned and operated by Lawrence Hopfenberger.



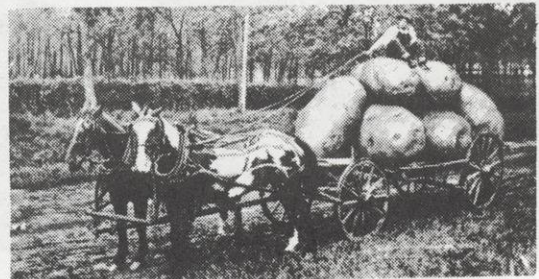
Bill Westphal with mustache. Harry Olson far right.



Raising timber barn. Most timber barns in Holton were built between 1900 - 1930.



Town of Holton deer hunters. Hunters unknown.



Growing potatoes Town of Holton in 1920's.



Lawrence Hopfenberger Sawmill in Section 20. Mill still in operation in 1975.

WHITE'S SAW MILL

White's Mill, located 3½ miles east of Abbotsford and a half mile north of the Eau Pleine River, was of much importance to the early pioneers.

The mill used only logs of clear pine, using only that part up to the first knot, leaving the top part of the tree.

Later a shingle mill was established which used the upper parts of the trees and also the shaky butts from the larger trees.

The lumber saw at White's Mill was transported over a tram road which was constructed mostly of balsams and some water elm, fastened together at the ends and layed on ties.

This tramway ran in a southwesterly direction near the Charles Brown farm, through the Gierl farm, close to Widenhoeft's Park, finally reaching its destination just north of Colby.

The tram was constructed like an ordinary wagon, boxed, with the wheels at first being cut from the end of a birch log about three feet in diameter. The wheels were hollowed to form a grove to follow the tramway.



Bruckerville Cheese Factory, Sec. 10, operated until 1953.

Fred H. Reynolds, owner and operator of the Bruckerville Cheese Factory for 37 years, was born in the town of Mayville, Clark County, Oct. 31, 1893, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Renolds. His father died early in Fred's infancy, and he moved with his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Graffunder to the town of Holton while still an infant.

Fred Reynolds began his cheesemaking career in 1909 at the early age of 16. He was then employed by George Decker who built and owned the Holton Cheese Factory. It was there Fred learned his trade.

After working for Decker one season, he accepted employment as operator of the Bruckerville Cheese Factory located 3½ miles east of the village of Dorchester. The plant

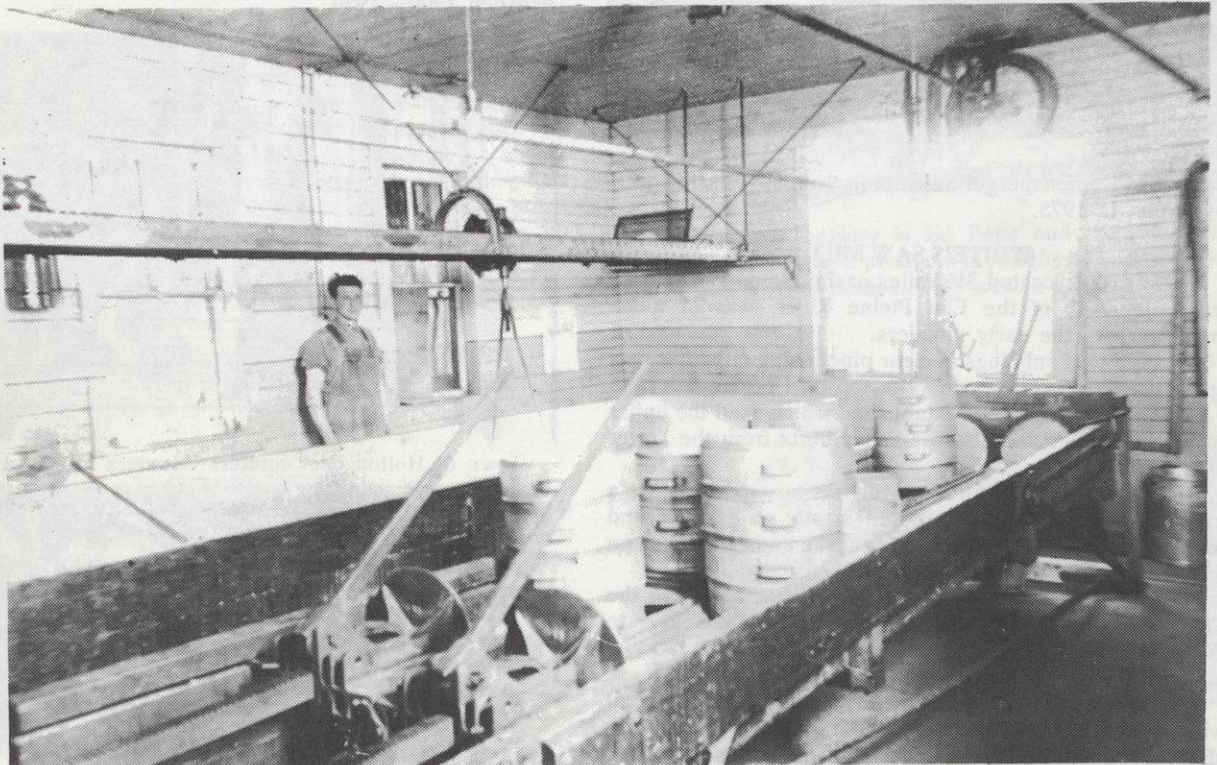
was owned by Mrs. Ade Young and a Mr. Nutbaum. After operating the plant for one year, he bought the factory from them, at the early age of 17, for \$1100. His real estate taxes the first year were \$7.04.

