

EAGLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Jan. 2020



We held a Christmas Open House on Sat., Dec. 14 featuring a display of ornaments made by students from Eagle Elementary School.

Photo Right: Carolers sing along to tunes from our 1880s Player Piano.

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ORIN C. BENSON STORY

About 85 people from neighboring communities gathered together in November to hear an oral presentation by Phil Hall, view a public film documentary created by Caleb Peavy, and examine an artifact display capturing snapshots of a man who touched many lives. Thank you, Phil Hall, Martin and Vera Murk, Jim and Cathy Piala as well as the many others who shared fond memories and experiences. Thank you, Ellie and Diana Hall, for the wonderful fall treats, ABL for co-sponsoring this well-attended event, and our awesome audience.

Please check your newsletter label for the year “2020” to see whether you have renewed your membership and contact Don Ledrowski at 262-594-3301 or don@ledrowski.com with any questions. Thank you.

ARTIFACT DONATIONS:

The following is a partial list of items donated. Thanks to the following donors:

- Jean Bowey—Box of Assorted Items
- Don & Darla Enright—Handmade Marbles
- Roy Greg—Life Magazines
- Diana Hall— 4 Yearbooks
- Police Dept.—1978 Police Dept. Day Book
- Carol Tritz—Eagle Promotional Items
- Rick Zawada—Chair, Spice Cabinet

EHS Board

President
Jeff Nowicki, 2020

Vice-President
Eloise Hall, 2021

Secretary
Art Peavy, 2020

Treasurer
Pat Hawes, 2021

Financial Officer
Donald Ledrowski

Board Members

2020

JoAnn Gilbert
Diana Hall
Eloise Hall
Gina Neist
Mike Rice

2021

Pat Hawes
Peter Jones
Don Ledrowski
Richard Moeller
Carolyn Rosprim

2022

Scott Bovee
Brian Breber
Jim Fronsee
Jeff Nowicki
Art Peavy

Curator

Elaine Ledrowski
594-3301

Newsletter Editors

Art & Carrie Peavy
594-5454

Webmaster

Mike Rice

Facebook

Elaine Ledrowski

EHS Museum

262-594-8961

OPEN

Fridays and Saturdays
9 am to noon
Wednesdays, 3-6 pm

Website:

curator@eaglehistorical
society.org

Facebook: Like us at
Eagle Historical Society

By Gina Neist

I was born in 1923 on my family's farm in Jericho near Highways NN and E, but of course the roads weren't named back then. I was the youngest of twelve children born to Mike and Agnes (Bazen) Kramer. My Pa raised beef and dairy cows, horses, pigs, and chickens galore. All of us kids pitched in to help on the farm. We had a windmill that powered our well. Our neighbors were the Rockteachers. They had nine kids, so we played lots of baseball when all of us got together! My sister Evelyn eventually married Martin Rockteacher!



I attended Jericho School for grades 1-8. It was a one-room school, and Mrs. Eliza Meredith taught all eight grades. She could be tough when needed, but I liked her. We walked the mile and a half to school every day. We'd walk to the corner and cut through the field to get there. After grade school, I attended Mukwonago High School. There are two of us left from my graduating class of 34. I have many happy memories of my friends from those years!

We attended St. Theresa Church in Eagle. My brothers and sisters and I walked the four miles to our catechism classes every Saturday. My Ma would give us one dime, and we'd stop at Sherman Store on the way home and buy as much penny candy as we could for the long hike back to the farm. On Sunday morning, we'd load up the truck and go to church as a family. I am still an active member of St. Theresa's Church!

I met my husband, Ty Sadenwasser, sometime around 1945. My friend, Mary Sasso, begged me to go to the bowling alley in East Troy with her. I didn't want to go because I had to get up early for work in Milwaukee the next morning, but she persisted, so I went. A young soldier caught her eye, and she said we should go over and meet him. I didn't want to, but she dragged me along. Ty introduced himself to us. He said he'd be leaving on the train the next day at two o'clock. Somehow Mary convinced me to join her to see him off. She even managed to get his address! She wrote to him, and he wrote back asking for my address! I had to write back – he was serving our country in Germany, after all. When he came home for the funeral of his aunt, I introduced him to my parents. My Pa liked him right away, but Ma didn't care for the idea of her "baby" having a serious boyfriend!

