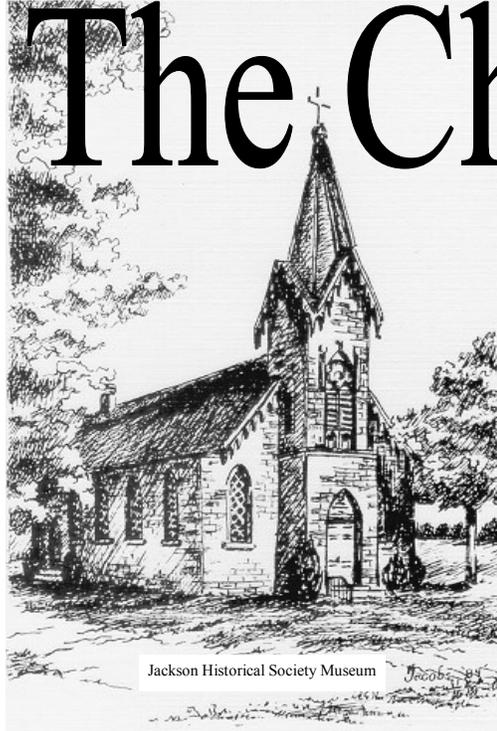


The Church Mouse



Volume 19 Issue 3 Jackson Historical Society November 2014

PIONEER CHURCH RECORDS SPEAK Immanuel Lutheran Church 1847-1974

Among the most precious possessions of your Jackson Historical Society are the baptism, confirmation, marriage and death records, along with the Minutes of the voters' meetings and the financial records of the former Immanuel Church. All of these have been translated and incorporated in whole or in part in our newest book, *Pioneer Church Records Speak: Immanuel Lutheran Church Jackson, WI 1847-1974*. All 480-plus surnames from the records are also in the book and fully indexed, to the delight of any family historian or genealogist.

The author, Royal Natzke, spent over a decade working on the book and involved 10 additional people to help with the translating, transcribing, and graphics. As his relatives helped start Immanuel, and an uncle served as pastor at Immanuel for 5 years, and Royal was asked to preach for the closing of the church in 1974, he has always felt that the story of this pioneer church needed to be told. The book achieves his goal.

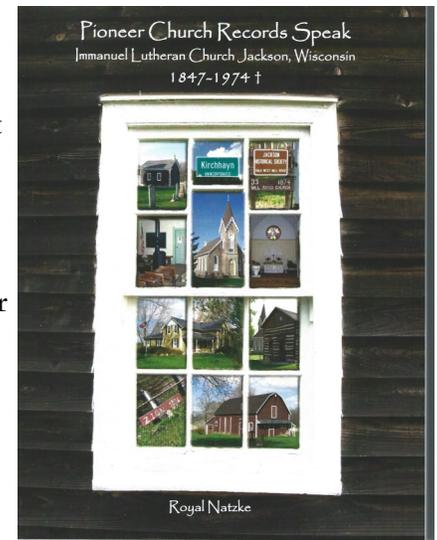
About half of the book contains translation and organization of the baptism, etc. church records, while the other half tells the story of the beginnings of the congregation, the early growth, the serious split in 1876, the reconciliation in 1894, and the decline which included the closing of the school in 1929, and the closing service (funeral) in 1974.

There are 21 images and graphics in the book, plus pictures of almost all of the over 20 pastors and teachers of Immanuel.

The reader is also introduced to the pictures and story of the breakaway Zion Lutheran whose buildings and cemetery are just south of Highway 60 on Church Road, east of the Village of Jackson.

The last chapter provides some insights into what we can learn from the history of this pioneer church. A dominant theme is the role of zeal for the faith which brought these German Lutherans from Pomerania to America and stirred them to build their church and start a school as they gathered fellow-Germans together. But that zeal, turned against each other, led to its decline.

Though this story has much pain in it, Pastor Natzke's theme for the closing sermon was "Well Done!" - God's powerful Word had done many great things through the involvement of the members and staff dur-



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your annual **\$15** dues cover a calendar year starting in **January**. The current year for your membership is shown on The Church Mouse address label to the right of the zip code.

Your dues include a subscription to the Church Mouse and help us preserve Jackson history.

JHS MEETINGS TIMES

The Jackson Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of every other month, Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sep/Nov, at 7:00pm.

