

Mineral Point HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dedicated to Preserving the Unique History of Mineral Point

Giving Glad Tidings to Mineral Point: The Carrier Boys' Annual Address

by Joel Gosse

Every New Year from 1848 through 1868, readers of the *Wisconsin Tribune* and later the *Mineral Point Weekly Tribune* were greeted by an annual address of a poetic nature, ascribed to the 'Carrier Boys' of the newspaper. These addresses were printed as early as the first edition of January, or sometimes later in the same month. The presentation on the page varied from just a regular column with bold heading to more ornate titles and centering on the page, the most ornate being the 1865 address pictured.

At first, a quick visual inspection will note the addresses were composed in verse, almost uniformly done in couplets. However, the style and form did vary. Some addresses were simple poems, but some years did produce a narrative poem with topic titles, or a variation of a scripted play. While the style might have varied, the poems openly mocked their aesthetic aims, even making references to their addresses as doggerel. After reading all of them in succession, it is safe to say that the irreverential and self-deprecating humor of these works is successfully conveyed; however, these addresses do continue to hold interest by offering insight into a bygone era and place.

While almost all of the addresses followed a similar thematic structure, the 1849 address appears to be not only the shortest address, but also the most singular in style in that it is a parody of Goethe's *Tragedy of Faust Part One*. The brief address contains parenthetical stage directions in the manner a play would have. The address ends abruptly by the devil reminding the author it is dinnertime. An even shorter epilogue in prose follows where it is promised the Carrier Boys will produce an address for the year at some point.

The remainder of the addresses begin with a brief salutation to the readers. The verses proceed to a description of the transition from the old, prior year to the new year. A catalog follows of prior events and notable persons. The poem usually ends with an encomium to the readers from the carrier boys changing into a whimsical pitch for an annual subscription to the newspaper; the price being fairly uniform throughout the addresses at a quarter per year. Possibly due to change of pace, this pitch sometimes began after the salutation and opened the poem, instead.

Reading the poems recount the events of the prior year gives one a fair view of large historical events. The Gold Rush in California is mentioned in a few different addresses. The turbulent events leading up to the American Civil War are noted with tensions between the states. The *Tribune* maintains a pro-Union and anti-slavery stance in the addresses, mentioning the existence of local 'Copperhead' periodicals; 'Copperhead' being a moniker for a person who felt the slavery situation should be allowed to exist in its then current form.

The first address from 1848 even champions the founding of Liberia as an example for the USA. However, it is notable that a few of the addresses do use racial slurs when discussing the plight of US slavery. The addresses during the war devote significant amount of verse to the course of the war, and also after the war, recounting the problems developing in the early days of the Reconstruction Era.

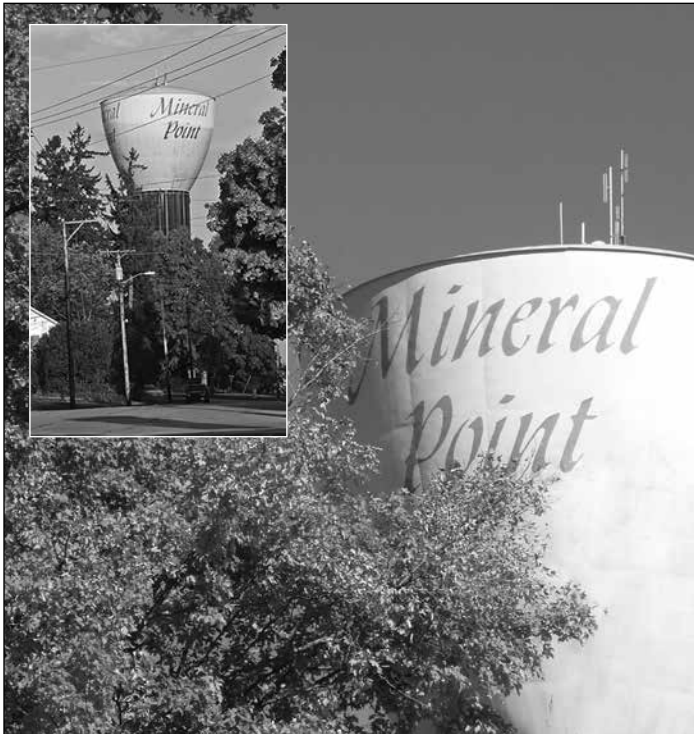
While most addresses give brief details of world events, the feats and American Tour of the Hungarian nationalist Lajos Kossuth are mentioned and described in greater detail.



continued on page 6...