On Nov. 4, 1914, he was married to Mary Stelzel, daughter of Leopold and Amelia Stelzel, also of the town of Holton. The first years they lived in the apartment above the factory. In the year 1918 they built the home next to the cheese plant on one acre of land, a gift from Leopold Stelzel. The home is still occupied by a son, Jerome Reynolds and family. Ten children were born to Fred and Mary Reynolds. They are Frederick and Ted living in Wausau, Alvin of New York State, James and Jerome of the town of Holton, Thomas of the village of Dorchester, Gladys (Mrs. Melvin Zettler, of Loyal, Grace, Mrs. Clifford Wetterau of Dorchester, Violet, Mrs. Peter Rajewski of Wis. Rapids and Mary Ann, Mrs. Jos. Meyer of Medford.

Fred was active in the Town of Holton affairs. He served as treasurer until he moved to the village of Dorchester.

July 1, 1947, Fred sold his cheese plant to his son James and son-in-law Clifford Wetterau. At that time Mr. Reynolds semi-retired and moved into the village of Dorchester.

March 1, 1953, Fred, together with his son Jerome and son-in-law Clifford Wetterau, purchased the Dorchester Cheese Factory, located in the village of Dorchester. The Bruckerville Cheese Factory was closed and the two businesses were combined. It was known as the Dorchester Cheese Co., Clifford Wetterau, Pres., Jerome Reynolds, vice-pres., Fred Treasurer and Grace Wetterau Secretary of the newly formed company. On August 1, 1965, Fred retired entirely from the cheesemaking business, serving the cheese industry more than 50 years. His wife Mary died January 8, 1967, and Fred died Nov. 17, 1974, at the age of 81.



Bruckerville Cheese Factory. Fred Reynolds about 19 yrs. of age. This picture was taken about 1911.

HOLTON AGRICULTURE

At the turn of the century hay grew in abundance on the Town of Holton meadows and for about 20 years much hay was baled and sold. This hay was hauled to neighboring towns and loaded in box cars and shipped to the northern lumber camps where it was fed to horses which was the only means of transportation in the woods at that time. Also it was the only means of transportation in cities. In the 1920's the farmers began to put more acreage in potatoes. Many acres of potatoes were raised, with a very good yield. Potato warehouses were built in neighboring town. Two men by the name of Peterson - Webster came up from Waupaca and built the first warehouse in Dorchester. Later Sam Vegoretz operated this warehouse. Potatoes were also shipped in box cars in the early fall and refrigerated cars in winter.

Then also in the 1920's many acres were converted to growing canning peas. The closest canning company was built in Dorchester 1924-1925. They began canning in 1925. Plants were also built in Colby, Medford and Athens. Many young people worked at the canning factory during canning season. Also there was about 6 to 8 pea viners located in the town where the peas were hauled to to be threshed. The vines were stacked and used for cattle feed.

Also in the twenty's fox and mink ranches became part of agriculture in the Town of Holton. Many farmers did well on this enterprise. Style changes and foreign imports cut severely into the profits and today there is only one mink rancher left in the Town of Holton. There are no fox ranches. The last rancher is Ed Brecke, Section 4. Morris Gierl, Section 34, operated a dead animal service which provided meat for the ranchers in the Town of Holton and outlying areas for many years. Morris Gierl is still operating this service. The Green Bay Soap Company, Green Bay, Wis. also has a dead animal service in Section 31, Town of Holton.

In about 1970 Dutch Elm disease began killing our beautiful Elm trees. Today there is hardly a live Elm tree. To date no positive preventative has been found.