*(Continued on page 8)*

SENIOR \$8.00

Baker, Annette
 Bashaw, Sharon
 Bryce, JoAnne
 Chalmers, Paul
 Dahms, Mae Ruth
 Detloff, Arnold
 Fanshaw, Donna
 Fisher (Moore), Dorothy
 Frame (Carter) Roseanne
 Gilbert, JoAnn
 Hawes, Rob
 Houk, Roger & Dana
 Hunt, Susan
 Johnson, James
 McKenzie, Sally
 Semanko, Gay
 Spurrell, Beverly
 Steinke, James & Phyllis
 Steinke, June
 Williams, Vonda
 Zawada, Cynthia & Rick

INDIVIDUAL \$10.00

Allen County Public Library
 Andrus, Gary
 Berg, Viola
 Bokern, Kurt
 Bovee, Scott
 Chase, Alli
 Conley, Barb & Jim
 Chapman, Kathleen
 Chapman, Robert
 Denio, Theresa
 Gier, Fred
 Guldenaar, Jeanne
 Johnson, Roger
 Kalnes, Stephanie
 Kienast, Doris
 Kruz, Todd
 Magnan, Cal
 Marquardt, Mary Ann
 Matters, Karen
 Moots, Peggy
 Nygren, John & Annmarie
 Rolfe, Ruth Anne
 Stevens, Stephanie
 Walbrandt, MaryJo

Family \$15.00

Beitz Nick & Becky
 Berg, Jim & Cindy
 Dexter, Mark & Julie
 Dulde, Ryan (Eagle Dental)
 Enright, Don & Darla
 Erickson, Gordon & Karen
 Fredenberg, Gert & Bill Beck
 Frisch, James & Diane
 Greenberg, Lee & Lynn
 Grotjan, Jim & Michele
 Harthun, Richard & Sally
 Hein, Greg & Marlene
 Jones, Richard & Gretchen
 Josten, Claire
 Jung, Anne Marie & Mark
 Kennedy, Michael & Karen
 Kornmeyer, Douglas & Natalie
 Krestan, Claudette, & William
 Kruse, Don & Barbara
 Ledrowski, Alan & Parris, Scarlett
 Ledrowski, David & Julie
 Loerke, Pete & Cathy
 McCormack, John & Tammy
 McCue, Robert & Janet
 Murk, Martin & Vera
 Olson, Ken, Mal & Jeff
 Peterson, Kathy & Harley
 Radabaugh, Wayne & Janet
 Rosprim, Carolyn & Gerald
 Rupp, Terry
 Sasso, Shari
 Sherman, Tom & Bonnie
 Steinhoff, Steve & Linda
 Thiele, Bill & Jean
 Walters, Robert & Pat
 Winzenried, Robert & Ellie

SUSTAINING \$25.00

Adduci & Lewis
 Angers, Debra & Timothy
 Beitz, Mike & Mary
 Bowey, Jean
 Burstein, Trish & Jerry
 Calkins, (Pierce) Carol
 Chamberlain, Jessica & Arn
 Chapman, Cheryl
 Hanson, Sandy
 Kinusian, Amy
 Koehn, Tim & Shelley
 Mecca, Matt & Ellen

Miller, Robert & Charlotte
 Moeller, Richard & Nada
 Orchard, William
 Payne, Gary & Nancy
 Peavy, Carrie & Art
 Perkins, Gerald & Kay
 Poehnelt, Thomas & Diane
 Potyrykus, Conrad
 Richardson, Jean & Thomas
 Riddle, Richard
 Rudy, Brian & Elaine
 Sievers, Toula
 Sillman, James & Diane
 Thuemling, Tim & Diane
 Tritz, Carol
 Zell, Bill & Judi

SPONSOR \$50.00

Baker, Edward
 Bergmann Richard & Geraldine
 Chapman, Russ & Pat
 Cole, Roger & Valerie
 Day, Rosanne
 Eagle Centre House B & B
 Eagle Lionesses
 Feltes, John & Pamela
 Heare, Vernetta
 Hinnners, Maria & David
 Kwiatkowski, Robert
 Ledrowski, Elaine & Donald
 Murphy, Don & Dottie
 Nowicki, Jeff
 Pasterski, James
 Piala, James & Catherine
 Sierpinski, Donald
 Steinke, Jesse & Vivienne
 Riene Wells & Dean Herriges
 Wilkinson, Larry & Diane