You Don't Miss Your Water...

By Nancy Pfothenauer



In 1985, 155 Mineral Point residents voted for the lettering to go on the new water tower. The winning typestyle came from a turn of the century example and resembles calligraphy. In 1986 the tower, which has a 400,000 gallon steel tank, an overall height of 127 feet, and a tank diameter of 70 feet, was chosen "Steel Tank of the Year" in the elevated category by the Steel Plate Fabricators association.



The 1916 and the 1980s water towers shared Water Tower Park for a brief time, while the latter was under construction. Photo courtesy of the Mineral Point Library Archives.

Mineral Point's wineglass-shaped water tower was built in the mid-1980s, after ten years of discussion about its design. The need for a new tank with a larger capacity was more or less universally accepted, but what the new tank would look like was the cause of some controversy. The push for a unique form was led by Harry Nohr, former postmaster and artist in wood. On a trip to Europe, Mr. Nohr noted that each community had a water tower that was different in some way and that some included observation decks and restaurants and he felt strongly that Mineral Point's reputation as an artists' town and a tourist destination would be best served with such a tower.

At one point, the dreams included an enclosed observation deck at the top of the tower and a 100-seat revolving restaurant. The additional cost of the structure was to be partially offset by income from the restaurant and an admission charge to the elevator which would carry sightseers to the observation deck. Reality intervened, of course, especially when it was discovered that the restaurant would make the project ineligible for municipal bonds and that a majority of the populace was disinclined to have their water bill increased by the amount needed to make up the difference in the cost of the project.

The unique design concept did win approval, however, and in September, 1986, the Steel Plate Fabricators honored the City of Mineral Point for its new elevated water tank which was selected "Steel Tank of the Year" in the elevated category.

The 1980s tank replaced a more conventional steel tank which was built in 1916. The *Iowa County Democrat* of August 17, 1916 said "Work is now under way which will, when completed, give Mineral Point a thoroughly reconstructed and greatly improved water works system. In fact, a first class water system. There will be a well, or wells, furnishing an abundant supply of pure, wholesome water; and there will be a new reservoir at the pumping station, and at the first ward park there will be a new steel tank of greater capacity and at a greater elevation than the present tank."

The 1916 tank itself replaced the original water tower which was the beginning of the municipal waterworks system in 1897.

As early as 1892 the local paper said "Mineral Point's great public needs – water works and an opera house. Every effort should be put forth to secure the water works as soon as possible. Two more years of boom will take care of the opera house question all right."

1892

"Mineral Point's great public needs – water works and an opera house."

It wasn't until the disastrous fire of 1897 that destroyed a half dozen commercial buildings in the 100 block of High street, that the citizens decided something needed to be done. The *Mineral Point Tribune* of May 20, 1897 reported that Mr. Penney, a representative of the Chicago Pneumatic Waterworks Co. addressed a meeting of the Common Council. He estimated that a complete and effective system of waterworks that included piping, horizontal reservoirs with pressure from compressed air, and water supplied from wells in the vicinity of the depot, could be put in for \$40,000.

An alternative proposal called for a fourteen-man fire engine that could throw a 5/8 inch stream 125 feet from the nozzle. It would take water from cisterns to be put in at different points along High street. This plan called for a large volunteer fire company, of not less than 80 active men; 60 men to man the engine pump, divided into reliefs of 20 each, reliefs to work two minutes each and rest four minutes and an additional 20 men to handle hose and for other service.