Val Fleckenstein, Section 7, purchased the first tractor in the Town of Holton for agricultural purposes in about 1916. It was an International Mogul tractor.

In the 1930 Atlas and Farmer's Directory there were 6 cheese factories listed:

Wayside - Wm. Doinstreich, Section 28

Holton -- Clarence Van Ess, Section 17

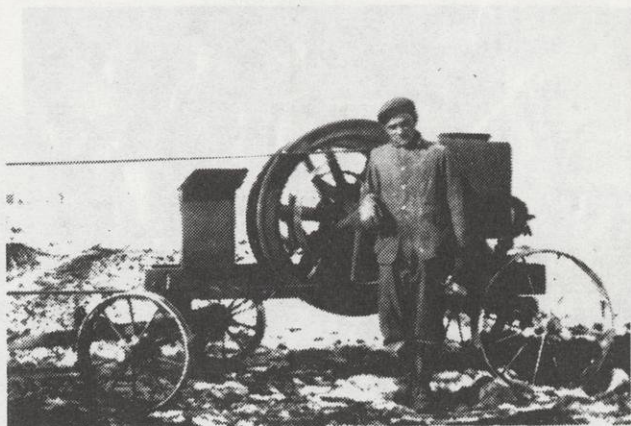
Star -- M. Laurie, Section 6

Breckerville -- Fred Reynolds, Section 9

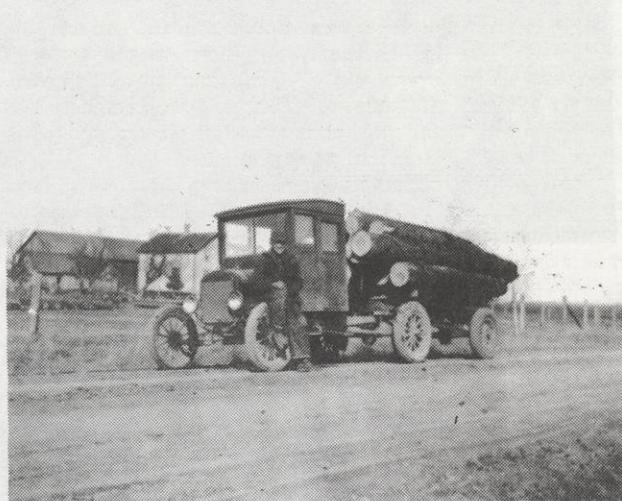
Meadow Brook -- Henry Kloth, Section 23

Clover Dale -- Martin Parsons, Section 2

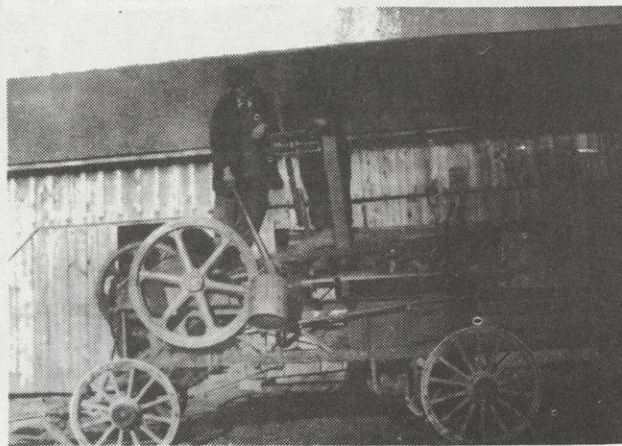
All made American full cream cheese. In 1975 one cheese factory is left, Holton -- Donald Albrecht, Section 17. He manufactures Colby full cream cheese.



Art Scheibe with a Stover 10 HP gas engine used to bale hay.



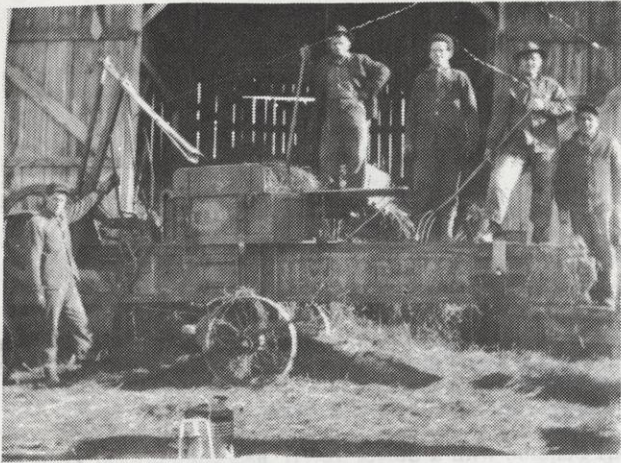
Art Scheibe with his truck in 1926 hauling logs.