PATRON \$100.00

Fisher, Paul & Sandra
 Fronsee, Jim & Michelle
 Gregg, Roy & Ellen
 Heckel, Jerry & Lori, Heckel
 Tool & Mfg Corp.
 Kaucic, Tim & Kim
 Mann, Julie & John
 Moffatt, Bruce & Patricia
 Muth, Stephan
 Niederer, Edith
 Priatko, Jackie & Gregg
 Wegner, Allen & Martina
 West, Dan & Deb

BENEFACTOR \$200.00 & UP

Day, Tom
Hall, Eloise & Diana

CORPORATE \$500.00

Generac Power Systems Inc.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Bongard, Alice
Delaney, Bea
Hinkley, Harold (Red)
Kau, Dorothy
Kilian, Elmer
Sadenwasser, Bernice

EARLY MEMBER RENEWAL WINNERS:

Gregg & Jackie Priatko
James & Phyllis Steinke
Don Sierpinski
Prizes: Memorial Brick, 1863 Coffee Saloon & Café, MP Taqueria Gift Cards

SPRAGUE FAMILY HISTORY (continued) *By Jesse Steinke*



Figure 3 Romeo's Town land

Generation 2 Romeo Franklin Sprague (1824–1910), lived with Dr. Sprague until he was 26, when he went overland to California. In 1852 he returned, via Panama and New York and bought a farm in East Troy, which he sold in 1857. He then purchased and owned the Eagle Hotel for three years. After which he again decided to try mining, and went as far west as Nebraska, before giving up on his objective point of Pike's Peak. On his return he sold the hotel and farm and bought 250 acres in



Figure 4 Romeo's 1880 land on modern aerial map

Mukwonago. In 1880 he had 350 acres with a horse barn, hog corn house, windmill, etc., that he built. This farm currently is the old Rainbow Springs Golf course and Lakewood Farms Preserve.



Figure 4 Joseph Sprague

In 1849 he married, Miss Rhoda Jane Henry, native of New York State, by whom he had six children—Minnie, Juliette, Josephine, Harriet, Gertrude, and Romeo Franklin.

Joseph Sprague (1825—1896) married Ann Elizabeth Bovee (1829—1875) on March 15 1848. Ann has a grave-stone marker on the Sprague Farm. Ann's sister, Sarah Pittman (Bovee), was married to Thomas Pittman who was one of Eagle's biggest land speculators. Joseph originally owned 160 Acres around Paradise Springs (Figure 2) to the Northwest of town Center that he bought from Edward

Skelton in 1849, and then sold to William Le Fevre in 1858.

The Sprague Deed says Joseph purchased the North East ¼ of Section 26, 160 Acres on October 3, 1855 from William Bovee for \$4000 (\$112,000 in 2018 dollars per the US Government’s inflation rate.) William was Joseph’s wife Ann’s brother. To this day the Sprague and Bovee descendants have been neighbors, 164 years.

It was then broken, and on it were two barns and a log house. Joseph rebuilt and enlarged the barns and replaced the log house in 1860 with a spacious and elegant farmhouse. This farmhouse was still the same until it was remodeled in the 1990s by his Great Grandson. Ann Sprague died Oct. 10, 1875, leaving two sons, Theodore and Ambrose. Joseph then married Mary Sheridan of Mukwonago on the 8th of May, 1878. He was a breeder of high quality, thoroughbred Spanish Merino sheep, keeping between 150 and 250.

Some records state that he bought 200 acres, but the 1859 plat map only shows 160 acres. Not until 1873 does the plat map reflect Joseph’s land being 200 acres. I can’t find details of this transaction. It seems that William and Joseph bought I.P Walker’s lands.

The 1850 census had 814 people and the five biographical sketches that mention a quantity of sheep add up to about 800 sheep with one additional person who just said a flock of sheep. It seems at that time there were more sheep in Eagle than people.

On the 1873 plat map, William Bingham Sprague owned some of Dr. Frederick Augustus’ land after he passed. I haven’t found any further details about him.

