



**Manitowoc
County
Historical
Society**

PUBLIC LIBRARY
MANITOWOC, WIS.



NEWSLETTER

QUARTERLY MEETING

The date: Wednesday May 27, 1981.

The time: 6:30 P.M.

The place: Weber's, Kellnersville.
This will be our annual banquet — the menu: chicken and barbecued ribs and a lot of goodies. The price: \$5.00.

The Program: Entertainment by the Reedsville High School Glee Club.

The Speaker: Marty Perkins, Old World Wisconsin's exhibit at Eagle, an illustrated lecture.

Please mail reservation cards to Evelyn Kliment, 1514 Menasha Ave., Manitowoc, WI 54220 by May 23. If you must cancel, call Evelyn Kliment at 682-3756 by May 26.

COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY MAY 24, Official opening, Pine Crest Historical Village.

JUNE 1, Village open. 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. daily, except Sunday.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, Open House, 1:30 until 4:30 P.M.

Open house, Pine Crest Village, 2nd and 4th Sundays, June, July and August. Special programs at each.

AUGUST 1-2, Re-enactment of Civil War, Expo Grounds.

SATURDAY AUGUST 15, Northeastern Wisconsin Regional Convention, Kewaunee.

THURSDAY SEPT. 24, Quarterly meeting.

TUESDAY NOV. 24, Annual meeting.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1981**

President — Richard Stolz; Vice Presidents — Donald Groll, Pine Crest Village; Lester Kornely, Treasurer; Evelyn Kliment, Plans and Programs; Edward Ehlert, Secretary; Carl Laveck; Mrs. Ruth Beyer; John Breitung; Mrs. Saul Margolis.

The Board of Directors meet the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Rahr-West Museum. Members are always welcome to attend and participate in the discussions.

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**HISTORY OF TISCH MILLS
1854 — 1972**

MAY 26 1981

by Clarence Spevachek

Up to the year of 1850 Tisch Mills was almost completely a wilderness area. There were only paths along the East Twin River, then known as "the Mishicot." These paths were traveled by Indians on their way to the Indian village about one and one half miles to the north of what is now Tisch Mills.

There were some French Canadian and Norwegian families who inhabited the lakeshore area and up the river as far as Mishicot. There were also some settlers of the same nationality at Shoto and Francis Creek. A Bohemian family group, John, Anton, Joseph and Emmanuel Chloupek immigrated to this country in the early 1840's and settled in Kossuth, now known as Francis Creek, where they built a sawmill and brewery. When many of their Bohemian friends arrived, they would settle in Kossuth and work for the Chloupek's until they found some land which they could purchase and on which to settle. The Chloupek's were very hospitable and helped in every way that they could to resolve the problems that might be involved in relocating in an area that was almost completely a wilderness. Being able to purchase a tract of land was only one of the first problems involved in resettling in a strange land.

The Stangel family came to this country in 1853. When the set foot on American soil, it was at the port of Baltimore. From there they went by rail to Milwaukee, and from there with thirteen other families they sailed on a two-masted sailboat to Manitowoc. Some of the other families who came with them were the Dworaks, Konops and Sklenars. Like the others, they worked for the Chloupeks until they could purchase land for themselves.

In 1854, Joseph Stangel, the youngest son, then nineteen-years-old, walked from Francis Creek to Mishicot, then upon the advice of others, followed the East Twin River to Tisch Mills. That night he slept under a tree. The present owner of that land is

Jo Rehak. The tree was very close to where the barn is located on the Rahak farm. The original owner of the Rehak farm was Wenzel Stangel who bought the land from the U.S. government, going to the U.S. land office at Menasha to make the deal.

When Joseph Stangel awoke the next morning, he saw an Indian walking toward him. The Indian used sign language to get him to follow him to a log cabin where a white man lived. This settler was Wenzel Sinkula. The cabin was across from Mike Pivonka's hall, which was used by the early settlers as their first church. They gathered there every Sunday to pray and sing hymns.