Art and Alfred Scheibe with their hay baler.



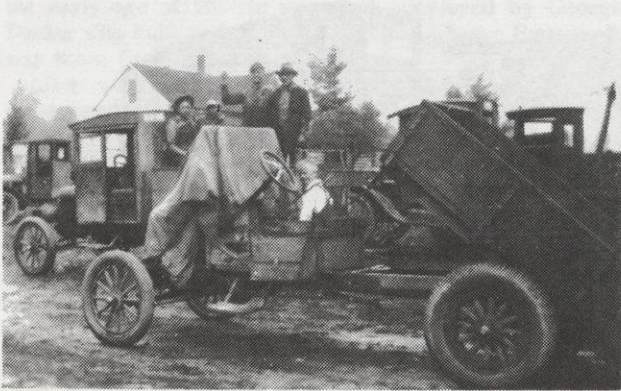
Lawrence Hopfensberger threshing rig about 1920.



John Reynolds, Eli Baler



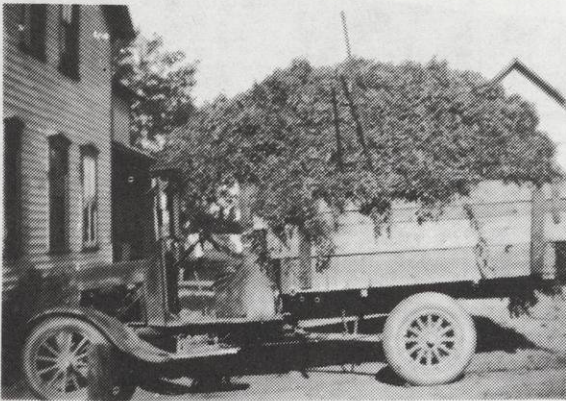
Baling hay in the early 1900's.



Early hauling of gravel with Model T Trucks about 1926.



Meske family loading hay. Mrs. Meske driving horses, son Milton in front of load, Fred by loader. Man standing unknown.



Hauling pea vines to the viner with a Model T Ford truck. Art Scheibe truck about 1926.



Early plowing out roads. There are several pictures like this in the town. Fred Meske with the grey team in front of the old Parge Cheese factory.



Frank Bartnick and Lizzie Denzin's wedding picture at her father's home about 1875.



Frank Hopfensbergers Home Farm. The first frame house in Holton.



Grandpa Konecny, son Joseph, Grandma Konecny, Ed Pope, daughter Ruth, Edna, wife Mrs. Mary Pope and daughter Anna, about 1894, and buildings of the first settlers in community on the Eau Pleine Road, the Draper Rd. Corner.



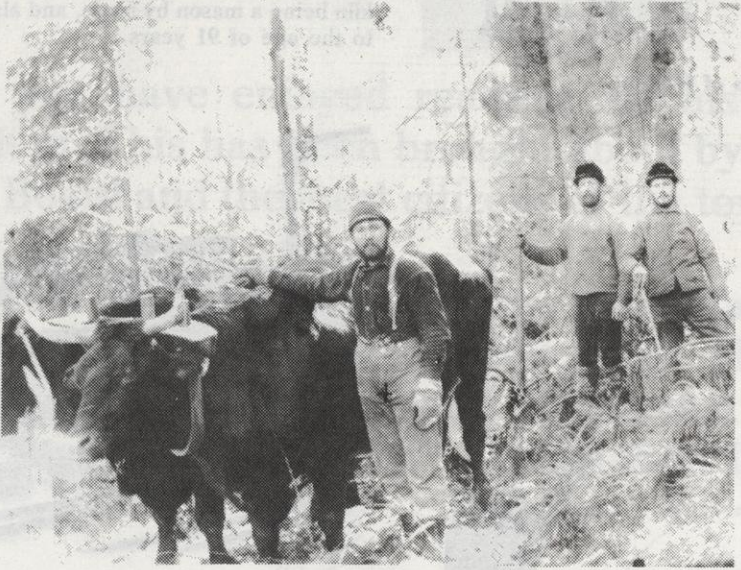
Frank Schopper's Step-Father, Leo Schopper, third from right.

Maple wood was
tion to let in air.
at which was then
(time)

... he came from
... daughter. He
... the built
... as Boston Hotel
... his own bricks for the
... also farmed with two sons



*John Bochanjin's
Threshing outfit
20 H.P. Traction Engine*



Ol' Grandpa Brecke and his prize oxen team in the late 1800's working or near where the Martin Stelzel Farm was.