JHS meetings are held at 1860 Mill Road, Jackson, in our restored, Karl Groth log home. Visitors are welcome.

JHS OFFICERS

Nancy Ebeling—President
Jerry Prochnow—Vice President
Lenore Kloehn—Treasurer
Jim Kliese—Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

All JHS Officers, Russ Hanson,
Royal Natzke, and Elmer Kloehn

(Pioneer Church Records Speak continued on page 2)



JHS HAS NEW (OLD) PUMP ORGAN IN SCHOOLHOUSE

Our new (old) pump organ was manufactured by the Charles F. Netzow Co. of Milwaukee. The pump organ is a great addition to our one-room schoolhouse. Jerry Prochnow located the organ and it was purchased for the society by Carol Thurke. Thanks for the kind support, Carol. Much Appreciated!



The Charles F. Netzow Company manufactured excellent pianos and organs from the late 1800's through 1931. The



Netzow Co. began selling many different items, from bicycles to wagons to sewing



machines to kitchen ranges, and manufacturing fine pianos and pump organs. As

their quality market manufacturing business of the



pianos and organs gained recognition, their manufacturing became the primary business of the Charles F. Netzow Co.



In the 1896 Charles F. Netzow Co. catalogue, pianos cost from \$194.00 to \$470.00 each, while organs sold for \$56.00 to \$230.00, depending on style and features. Bicycles sold for \$28.00 or \$47.00 in the two qualities offered. Wagons and trucks ranged in price from \$40.00 to \$195.00. Sewing machines cost \$30.00 to \$48.00. Queen kitchen ranges sold for \$54.00 with an enamel finish and \$70.00 in blue steel.



The 1920 Charles F. Netzow catalogue no longer listed products other than pianos. Pianos sold for \$250.00 to \$550.00. Player pianos were added to the lineup and sold for \$600.00 to \$900.00. The \$900.00 Netzow Electric Player Piano added the sounds of a harp and organ to the piano. This player piano had a coin slot that would accept 1-20 nickels to play music. It also offered remote coin collection boxes, on the order of future juke boxes, so music could be ordered remotely. The patented automatic rewind mechanism offered playing 10-20 pieces of music.



The Charles F. Netzow Company continued to manufacture fine pianos and organs until running into financial difficulty during the depression, finally going out of business in 1931.

The Jackson Historical Society is fortunate to now own a pump organ manufactured by the Charles F. Netzow Co. of Milwaukee which we have placed in our one-room schoolhouse. I wonder, however, how many of our members or friends own or have owned a Netzow piano or organ, or remember owning any of the other Netzow products. Let us know as that would be a fitting end to this story.



(Pioneer Church Records continued from page 1) ing those 127 years. Sometimes having a funeral for a dying congregation is a noble thing to do.

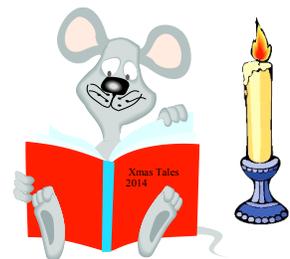
These 220-page books can be ordered from the Jackson Historical Society at 125 Cedar Ridge Dr. S-145, West Bend, WI 53095; or rdnatzke@yahoo.com. for \$20, plus \$5 for postage and handling. They are also available from the Village of Jackson Office, the Joint Village and Town of Jackson Community Center, and the Town of Jackson Office. The book has proved so popular we have placed an order for a second printing.

JOIN JHS!

History is important, as knowledge of the past helps us to understand the present and provides us guidance into the future.

Help guide your Jackson Historical Society. Become an **active** member. E-mail jhsheritage@sbcglobal.net, call Russ Hanson—262-677-3888, Jerry Prochnow—262-338-8867.

JOIN JHS.



'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house not a creature was stirring not even my uncle Fritz, who was asleep in front of the warm fireplace!

Merry Christmas 2014



**RASPBERRY FESTIVAL A GREAT SUCCESS
ON SEPTEMBER 7th**

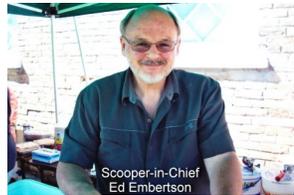
Our fall Raspberry Festival was held on a warm and sunny afternoon, Sunday, Sept. 7th, 2014, on the society's grounds, 1860 Mill Rd.