The municipal water system apparently won out as a call for bids for constructing a system of water works was put out by Mayor Guy P. Cobb, early in 1898. By June 16 of that year, the *Mineral Point Tribune* said "Excavation for the waterworks reservoir is progressing vigorously and satisfactorily." On July 7 of the *Tribune* reported "One day last week, Mrs. Edwin Prideaux accomplished the difficult feat of climbing a common ladder fifty feet, to the top of the new waterworks tower, and down again without assistance. She assures us that the fine view of the surrounding country well repaid for the climbing."

The original plan for the waterworks called for service to a limited area centered around High street. Before it was completed, a petition was presented to the city council to extend service to homes along Maiden and Front streets from Ridge to Iowa streets.

When the original tower was replaced by the steel tank in 1916, service was again extended to include the area from Second street to Seventh street, between Wisconsin and State. ●



The original water tower was built of brick and wood and served the community from 1898 until 1916. Before this, water was supplied to home and business by private wells in the backyard, cisterns and rain barrels, and the hand-pumps at Jerusalem Spring on Fountain street and Federal Spring on Shake Rag street.



The City did not have the only water tower in town. The railroad had a large one on Commerce street, in what is now the parking lot just south of Brewery Creek Inn and Brewpub.

Stories from the Old City Cemetery

By Nancy Pfotenhauer

Restoration work on the Old City Cemetery in Mineral Point has brought to light more than long neglected tombstones; stories about the people represented by those stones are also being re-discovered. One such story is of Rev. John Hollow and his wife.

According to the "History of Iowa County, Wisconsin," 'In 1842, a man by the name of John Hollow came to Mineral Point from England. He was what would be termed a dissenter from the established church, and something of an enthusiast as well. After his arrival, he began holding services here and there among those who sympathized with his views, and finally, about 1845, succeeded, by dint of hard work and in enlisting a good many in his favor, in getting together sufficient means to build a church; the building was used for a school also during a great part of the time. The organization that worshiped here for the next few years were known as the Hollowites.'

'Eventually the interest died out, and with it the society. About 1849, it was taken by the Primitive Methodist or seceders from the Methodist Episcopal Church here with whom were identified the Hollowites.'

Rev. Hollow was well known by his Methodist colleagues and in the *Wesleyan Methodist Association Magazine* for 1849, the year after his death, one of them wrote a long tribute for him, which is of interest to us not only for the light it sheds upon one of our early settlers, but also for the snapshot it provides of life for the Cornish miners before they emigrated from Cornwall to what is now Southwestern Wisconsin.

Some excerpts from this tribute follow:

“Mr. John Hollow was born in the western part of the county of Cornwall, and lived in the town of Marazion. In this place he laboured deligently(sic) in the cause of his master as a local preacher and leader, in the Wesleyan Conference body: obtaining a livelihood by keeping a school and a small shop. Here his worldly prospects were obscured; he failed in business, gave up all he was possessed of to his creditors, and having obtained a situation in Redruth, went there to reside. This circumstance had a powerful influence upon his mind. He is said to have been unable to eat any food for days, and to have shut himself up to pray to God in his distress.”

“...in the mining districts of the county, a very bad system of credit has been introduced, rendered necessary, in part, by circumstances. The miners are, to a great extent, adventurers themselves; receiving payment, for their labour underground, at so much per fathom for working the ground, the price for which is fixed according to its appearance, and which sometimes alters very much against them, bringing them in debt to the mine instead of having money to receive at the end of the month; or the price is fixed at public survey, when he who offers to do it at the lowest rate, has the “bargain.” At other times, they work on “tribute”, as it is termed, receiving a percentage on the amount of money realized by the ore they raise. Sometimes their receipts for labour are very trifling, but, at other times, very great wages are obtained. All over the country are small shopkeepers who are in the habit of supplying the men month after month, with goods on credit, for which many of them, though