After looking over the land in the area where the Sinkula's had settled, Joseph Stangel returned to Kossuth to advise his father and brothers Wencil and John to settle in this territory. A year later, (in 1855) he traveled on foot to the government land office at Menasha where he obtained a tract of land, estimated at about one and one half sections, the price per acre being \$3.00. This land was divided by the three sons, Wencil, John and Joseph. The southeast corner of Tisch Mills is now on some of this land. They immediately began cutting down trees, and using the logs for buildings to live in and as barns to house horses, a few cows, the feed supplies, etc.

About the year 1867, Charles Tisch and his family came to settle in this community. He built a sawmill, and later a gristmill. As clearing land and logging was a principal industry then, a pier was built at Two Creeks by Pfister and Vogel Leather Company. Later a tannery was also built. Two Creeks was a most important port on Lake Michigan at that time. Boats made regular trips to this harbor and port to take tanned leather, bark, shingles, hay and lumber to Milwaukee, and return with cargoes of freight and mail. One of the very good sources of revenue for the settlers was hemlock bark which was hauled on

wagons and sleds to the tannery. Two Creeks, incidentally, was a flourishing village of several hundred people at that time.

The gristmill which Charles Tisch had built was of great importance to the settlers. They came with their wheat to have it ground into flour at his mill. The mills had the name of "Carlton Mills," but in 1879 Charles Tisch rechristened his new mills, "Tisch Mills" the name by which this community has been known ever since.

In 1895 the East Twin River overflowed its banks and destroyed the sawmill. It was never rebuilt, since most of the logging had been completed, the area having become a flourishing farming community by that time, Charles Tisch continued in the flour and feedmill activities for some time, but logging was the industry in which he had the greater interest. Thus he sold his gristmill to Charles Novotny and W. Seyk and moved to Wausau. Later, when logging became a principal industry of people who lived west of the Rocky Mountains in the state of Washington, he moved there, settling in the city of Tacoma. Charles Novotny disposed of his interest at Tisch Mills to W. Seyk, who in 1903 sold the property to Edward Schleis and Joseph Konop. Thus the firm having the name of Schleis and Konop Milling Company was formed. The building was completely destroyed in 1907, but was later rebuilt, and still can be seen today. In 1945 the business was sold to Josef Kohnle and at this time the firm name is the Kohnle Milling Co.

In the early '80's a brewery was erected east of the gristmill. It was known as the Langenkamp Bros. Brewing Co., but in 1900 the village experienced the second conflagration, in which the brewery was completely destroyed by fire. It was never rebuilt.

The first retail mercantile establishment in the village was owned by Mr. Sternard who sold his interests to Adolph Polachek, who in 1884 disposed of the property to F. W. Stangel and Charles Marchelet. Mr. Marchelet soon after disposed of his interest in the company to F. W. Stangel who then built a larger store and conducted the mercantile and farm machinery business for forty-five years up to the time of his death in 1924. His two sons, Edward and Joseph, then continued in the business until 1954 when they sold the store to George Krupka. He in turn sold the business to Harold Janda in 1960. The store was remodeled by Mr. Janda and he continued in operating the establishment until 1966 when Joseph Kolarik and sons took over and are conducting this business up to the time of this writing.

The County Line House, was east of the store. It was one of the first

structures erected by the first pioneer, Joseph Stangel, on his land. The County Line House was a dance hall and refreshment parlor. It also was the location of the first post office. Later Mr. Stangel sold all of his holdings in the village proper to Charles Marchelet, who in turn sold the property to Henry Pentzcm. The last owner was Joseph Lodel. In 1920 he disposed of the site to the Tisch Mills State Bank. The Tisch Mills State Bank had been incorporated in 1917. It began doing business in a corner of the building known as Forst's Hotel. The bank used these quarters until 1921 when a modern structure was built on the site where the County Line House had been located.

A POST OFFICE, TELEPHONE OFFICE AND FIRE STATION ARE BUILT

In the pioneer days the only post office in this part of the county was at Two Creeks. The post office was known as "Nero." The mail was brought in by boat, then once a week it was taken to the County Line House by a Mr. Parma, on horseback. The inhabitants in the area would then go to the post office to get their mail. The post office was transferred to the Stangel store in 1884. F. W. Stangel was named the postmaster and held this position for forty years, up to the time of his death in 1924. Anton Olson then succeeded him. The Post Office is in the bank building at the present time.