The Festival Trio provided music entertainment for our arriving guests. Brian Kloehn joined the trio for a few sets during the afternoon. Our silent auction inside our historic Immanuel Lutheran Church Museum drew a large and constant crowd of treasure seekers.



Delicious raspberry pie and a scoop of our Honey Grove ice cream served by our Scooper-in-Chief Ed Embertson was a real treat. Pie, Brats, and hot dogs were served by Bonnie Embertson and her Bank Mutual crew. Add an ear of Witte's hot buttered sweet corn for a nice meal. If you wanted to take home some fresh vegetables, Witte's and Eickstedt's



offered a good selection. Eichstedt's had their bees working overtime to provide their Honey Knoll honey for our festival. Oliver Schowalter's



Miniatures had a large trailer with an expanded layout. Antique cars from the



Kettle Moraine Model T Ford and Vintage Car Club and Lee Bernard were on display. A rous-

ing, musical concert was provided for our guests by an excellent instrumental quartet with Nate Amundson, Grace Amundson, Joshua Kramer, and Sarah Schmandt.



After the concert, Folks continued touring our restored



church, 2-story log home, and joined teacher Doris Koeller for classes in our one-room schoolhouse. Many visitors just enjoyed spending a nice warm sunshiny afternoon visiting with friends. The pleasant afternoon was enjoyed by all. Thanks for coming. See you next year, 2015.

**JHS DISPLAY AT
WEST BEND LIBRARY**

The Jackson Historical Society's one-room schoolhouse is visiting the West Bend Public Library.



A scale model of the society's Immanuel Lutheran Church one-room schoolhouse is now on display at the library along with many historical artifacts.

The Immanuel Lutheran Church began a day school in 1865, building the one-room schoolhouse in 1870. Many Jackson residents attended day school at Immanuel. School was taught until being discontinued in 1930.

In 1974, Immanuel Lutheran Church closed their doors permanently and turned the property over to the Town of Jackson.

The Town of Jackson deeded the church and schoolhouse property to the Jackson Historical Society in 1996.

Our 1850's Karl Groth two story log home was moved from a nearby property to the site in 2003.

The society has restored all the buildings and created a historical museum for the area citizens to enjoy.

The Jackson Historical Society is open by appointment only. Call Jerry Prochnow—338-8867, or Russ Hanson 677-3888, if you'd like to pay us a visit.

WHAT HAPPENS TODAY WILL BE HISTORY TOMORROW!

HELP THE JACKSON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRESERVE YOUR YESTERDAYS. PLEASE JOIN US!

SOME HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IN GERMANY

“FROEHLICHE WEINACHTEN”

According to legend, on Christmas Eve in Germany rivers turn to wine, animals speak to each other, tree blossoms bear fruit, mountains open up to reveal precious gems, and church bells can be heard ringing from the bottom of the sea. Of course, only the pure in heart can witness this Christmas magic. All others must content themselves with traditional German celebrating. Actually, there is so much celebrating that it has to begin on Dec. 6th, St. Nicholas Day.

As in many other European countries, on the eve of Dec. 6th children place a shoe or boot by the fireplace. During the night, St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, hops from house to house carrying a book of sins in which all of the misdeeds of the children are written. If they have been good, he fills the shoe or boot with delicious holiday edibles. If they have not been good, their shoe is filled with twigs.



December 21st, supposedly the shortest day (longest night) of the year, is dubbed St. Thomas Day. In parts of the Sauerland, whoever wakes up late or arrives late to work on that day is issued the title "Thomas Donkey." They are given a cardboard donkey and are the subject of numerous jokes throughout the day. But this gentle abuse ends deliciously with round, iced currant buns called "Thomasplitzchen."

This is all preliminary to the excitement of Christmas Eve. Prior to the evening feast, is the presentation of the tree. The Christmas tree, as we know it, originated in Germany. It has a mysterious magic for the young because they are not allowed to see it until Christmas Eve. While the children are occupied in another room (by Father) Mother brings out the Christmas tree and decorates it with apples, candy, nuts, cookies, cars, trains, angels, tinsel, family treasures and candles. The presents are placed under the tree. Somewhere, close to the bright display are laid brilliantly decorated plates for each



family member, loaded with fruits, nuts, marzipan, chocolate and biscuits. When all is ready a bell is rung as a signal for the children to enter this Christmas fantasy room. Carols are sung, sometimes sparklers are lit, the Christmas story is read and gifts are opened.