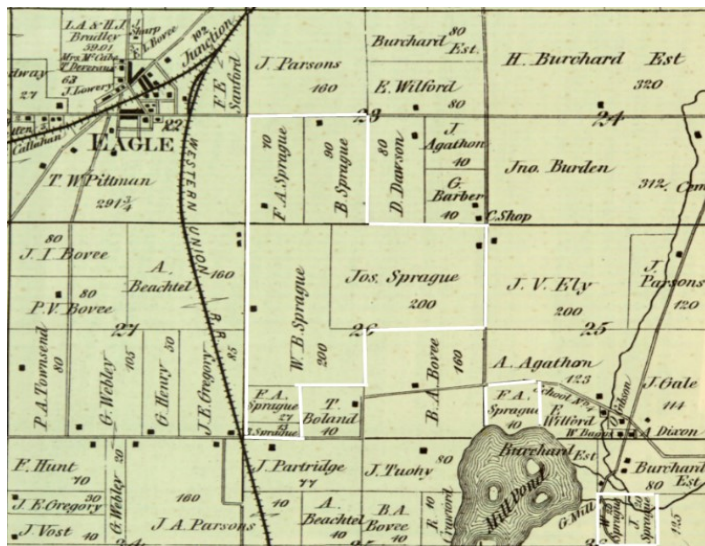


Figure 6 Eagle, 1873 Plat Map

By 1873 the Spragues owned and farmed a large portion of the prairie South East of Eagle. Figure 6

Generation 3 Theodore Joseph Sprague (1848 – 1924) bought five acres from Joseph in 1886 for \$1.00 where he built a house which still stands south of the farmstead, and is currently lived in by his Great- Great Grandson. In 1896 Joseph passed away and Theodore inherited the rest of the land.

Generation 4 In 1924 when Theodore passed away he left ¼ interests of the farm to his four children. Jesse Sprague, Sidney Sprague, Alice Onisch, and Delia Watson. Sidney received the southern



Figure 7 Back Delia, Oran, Sidney, Jesse, Alice. Front Fay and Theodore.

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house and the five acres where Theodore had lived. This is where he had his photography studio where many of the Eagle photos of the early 1900s were developed.

Jesse bought out his brothers and sisters for \$9500 paying it off between 1926 and 1934. (\$142,000 in 2018 dollars)

Generation 5 When Jesse passed in 1971, the farm was left to his wife Mary. In 1973 the small house was given to their son Gerald, with the intention that the daughter June (Steinke) would get the farmhouse when Mary passed away. In 1983 Mary passed away, leaving the house to June and the farm to Gerald and June. Gerald was bought out for \$260,000. He kept three acres on the southeast corner in the woods. The farm was put into a partnership with June, her husband Robert Steinke and children.

Generation 6 Through the years various people of the partnership have been bought out. In 1978, Dave, the youngest of eight, moved into the main farmhouse. In 1987 a portion north of the buildings was bought from the Town of Eagle. I can't find any details of why the town owned the land. In 1992 Gerald's three acres were repurchased making the farm whole again Then Bob and Cindy Steinke purchased the house and the land around it. They remodeled the house, resided the barn, and restored the windmill. The 40 acres South of LO and east of EE were sold to the DNR to buy one of the siblings out. I remember stories of this land being the dry year forage. Because the prairie would often dry out, this marshy land would then provide the forage for the livestock.

John Steinke and family farmed it until 1998. It was then returned to prairie for

15 years within the Conservation Reserve Program but is now being rented out to be farmed again.

Generation 7 A couple of my cousins, my sister and I spent many of our childhood summers baling straw on that land. I spent many winters cutting wood for the fireplace there. I always felt a connection when over there, like my ancestors were looking down on me being proud to carry on the tradition. Granted they were probably saying how easy we have it with those fancy tractors and chainsaws, with the comment of "back in my day" Although I've moved away, I still try to get there as often as possible, cleaning up brush and hunting.

Not only am I proud of the farm, but I'm proud to carry on the family legacy as the 7th Generation of this lineage to serve in the Military. In addition to the early wars my father John served during the Vietnam War, and my Grandfather Robert (June's Husband) served during WWII. The Spragues served in the Military before we were the United States, they fought to create the United States, and they have served to maintain the United States. The wars this lineage didn't serve in was because they didn't have men of the right age, although their brothers and cousins served.