The first telephone to be installed in Tisch Mills was in the Stangel and Marshalet store. It was installed by the Wisconsin Telephone Company in 1887. The people around Tisch Mills then realized that telephone lines could be built which would make telephone communication possible in their own homes. With the assistance of the Wisconsin Telephone Company and Dr. DeNeveau, Anton Olson and Anton Holly the County Line Telephone Company was organized and incorporated on February 27, 1910. The cost of forming this company was \$10,000. The first switchboard was at the Stangel store. In 1921 the switchboard office was moved to the Anton Olson home, and later to the Orin Olson home. The County Line Telephone Company sold the property to the Stockbridge-Sherwood Company in 1967 and has operated it since.

The Tisch Mills Fire Department was organized in 1906. Hydrants were set up in various places in the village. The first house was a shed erected east of Forst's Hall. The water tower was across the street. In 1920 a fire house was built at the east bridge near the mill. In 1950 the present Fire Station was built, which is located north of Forst's Hall.

OTHER BUSINESS PLACES

Other business places of interest in the early days was a shop where tin smithing was done by a person known as Joe Horcky. The first cobbler was Albert Sweykar who also made boots and shoes. Wencil Sykora established a harness shop in 1880 and became very successful in this enterprize. After his death his son, Edward, took over. (Editor's note: All of the equipment, tools, etc. in the Sykora Harness and the Repair Shop are now a part of the Pine Crest Historical Village, located on Highway JJ, five miles to the west of Manitowoc.)

The first blacksmith shop was built by George Sladky who operated it for many years. In 1917 Wencil Ciha, Sr., also had a blacksmith shop at Tisch Mills for some time. Wencil Beranek, was a wagon maker in the blacksmith shop. Two meat markets were operated in the 1900's by Charles Lodel and Anton Holly. Garages were operated by Frank Riha and Fabian Auto Co.,

The first cheese factory in operation was located on the Wenzel Dolezal farm. Several years later F. W. Stangel built a cheese factory west of the store. This factory was operated for thirty years. It was purchased by Pauly and Pauly Cheese Company of Manitowoc around 1930. A Dairy Farmer's Cheese Factory was organized in 1913 and the new building was built in 1917.

THE CHURCH

The church was always an important part of the community in Bohemia. It was also that in the new world. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary church was the name of the church in Tisch Mills ever since 1858. The church built in 1858 was enlarged and remodeled in 1927 and in 1969 was renovated, redecorated to meet current needs. The parish house was built in 1918 and the parish hall in 1964.

DOCTORS WHO PRACTICED IN TISCH MILLS

Among the first physicians to practice in Tisch Mills were Drs. Flusher, Hoyer, Chloupek, Weber and DeNeveau. Those were the days when house calls were made and the horse and buggy was the common means of travel. In winter, the horse and cutter became the means of getting about, with many of the calls made at night. Hospitals were long distances away, and patients were transferred to hospitals only in instances of extreme emergency.

UNDERTAKERS

Frank Shimel was the undertaker and director of funerals until 1918 when Joe T. Konop succeeded him in the business. He was the funeral director until the time of his death in 1931 at which time this business was taken over by his son, Victor.

THE FAMOUS "SCHAUER'S BRASS BAND"

No account about Tisch Mills would be complete without reference to the famous Schauer's Brass Band. This band was organized in 1856 and had ten members. It was the first Bohemian band in this area, furnishing music for all occasions, church festivals, weddings, dances, etc. When some of the members of the original band died, they were replaced by others. Later the name of the band was changed to the Tisch Mills Brass Band.

NORMAN GUSTAVESON — AN ILLUSTRIOUS PIONEER

By Marcie Baer

Norman Gustaveson always considered his grandfather someone special but how much he didn't realize until one day when the late Judge Emil Baensch called him into his office to talk about him.

"Judge Baensch told me how much he admired my grandfather — that he always walked with such authority," Gustaveson said.

One day the judge showed him some records that WPA workers discovered at the courthouse which included orders by Capt. Gustaveson for shot to be made at towers in southwestern Wisconsin for his regiment.