"Dickbauch" means "fat stomach" and is a name given to the Christmas Eve because of the tradition that those who do not eat well on Christmas Eve will be haunted by demons during the night. So the opportunity is given to enjoy dishes such as suckling pig, "reisbrei" (rice pudding with cinnamon & honey), white sausage, macaroni salad, and many regional dishes. Christmas Day brings with it a banquet of plump roast goose, "Christstollen" (long loaves of bread bursting with nuts, raisins, citron and dried fruit), "Lebkuchen" (spice bars), marzipan, and "Dresden Stollen" (a moist, heavy bread filled with fruit).

“EIN GUTES NEUES YAHR”

The night of the Holy Sylvester, the last night of the year, has always been the night of fools and a funny good time. The saint of this day, Pope Sylvester I, according to legend is



the man who was healed from leprosy and baptized the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great.

There was a great amount of drinking, dancing and singing at the "Sylvester Balls" held that night. As the old year ended and the new year was about to begin, everyone refilled their glasses with champagne or wine. Then the hugs and kissing began, accompanied with "*ein gutes neues Jahr*." The bells throughout Germany rang and many revelers ran out in the streets to enjoy the merry sounds. There was usually some fireworks displays and the sounds



of shooting was often heard along with the ringing bells.

Naturally, there were some superstitions connected with Sylvester. People dropped molten lead into cold water and then interpreted the shape it made into a future event they believed would take place in the coming year. If the shape could be interpreted as a heart or a ring - it meant a wedding, a ship meant a journey, a pig meant there would be a year of

(Sylvester continued on page 5)



WHY IS THE POMERANIAN DOG CALLED POMERANIAN?

I'm sure we've all heard of the Pomeranian dog, that small, fuzzy dog with the pointy nose and the tail held over the back. But, why Pomeranian?



The forerunners of today's Pomeranians were large working dogs from the Arctic regions known as Wolfspitz or German Spitz. Spitz refers to the pointed nose and muzzle. Although not the origin of the breed, Pomerania is credited with much of the breeding that resulted in the Pomeranian type dog.

The German Spitz type dog can be divided into a number of size categories, largest to smallest, "Wolfspitz," "Grossspitz," "Mittelspitz," "Kleinspitz," and "Zwergspitz." The Pomeranian belongs in the "Zwergspitz" or dwarf Spitz group.

It was not always so. The "dwarf" Pomeranian was developed over time to fill the desire for a very small German Spitz type dog. The British Royal Family in the late 1700's popularized the breed and sought the smaller examples. In 1767, Queen Charlotte consort to King George III brought two Pomeranians to England, "Phoebe" and "Mercury". Queen Victoria, Queen Charlotte's Granddaughter, established a large breeding kennel.



Queen Charlotte

One of her favorite dogs was "Windsor's Marco", a 12 pound, red sable Pomeranian. Exhibiting "Marco" in 1891 caused smaller Pomeranians to become immediately popular and caused breeders to select smaller dogs. During Victoria's lifetime, size of Pomeranians decreased by 50%.



Early Pomeranian & Pup

The first Pomeranian breed club was established in England in 1891. The American Kennel Club recognized the breed in 1900. It took until 1998 for a Pomeranian, "Great Elms Prince Charming II", to win "best in show" at Westminster.



In 1912, two Pomeranians were among only three dogs to survive the sinking of the RMS Titanic. A Pomeranian called "Lady", owned by Miss Margaret Hays, escaped with her owner in lifeboat number seven, while Elizabeth Barrett Rothschild took her pet to safety with her in lifeboat number six.

As you can see, Pomeranian dogs have had a long and storied existence. Very early on, they were a German Spitz type working dog used for the herding of sheep and cattle. Appreciated by British royalty, the Pomeranian breed was refined and reduced in size. What began in Pomerania hundreds of years ago, has given us a small companion dog less than 1 foot tall, weighing under 7 pounds., and ranking 14th in popularity, the Pomeranian. Herzlichen Glueckwunsch!

(Sylvester continued from page 4)

plenty, etc.

Traditionally, carp was eaten on Sylvester; it was believed it brought future wealth. It was also important to leave a bit of each type of food on the dinner plate, which was to remain there until after midnight. This insured that they would have plenty of food throughout the coming year.