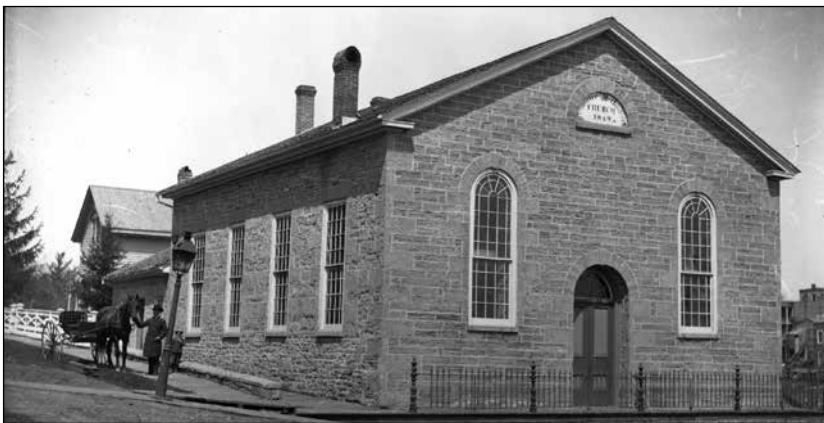
really honest, are never able to pay. A “run of poor speed,” as they call it, for months, causes them to be very much involved, and, it may be, for months and years after, a bare sufficiency of food can only be obtained from their wages, without anything being left to liquidate the debt. An extravagant course of living is also, in many cases, induced by their being able to obtain goods without money.”

“From his pecuniary embarrassment our brother Hollow was never able to recover. He and his family fared hard, and avoided all needless expenditure; but his difficulties seemed to increase at every step. After some little time, a vacancy occurred, in a School in Redruth, by the death of a friend, and he entered into this sphere of school labour. Here again his prospects were blighted. Whilst connected with the Wesleyan Conference Society, things went on smoothly; but when, in agreement with its convictions of duty, he seceded from them and assisted in the formation of the Wesleyan Association, his school was considerably injured, and eventually failed to furnish sufficient money for the maintenance of himself and family. It should be noticed, also, that his becoming a ‘Teetotaller,’ and publicly advocating the cause, tended to lessen his supporters and former friends.

“The kindness, however, of other friends in these seasons of distress, was very great, and he was enabled to fulfill a wish he entertained, and... in the spring of 1842, our Brother Hollow, with his family, emigrated to the United States. He embarked at Penzance in a vessel that went to Wales, to take in part of her cargo, where he was detained longer than was expected. They had a very rough and much longer passage than usual, entailing upon them great suffering; having, I believe, scarcely any food for the last few days; the captain having put to sea with a very limited stock of provisions.”

Rev. Hollow's story ends less than 6 years later, when he died. His obituary in the *Wisconsin Tribune* says, in part: “Died, on the 26th inst., Sunday, March 1848, Rev. John Hollow, pastor of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in this village. The deceased was one of the founders of the denomination of Association Methodists in Cornwall, England. He came to the country about six years ago, and soon after organized a Society of this order in this place.” This Society afterwards connected itself with the Wesleyan Methodist Church. (This Church originated in a secession from the Methodist Episcopal Church. The causes of the secession were, objections to the power exercised by the Bishops, the allowing slaveholders to be members of the Church, and controversy respecting Teetotalism.)

Rev. Hollow's wife, Honor (sometimes spelled Honnor), lived another 21 years. Her obituary, however, was much more succinct than her husband's. The *Mineral Point Tribune* of Aug. 7, 1867 says, simply, “Died. Hollow. At Dodgeville, August 2d, 1867, Mrs. Honnor Hollow, aged seventy-eight years.” ●



When the Primitive Methodists seceded from the Methodist Episcopal church in 1849, they took over a church built by the Hollowites on the corner of Maiden and South Chestnut streets; the building pictured either replaced that structure or modified it.

List of Letters

Remaining in the Post Office at Mineral Point on the 31st day of December, 1848.