According to Gustaveson, the melted lead was dropped from high towers. In falling it formed a sphere or round ball and as it hit the water it was shaped and cooled.

Falge's History also includes a wealth of information on the late Capt. Charles Gustaveson (sometimes spelled Gustavsen). "Agriculture began to assume dominant proportions with the large influx of German and Norwegian immigrants in the later forties and early fifties. The Norwegians located in the western and northwestern parts of the town (then Manitowoc Rapids). Among these Captain C. Gustavsen, a Swede, was a prominent figure. He had arrived a few years before in the country and had served as a soldier in the Mexican War. At the outbreak in '61 he was appointed captain of Co. F., 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry which was mostly composed of Scandinavians and took part in many of the important battles of the war.

Again in Falge's History. "1861, the third company, consisting wholly of Norwegians, commanded by Capt. Chas. Gustavsen of the Rapids gathered at Madison, was mustered in Feb. 14, 1862. This was Company F, 15th Regt. Engaged at Stone River and the battles before Atlanta and in Tennessee."

The first draft began in October 1863 and prior to that the county had sent 1099 volunteers. According to

Tisch Mills was always a thriving and flourishing village. The settlement always provided plenty of opportunity for those with a thirst to hoist a few. Earlier it was mentioned that there was a brewery in Tisch Mills. It would be unthinkable that there would be a brewery and then no place where the product of the brewery was dispensed. In the early years W. R. Forst operated a hotel and saloon. Joseph Lodel was the proprietor of another, Frank Urbanek operated a third saloon, and Frank Pivonka the fourth. All did good business and these business have flourished until this day.

Gustaveson, it also fell to his grandfather to gather up the men who didn't report for the draft — not an easy job by any means. One man reportedly hid under an iron kettle; another hid under his wife's sick bed and was discovered when the captain spied his foot sticking out.

Captain Gustaveson was wounded at Stone River and captured and imprisoned at Chickamauga; mustered out Jan. 14, 1865, commissioned major Feb. 24, 1865 and with rank from Feb. 21, 1865.

The tale, however, which grandson, Norman Gustaveson most enjoys telling about is his grandfather's escape from prison. The men waited until dark, and after bed check and then used a spoon to dig under the stockade. They placed the dirt in a sock to carry it to the river which ran through the grounds so that all traces of their activities floated away. They came close to completing the tunnel when a cow stepped through the hole outside the wall. This meant more months of digging just up to the turf so all they had to do was cut through when it came time to leave.

"As far as I was told, my grandfather and another man escaped," Gustaveson said. The blacks helped them by giving them food and powdered red pepper which they sprinkled in their footsteps to throw off the hounds which came after them when they were discovered missing.

After he was mustered out, Captain Gustaveson returned to Manitowoc County. Gustaveson recalls his grandfather had a hundred acre farm just across the road from Hillside School which he attended as a boy.

The senior Gustaveson was also a charter member of the Horace M. Walker Post 18 Grand Army of the Republic organized April 28, 1881. At one time membership numbered 125 but by 1910 only a few remained. Capt. Gustaveson died April 5, 1894.

He also served as a County Board member from Manitowoc Rapids 1886 to 1892. When the Manitowoc and Kiel

Plank Road and Turnpike Co. incorporated March 1870, Charles Gustaveson was one of the members. The purpose was to build a plank, gravel or plank and gravel road from the west line of the City of Manitowoc to the Village of Kiel.

According to Norman Gustaveson, his grandfather was born in Sweden, belonged to the Royal Guards and had a manorhouse. He married a Norwegian serving girl much to his family's disapproval and so he decided to take his young bride and head for America.

"My dad (Gustave) died in 1893 — he was only 35 and had cancer," Gustaveson said. In the old country it wasn't uncommon to have two sons with the same name. For instance, there could be little Ole and big Ole, or Ole in the Valley and Ole on the Hill. If this arrangement would have continued, "I could have been named after the manorhouse where my grandfather lived," Gustaveson said.