And so the holiday celebrating ends and the new year begins.

CHILDREN'S BOOK OF RHYMES DONATED



Ingrid Kraus donated this colorful board book of rhymes she remembers from her childhood. Although the rhymes are in German, many of the rhymes were transformed into English verse to entertain American children.

Printed in the late 1800's in Germany, the book was imported to America and sold by George Brumder Bookseller in Milwaukee. Brumder also owned most all the German language newspapers in this heavily German community and built the Germania building.

The book will be on display at our museum.. Thanks, Ingrid.



11—11—11

HONOR OUR VETERANS

AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES EVENTS

RICHFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY December 6th, Noon-3:00pm, Christmas at the Mill, Richfield Historical Park, 4339 Pleasant Hill Road. Contact www.richfieldhistoricalsociety.org for more information on events and meetings.

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY December 1st, Sinter Klausen Christmas Concert. Contact the Germantown Historical Society at germantownhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

POMMERSCHER VEREIN FREISTADT December 12th, 6:30pm, Weihnachtsfest/Christmas Party, for reservations call the Vaitl's at 262-781-7155. For information on events, Please contact—information@pommerschervereinfreistadt.org.

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY December 6th, 1:00-4:00pm, Old Courthouse Museum, Ho-Ho-Hoedown for the entire family. Please contact the historical society at <http://www.historyisfun.com> and click EVENTS for more information.



The Editor welcomes comments on the newsletter. Please mail all suggestions for articles, etc., to The Church Mouse, 1921 Hwy. 60, Jackson, WI 53037, or phone (262) 677-3888, or e-mail

ELMWOOD—THE RHEINFALZ—DISTRICT 6 SCHOOL

In 1849, a law stated that each school district was to have a name. School District 6, in the SW corner of the Town of Jackson, (Sections 29, 30, 31, 32) was called The Rheinfalz because many citizens who settled there were from the Palatinate of the Rhine in southern Germany. The school was known as Elmwood.

Entries in a school record book provide a glimpse into the beginnings of the public school system in Washington County.

In the first school meeting held at the home of Ludwig Joeckel on December 26, 1848, Edward Liesener was elected Chairman; George Bock, secretary; Samuel Schowalter, Treasurer; Carl Schuette, Clerk; and Ludwig Joeckel, Jacob Jacobus, and Ferdinand Liesener, Trustees. It was voted to buy a lot, 33 x 33 feet from Jacob Jacobus, on which to erect a log schoolhouse, 26 x 18 feet. The price paid for this lot was \$.50.

In a meeting on December 29, 1849, it was decided to cut the logs for the schoolhouse and haul them to the building site on January 3, 1850. The Schowalter brothers, Jacob Meisenheimer, and Johann Bock were to furnish the oxen for dragging. The building was to cost \$25.00. Members of the district who did not help at the erection of the schoolhouse, had to pay \$.75 per day.

In the meeting of April 16, 1850, Jacob Jacobus was awarded the contract to do the finishing work in the schoolhouse for \$28.00. It had to be ready by October 1, 1850.

The contract for furnishing two tables, four benches, and a blackboard for the school was given to Samuel Schowalter for \$5.37. Tables and benches had to be 14 feet long.

In the meeting of September 30, 1850, the school board was authorized to hire a male or female teacher at the lowest terms, and it voted to have three months of English school during the coming winter, in order to receive aid out of the state school fund.

On December 16, 1850, Miss Maria Shaw was engaged as the first teacher at a salary of \$11.00 a month. Her successor in 1851 was Miss Henrietta Deise-roth, who taught school in English during the winter months for \$8.50 a month.

In the annual meeting of Sept. 29, 1851, it was voted to engage a male teacher. The choice fell on Fred Dowland who taught school for three months at \$15.00 a month.

The meeting of 1852 voted that for each child sent to school, half a cord of wood must be delivered to the schoolhouse by the parents, or they would be charged up for it. It was also decided to lay a pine floor in the building. The tuition for children brought from other districts was fixed at \$.25 per child per term.

And so it went, year after year, as District 6, Town of Jackson School, The Rheinfalz, got up and running.



In 1872, land was purchased and a new frame schoolhouse was built to replace the old log school. This class picture was taken in 1905.