Jacob Andrick,	Willis Lane,
Wm. Arthur,	Wm. Love,
Emanuel Allen,	Miss Maria Matthews,
Juliet Battice,	Calvin Mathews,
Mrs. Syntha Burton,	Jacob Munch,
Wm. H. Banks, 2	Joseph Moore, 2
Eli Farnes,	L. McGunn,
D. M. Bate,	Cha's McCracken,
Miss Jane Brown,	James Murrish,
Ole T. Elakkstad,	E. Morris,
Edman S. Barnes,	Dan'l. McMullen,
Wm. B. Evans,	John McKinney
Richard C. Burnett,	Joseph Mitchell
Cyprus Burley,	William Marshall,
J. S. Chambers, 2	James Martin,
John Carrow,	James Nixon,
Thomas Canon, 3	Alex. Osborn,
Curtis Carlton,	John Pascoe,
Thomas Collinson,	Wm. Parkinson, Sr. 2
Duncan Campbell,	Wm. Painter,
Jas. or Russel Camby,	James Parkins, 2
Henry Cumer,	David Paul, 2
Henry Curry,	John Poges,
Michael Coyne,	Wm. Pollard,
Rev. K. R. Davis, 2	Peter Parkerson,
Penit Davis,	Joseph Petty,
John J. Dungen,	John Row,
Stewart Dixon, 2	Thos G. Robinson,
John Daney,	Geo. W. Roberts,
Dr. A. B. Elliott,	Hugh Rutherford,
James Evans,	D. Exbert Rogers,
Wm. Estertine,	John Rowe,
A. D. Field,	Wm. Richards, 3
Thos. D. Foulkes,	Thos. Reid,
Miss Catharine Foulkes,	John Roach,
Matthias Figy,	John Rigley,
Samuel A. Fish,	Jer. or Pat. Sullivan,
S. S. Fellows,	Lewis P. Smith,
David P. Frame,	Miss Sarah Shannon,
Thomas Guley,	Samuel F. Smith,
Nils Goulekson,	Oswald Spech,
Moses Vaile,	James Schemerhorn
J. Thaddeus Griffeth,	Garet Seiben,
Joseph Graves,	Frances B. Stone,
William Hammon,	Thomas Shockley,
Mr. Hendra,	Smith & Meason,
Dr. R. S. Hayes,	John V. Snydam,
Wren Hopkins,	C. T. Seward.
Matthew Houghy,	Alexander Shannon,
Alford Hurvey,	Jane C. Tereiel,
John Henesey,	James Thompson,
John Hollow,	A. P. Thompson, 2
Richard Hulse,	John Toole
John Journey,	John Thomas,
Diwitt W. Judson,	Henry Trudin,
Joseph Kall,	Geo. C. White,
Knute Knudson,	John Waterman,
Ja's. H. Knowlton,	Joseph Washburn
James Keenan,	Wm. White,
Anton Keller,	Stephen Webster, Jr.
Henry Kammer,	D. Warren, 3
Hugh Kana,	Miss Catherine Welsh
John Lemessurier,	John Warren,
R. Lincher,	Isick Winne
John Light,	James Welsh,
15	H. PLOWMAN, P. M.

Just a friendly reminder to all applicable Pointers of Old – please pick up your mail!

From the Executive Director

Ainsley Anderson

Happy Holidays! Mineral Point is such a special place this time of the year – the garland on the buildings, the new wreaths in downtown, the lights at night – I feel very fortunate to spend my holidays in such a beautiful location. Imagine what Mineral Point would look like without all of the care and dedication of those who have taken the time to restore and maintain our history? This question has been on my mind and the minds of our board of directors as we plan for 2016. We have a lot to celebrate and be proud of in this beautiful town. These buildings not only provide a glimpse of Mineral Point's history, but they really create a sense of place. You hear a lot these days about a 'sense of place.' What does that mean to you in relation to Mineral Point? To me, it's seeing the history of the town in its various stages. It's seeing the storefronts in town that have been carefully restored. It's seeing the storefronts just waiting to be restored and the yellow signs indicating the work soon-to-be-done. It's driving around town and noting the care that so many residents have taken in maintaining their historic properties. It's walking down High Street and Commerce Street the weekend after Thanksgiving, soaking in the decorations, and observing the smiles on the faces of those who pass me – exchanging a 'Beautiful Day!' or 'Happy Holidays!' with them in our perpetually-friendly Mineral Point manner. This