He told about an old man, who a couple years ago still lived alone on an island at International Falls, Minn. Gustaveson wrote to him — at the time he was 92 — "and got the most interesting typewritten letter from him." He is related through his grandmother and did, in fact, send him the names of all his grandmother's brothers and sisters. "I believe there were 17," he said. "He was going to move off the island soon though since it was becoming difficult to get supplies and at his age, living alone. At that time he told me had a sister in California who was 97."

Gustaveson, who is 89, and his wife, Mabel, 88, live on a farm just a short distance from his grandfather's farm. He admits to having been a rather mischievous boy.

"We all had nicknames," he recalled. "Mine was Hons and another fella had the name Fritz, you know, like Hons and Fritz in the comic strips. One used to chew tobacco and we used to call him Cud."

There were 86 children in the one room school house and he remembers the first teacher, Dave Fitzgerald. "Heck of a nice guy," Gustaveson said. "My sister used to take me along to school when I was a little kid because I was full of the dickens." He would crawl under the seats and tease the kids and the teacher threatened to throw him in the stove. "I knew he wouldn't do it though so I just laughed and so did the kids and this was what I wanted."

He recalled there were homemade benches along the wall and the children sat two to the regular benches. The teacher had a big desk in front with a chalk box under it. When Gustaveson got into too much mischief, the teacher called him up and made him sit under his desk. "I used to

draw faces on the toes of his shoes. When I got done he'd look down and say, 'well you did a pretty good job that time'".

The Gustavesons farmed most of their life and are now retired. They still keep busy, especially with a large raspberry patch. Mabel Gustaveson also helps to make quilts for her mission circle at Faith Lutheran Church, Valders, where both are members. This past December she helped wash dishes while the ladies of the church made Lefse. Mabel is also

known to her neighbors as "the angel of JJ" because she's always making something for someone or helping someone in need."

According to relatives, they are one of the most active couples for their age they know. They have four children — Mrs. Howard (Olive) Karstaedt, who purchased the home farm; Muriel Doten, Maine; Jack, Washington; and Laverne Mathison, California.

My appreciative thanks go to these two beautiful and gracious people for a most interesting interview.

Several Indian tribes inhabited early Manitowoc County. Who were they? What was their culture like? What artifacts did they leave behind? If we hope to interpret Manitowoc County history, we need information, photographs and artifacts relating to these tribes.

Many artifacts in our collection need to be cleaned. Some pieces need to be repaired. Interpretive labels must be written. Exhibits have to be researched, designed and built. Can you help?

If you have artifacts to donate or are willing to work on the above projects, please contact Mildred Randall — 682-9280 or Dan Juchniewich — 682-7397 — Thank you.

MANITOWOC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

WILL YOU SHARE YOUR MEMORIES?

The Manitowoc County Historical Society is asking you to share and loan your precious wedding clothes and/or accessories with the visitors at Pine Crest Village this 1981 season. The Niles Church will be the site for this display. The display of the wedding dresses last year really created much interest. The name of the persons wearing the clothes, wedding date, and the exhibitor attached, also would be appreciated, if available. We assure you all wedding dresses, bridesmaids, flower girl's dresses and men's attire will be taken care of, returned if desired, or may be donated to our

permanent collection. We are limited (date wise) to exhibit only to clothing previous to 1940. If you can help us — please call or write to Evelyn Kliment, 1514 Menasha Ave., Manitowoc, WI 54220, phone 682-3756, Plans and Program Chairman. Your help is greatly appreciated.

??CAN YOU HELP??

Pine Crest Village plans to add an old-time Fire House and Jail. Many artifacts are needed to bring them to life. Hats, badges, uniforms, equipment and other related items from Manitowoc County Fire Departments and Police Departments would be appreciated. Photographs and written records are also needed.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

When there is a change of address, please be sure to notify Edw. Ehlert, 1115 N. 18th St., Manitowoc, at once. Newsletters and monographs are not delivered if there is an incorrect mailing address. The Society thus loses not only the amount paid for postage, but also the cost of the publications. If it is then necessary to mail the publications a second time, regular postage rates then must be paid. Failure to report a change of address could cost the Society all the way from a dollar to several dollars. May we have your cooperation in keeping our mailing addresses up to date and correct?

MANITOWOC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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