Joe Umlauf Mill was located in Section 16 on the banks of West Branch of Big Eau Pleine River. This picture was taken on a Fourth of July parade in Dorchester.



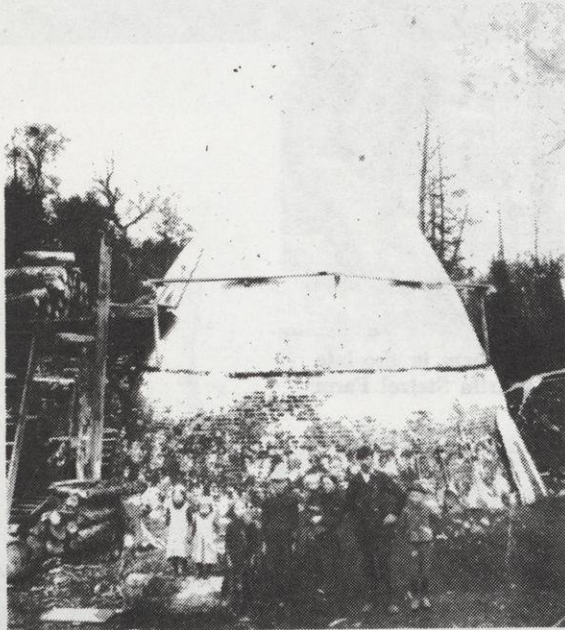
1889 Sawing lumber



Early logging in the Town of Holton.

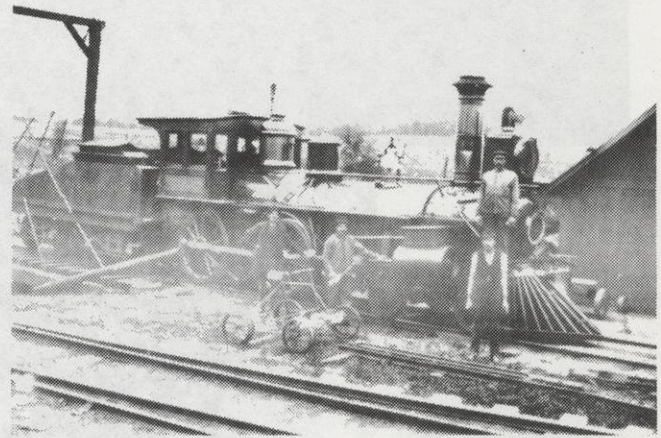
Bricks all handmade by Mr. Gridel. Maple wood was used in the kiln. Holes were along the bottom to let in air. Wood was smouldered to make **CHARCOAL** which was then sold. Kiln held 36 cords of wood at one time!

Mr. Joseph Gridel was 22 years old when he came from Germany with his wife and one-year-old daughter. He bought a 40 acre farm 6½ miles east of Dorchester. He built this charcoal kiln and sold to dealers (such as Blodgett Hotel in Marshfield) for 20 years. He made his own bricks for the kiln being a mason by trade, and also farmed with two sons to the age of 91 years.



CHARCOAL KILN Early 1900 on **JOSEPH GRIDEL FARM** 5 miles east of Dorchester, 1 mile north, ½ mile East. (Land adjoins Victor Zak farm to the east.)

Joseph Gridel died May 25, 1951, age 91. His wife Mary died Nov. 8, 1941 age 82. They had eight children; 2 sons and 6 daughters, 3 daughters still survive, Lucille Gridel, Mrs. Marie Petrich, Mrs. Arnold (Caroline) Steinwand)



Bushman Station was also on the A.N.E. Railroad. There was a spur here. There was a sawmill. Bushman Station was in Section 25. Later there was a spur on the now Clarence Schreiber farm, Section 35.

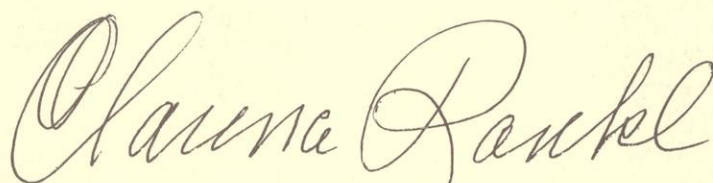


The first buildings on Henry Boss farm.

We hope you have enjoyed reading the history of the Town of Holton. This has been brought about by the efforts of the Town Board and the local citizens of the township and surrounding areas.

We apologize for omitting the many, many families that have lived in the township the past 100 years. This was not done intentionally, but due to lack of information.

Holton Town Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clarence Rankl". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally on the page.

Clarence Rankl, Historian

ABBOTSFORD PRINTING CO.

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