place...my sense of this place...is truly magical. It's the same feeling I hope to capture at Orchard Lawn as we open our doors to everyone on Sunday, December 13th to share in some treats and cheer of the season. 2016 marks the 50th Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. Please keep your eyes open for more announcements about activities relating to this important anniversary in 2016. As always, I remain grateful to be a part of such an important organization. I look forward to 2016 – to ensuring that the Mineral Point Historical Society becomes a more active part of Mineral Point, because without our history, what would we look like? Would our sense of place be different? Would our holiday festivities be as charming? I'm glad I don't have to find out. Thanks to our Members and our donors we are able to remain active in protecting and celebrating the history of Mineral Point.

You can count on us to continue to do this in the future. We count on your memberships, donations, and time to be able to continue our work. I thank you for your membership, your donations, and your time. If you aren't already a member, a donor, or a volunteer but you would like to be, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at mineralpointhistory@gmail.com. I am always thrilled to connect with those who share my passion for Mineral Point's vibrant history. I wish you very Happy Holidays. Cheers to a wonderful New Year! ●

...continued from page 1

It would appear one the principal figures in the many revolutions occurring in Europe in 1848 garnered interest to the author(s) of the addresses. Perhaps the author(s) had been in contact or met some of the emigres coming to America such as what would be termed as The Germans of '48. On a lighter note, the author appeared to have a liking to the Swedish opera singer Jenny Lind. Ms. Lind was introduced to America by P.T. Barnum with a sensationalized tour differing from the usual questionable spectacles associated with Barnum. Ms. Lind makes several appearances in the addresses.

On a more local level, elections are mentioned as well as the incorporation of Mineral Point as a city in 1857. The 1865 address being not only the most ornately titled address, also contained an interesting catalog of business and personages in town. Francis Little's successive term to the Assembly is noted as Matt Goldsworthy's displeasure of being elected as coroner. To give the reader a sense of these addresses, a sample passage follows:

*"While first I will speak of our prosperous city:
To commence with churches – of them we have five,
The same number of schools where learning should thrive;
Newspapers we have two, by thousands they're read,
One is for the Union, and one Copperhead,
Physicians at present we only have two,
And they I am glad have little to do.*

*And then we've two Dentists the tooth-ache to ease,
They'll clean, plug or fill, and extract if you please;
We have six learned Jurists, expounders of laws,
Who are ever found ready in good or bad causes;
Three Stores where Books, ET CETERA are sold;
Two Bankers who deal in greenbacks and gold;
Three Milliners shops where ladies can go
For ornaments gay, that will bring them a beau;
Two fine Picture Galleries, one Ice Cream Saloon,
Three Druggists, one Baker, and two Barber Rooms.
Of Stores we have six where Dry Goods are found,
And ten where Provisions of all kinds abound;
We have five Clothing Stores, that can fit you complete,
And seven Shoemakers who provide for the feet;
Two Jewelers, four Hotels, one Tanner for Leather,
Three Hardware Stores with Stoves for cold weather;
Three Cabinet Shops, with two Undertakers,
Three Saddlers, six Blacksmiths, and four Wagon-makers;
Five Butchers, three Painters, one Fanning Mill Shop..."*

The catalog continues to give in print and to posterity, a literal snap shot of bustling city. But not without its vices:

*"Ten liquor Saloons may be found in our City,
If they're well patronized the greater's the pity."*

The addresses, as well as most of the newspaper history, are available for viewing in the Mineral Point Archives. ●

MPHS Membership Dues and Annual Gifts

The MPHS depends on you as a loyal member for our continued support. While it has been said many times before, it is true — your support keeps the lights on, helps keep Orchard Lawn the gem that it is, helps print this newsletter, and support other functions such as the Lyceums and other events sponsored by the society each year. While we are grateful to the many volunteers and their innumerable hours of work helping make the MPHS the unique and robust organization that it is, without your help and support in monetary contributions, the MPHS would be a dim light in the historical society landscape.