Generation 8 Although the 6th generation still lives in the remodeled farmhouse, there is an 8th generation in Eagle. My cousin lives in Eagle with her child. This makes 177 years that the Sprague family has continuously been in Eagle.

As you can see the Spragues were a significant family in the founding of America and Eagle. The fact that the

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family has continuously been in the town for eight generations, 177 years and continuing is a remarkable feat. It's no wonder why a town road was named after them.

As Paul Harvey used to say. Now you know the rest of the story.

For further information I do genealogy as a hobby and have connected over 70

family names, over 1300 people, to the Spragues who are in or passed through Eagle. The free family trees are on geni.com and familysearch.org. I've also created a Facebook Group "The Descendants of the Pioneers of Eagle WI", connecting descendants and uploading pictures and details. Otherwise, I can be contacted via jessesteinke@gmail.com

AMENDMENT TO THE WAUKESHA COUNTY JURISDICTIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM PLAN-2010. (1995, May). Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

(The Spragues of Malden Massachusetts, 1923)

COREY, D. P. (1899). *History of Malden Massachusetts 1633-1785*. Cambridge: Universtiy Press.

(1880). *The History of Waukesha County*. Chicago: Western Historical Society.

Sprague Farm Abstract of Title. (1926, May 18). Waukesha, Wisconsin: Hemlock and Hemlock.

OBITUARY

Jones, Marie U.

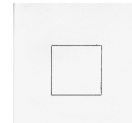
July 4, 1926—Jan. 8, 2020

Marie Jones, 93 of Eagle, died Wed., Jan. 8, 2020 at her home in Eagle, WI. She was born July 4, 1926 in Minnesota, the daughter to the late Ernest and Ellen (Benjamin) Benson. Marie was united in marriage to Donald on July 19, 1952. Together, they owned and operated Diamond Drive-In/JJ's in Eagle, WI. Donald preceded Marie in death in 2008. Marie was a member of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Eagle, WI.

Marie is survived by her three children; Lin (Elie) Gendloff of San Diego, CA, Peter (Kelly Anderson) Jones of Eagle, WI, and Patricia Zinzow of Elkhorn, WI, six grandchildren; Brian (Beth) Reichhoff, Nathan (Natasha) Zinzow, Erica Zinzow, Ryan Zinzow, Steve (Kate) Jones and Daniel Jones and four great-grandchildren with one on the way; River Reichhoff, Harper Zinzow, Ivan Zinzow and Theodore Jones. She was preceded in death by her husband Donald, brother Ernest and sister Mildred.

Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 am on Monday, January 13, 2020 at St. Theresa Catholic Church, 136 W. Waukesha Rd., Eagle, WI, 53119, with Father Dennis Ackeret officiating. Visitation was 10:00 am until service time Monday at Church. Interment followed services at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Eagle, WI. In lieu of flowers, memorials in Marie's name were directed to Oak Ridge Cemetery, 408 Elkhorn Rd. Eagle, WI 53119. Online guest book can be found at www.haaselockwoodfhs.com. Haase-Lockwood & Associates Funeral Homes and Crematory completed arrangements for the Jones Family.

Eagle Historical Society, Inc.
217 Main Street
P.O. Box 454
Eagle, WI 53119-0454



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My sister, Harriet, and I worked in Milwaukee. One day there was a terrible blizzard, so our sister, Isabelle, insisted we stay overnight at her house rather than making our way home to Jericho. The next day, my Pa called and said we needed to come home; Ma was very sick. Ty joined us in a taxi that was only able to make it to Waukesha. We took another cab to Genesee, but then we had to start walking through the storm. Luckily, a county truck offered us a ride, but only as far as North Prairie. From there we walked again, stopping for a breather at the elementary school. We continued on and stopped at the first farm house, where Mrs. West allowed us to warm up for a bit. We finally made it back to Jericho on a tractor that drove us the rest of the way home. My Pa was very happy that Ty had helped us to get home safely. The next day, we left Ma in bed while we went to church in Eagle. When we got back, Ma was gone! Turns out she had gotten up and walked to the neighbor's house for a breath of fresh air. You see, it was a gas leak at home that had made her so sick!

