



PALMYRA

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 1987

Dear Members,
 Although we are still in the mid-winter doldrums, your society is not stagnant. Your officers and board held a January meeting to try to tie up the loose ends of 1986 and to plan activities for 1987. Chairpersons were chosen where willing hands could be found. We do, however, have plenty of spaces for all volunteers who present themselves. We especially need knowledgeable persons in the restoration area. If you give a call, we will be happy to accept your services.

Meeting dates have been set for 1987 as follows:

Board Meetings - April 20, June 22, August 24 & October 26 at 7:00 P.M. in the Carlin House.

Regular Meetings - April 25, June 27, August 29 & October 31 at 1:30 P.M. with the location to be announced as programs are set.

If you have good program ideas, please contact me at 495-4580. I really need your help.

Information on the April meeting will appear in the Enterprise about two weeks prior to

the meeting.

Yours for historic progress in '87
 George Lehner
 President

A BACKWARD GLANCE By George A. Lehner

With a good supply of lumber having been produced by the Powers Mill and available for building purposes and its basic roots firmly established, the tiny pioneer settlement of Palmyra was in a position to begin a steady growth. At this stage of its existence it was a rather loosely associated group, as only time and planning can make a real community come into being. When a land is first being opened to settlement it is common practice for each newcomer to stake out as much land as he can, because he hopes to carve out a sizeable estate and possibly increase his worth in the future by selling parcels of land at a profit. The originally acquired land is an investment which he hopes will prove a shrewd investment. Coming from more crowded areas of Great Britain and Europe, the pioneer placed the very highest value on land.

When people decide to settle in an area,

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1987 MEMBERSHIP

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ITEM

- ___ CARLIN HOUSE NOTES
- ___ 1939 CARLIN CALENDAR
- ___ WATER OVER THE DAM
- ___ HISTORICAL GLEANINGS OF MELENDY'S PRAIRIE
- ___ A STROLL DOWN THE MAIN DRAG
- ___ HISTORICAL PLAQUES
 - ___ High School
 - ___ Druggist's Home
 - ___ Lutheran Church
 - ___ Catholic Church
 - ___ Methodist Church

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 PALMYRA, WI 53156

they immediately have certain needs for livelihood which must be satisfied. The pioneer brings his first food, clothing and tools with him, but he cannot survive long if he must spend a lot of his time traveling back to his original base to keep his stock of essentials at subsistence level. This quickly creates a need for the merchant. Such a man was Levi Powers, who established the first store to supply the needs of the farmers in the area and neighboring Melendy's Prairie.

Seeing the flow of traffic from the wheat producing Janesville to the lake-access village of Milwaukee - a trip of several days, which made stopovers both desirable and necessary - William Mulks accommodated the traveler with the construction of a tavern. This he operated on the site of the Tisch Building, present location of Sadie's Tavern, from 1843-1859. Taverns in those early days were designed to meet all

needs of the traveler, including a bed to sleep in, food and drink, and probably most important, a place for exchange of ideas, conduct of business and social enjoyment. Here the villager and the traveler could exchange news and ideas. Newspapers were scarce and much educational information was passed on by word-of-mouth.

These early businesses, together with the Powers Mill, formed the cornerstone of Palmyra. As the area grew in size and population, its needs began to change. Lumber no longer was a prized commodity, but the growth of grain in the area dictated the conversion of the Powers mill into a grist mill. As usually happens, one business leads to the need for another. Both the Powers mill and the Brinks mill in nearby Cold Spring needed containers to ship the grain they turned out. This provided the incentive for M.W. Coon to build a cooper shop.

(TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE)



Members of Affiliated Local Historical Societies are eligible for
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The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

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Affiliated Local Society PALMYRA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Please mail this form and enclosed check to

THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF WISCONSIN
816 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Palmyra Historical Society
Palmyra, WI 53156

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CARLIN HOUSE

Dorothy Stacey and girls