With the Holidays upon us, we ask that you keep the MPHS in mind when giving gifts. Renewing a membership is a great way to show your ongoing support. Also, new members are always welcomed in what the MPHS believes to be an important function in maintaining and preserving the history of Mineral Point. If you know of a person who might be interested in our organization and its goals, might we suggest a gift to the MPHS at the individual or family level for them and/or their family? A membership at either the individual or family level would make a convenient and nominal gift.

We hope you have received your renewal notice in the mail already. If you have not or are just reading this newsletter for the first time and are interested, please sign up/renew your membership. If you have the means and believe the current dues are too much a bargain, please contribute an additional gift as many of our supporters do so. Thank you for keeping the history of Mineral Point alive and well! ●

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS | Select One

INDIVIDUAL \$15

- Free tour of Orchard Lawn during tour hours

HOUSEHOLD \$25

- Free tour of Orchard Lawn for household members during tour hours

FRIEND \$50

- Private tour of Orchard Lawn
- Jammin at Joe's T-shirt

HISTORIAN \$100

- Private tour of Orchard Lawn
- Jammin' at Joe's T-shirt
- Orchard Lawn Mug

SUSTAINER \$250

- Private tour of Orchard Lawn
- Jammin' at Joe's T-shirt
- Orchard Lawn Mug
- Complimentary 2-hour rental of Orchard Lawn

All Membership Levels include our Quarterly Newsletter. To receive an emailed newsletter instead, please enter your email address below.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Comments Welcomed

Please let us know which articles you found interesting, or even not so interesting. If you have an interest in or are curious about some aspect of Mineral Point history, let us know and we will do some research on it. If we find enough information, we'll include an article about your topic in the newsletter.

Send comments/questions to: Mineral Point Historical Society, PO Box 188, Mineral Point, WI 53565, or by email to: mphs@mineralpointhistory.org.

2015 MPHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joy Gieseke, President

Peter Pfothenauer, Secretary

Ainsley Anderson,
Executive Director

BOARD MEMBERS

Judith Clayton

Joel Gosse

Richard Ivey

Lucille May

Diane Stuart

Carl Tunestam

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Joel Gosse

© Copyright MPHS 2015

Mineral Point Historical Society Membership Form

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

All members receive the newsletter and free tours of Orchard Lawn.

Please check one:

- Individual (\$15)
 Household (\$25)
 Friend (\$50)
 Historian (\$100)
 Sustainer (\$250)

Additional Contribution:

\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to the Mineral Point Historical Society and return this form to:

Mineral Point Historical Society
P.O. Box 188 • Mineral Point, WI 53565

Please remember to mail your membership dues.

Mineral Point **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Dedicated to Preserving the Unique History of Mineral Point

P.O. Box 188 • 234 Madison Street
Mineral Point, WI 53565
608.558.1937

Mark Your Calendars

Orchard Lawn Open House

Sunday, December 13, 2015 • 1-4 p.m.
with Holiday Song Sing-along featuring
Aaron and Monica Dunn • 2 p.m.
Orchard Lawn, 234 Madison Street,
Mineral Point

Annual Meeting and Lyceum

Sunday, January 17, 2015 • 2 p.m.

Lyceums

Sunday, February 21, 2016 • 2 p.m.

Sunday, March 20, 2016 • 2 p.m.

*Topics and locations to be announced
on the MPHS website, or contact us
at (608) 558-1937.*

Change Service Requested

www.mineralpointhistory.org



A horse and sleigh wait patiently outside the house that used to stand at the corner of Church and North Iowa streets.