

Littleton & Chatham

Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1, No. 5 Spring/Summer 2011



The LCHS picked up the Highway D16 roadside on Apr. 17. Pictured left to right: Tony Bengston, Ralph Hill, Adam Hill, Sarah Lillibridge, Nyle McMartin. Not Pictured Deb Hinde. Photo by Monica Bengston.

With the help of Buchanan County Emergency Management, the LCHS was able to install a river guage near the bridge. This guage will assist in providing accurate readings to inform officials and alert residents downstream when water levels rise.



Board Members

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Tony Bengston
415-1175

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Steve Pederson
827-6520

Treasurer

Jane Lillibridge
827-6291

Nyle McMartin

827-6171

Ralph Hill

827-6164

December 15, 1898 Independence Bulletin Journal

Forty-two years ago December 9, the first burial was made in the Littleton cemetery, Moses Little being the first to be buried there; Charles Melrose, S. F. Searles and others selecting the location. Each year the number increases of those who are brought from far away homes for a final resting place in the cemetery at Littleton.

"Do not let time pass without accomplishing something. Otherwise you will regret it when your hair turns gray." ~Yue Fei

"The Littleton and Chatham Historical Society strives to accurately document, promote and preserve the history of the Littleton and Chatham area to cultivate interest and educational understanding for future generations."

Calendar of Events

Regular Meeting

Mon. July 11, 2011
7:00 pm at 601
State St. Independence (Chatham)
Pleasant Grove
Presbyterian
Church

Regular Meeting

Mon. Oct. 10, 2011
7:00 pm at 601
State St. Independence (Chatham)
Pleasant Grove
Presbyterian
Church

LITTLETON & CHATHAM CALENDAR

The Littleton and Chatham Historical Society is compiling a 2012 calendar documenting the historical existence of the Littleton and Chatham area. We welcome images that can be scanned to add to this calendar. The photos can be of people or buildings, old photos or photos taken more recent. Contact a board member or attend a meeting to learn more!

Never have we performed an act more God-like than when we bring sunshine to hearts that are dark and desolate. ~James Gibbons

Robert and Dorothy Jesse ran their DX station along State St. (D16) back in 1971 when this photo was taken by State Aerial out of Maumee, OH. Maybe they photographed your home? Visit their website www.stateaerial.com or email them at sales@stateaerial.com.



LITTLETON

Mrs. S. F. Searles visited at Jesup, Sunday.

There was a wood meeting at the school house, Saturday.

Alfred Williams moved his family into the Ida Baldwin house.

Irma Searles is visiting her grandparents, S. F. Searles and wife.

Mrs. Thos. Considine attended a wedding at Independence last week.

The Pioneer social at the Frances home was a grand success and a good time enjoyed by all.

Sam Smith Wm. Sankey and H. C. McGlaughlin

went to Waterloo, Monday for the new stock of goods.

The Ham store building is being prepared and fitted to accommodate H. C. McGlaughlin's new stock of goods, which will arrive this week.

Our creamery is doing fine business loads of milk coming in all the time. Mr. Rohde was up last week, looking after the company's interest.

Clarence DeMills accidentally shot himself Friday, while examining a revolver. He is now in a critical condition. The ball entered the abdomen and lodged in the hip. Dr. Haradon was called, but has not yet removed the ball.

Jesup Citizen Herald Dec. 5, 1901

For the Guardian

MR. EDITOR :

We noticed in the *Civilian* a few weeks since, a paragraph headed "A TOWN MOVING," in which we learned with dismay that our beautiful village was fast being deserted. But as *time* effects what nothing else can, the consternation produced gradually wore off, until at length we have rallied sufficiently to offer a few suggestions. Now if a single building, unoccupied as a residence, can be made to fairly represent the *Town*, then we must admit that Littleton has become extinct-that nothing now remains but a primitive wilderness-not a monument of any kind to "mark the place where it stood"-that henceforth will be heard only the barking of wolves, the singing of the forest birds, and the *splash* of the musk-rat, as he attempts to imitate the Democratic party by turning a summer-sault on the banks of the Wapsie. But the fact is, Littleton still lives ; her inhabitants still pursue their customary vocations, which consist chiefly in eating three times per day, reading the *Guardian* and *Tribune*, with an occasional digression to matters of a more worldly nature. But the great *fact* which conclusively proves her existence, is the completion of the Bridge across the Wapsie, which is now in "good running order." This noble work of art was projected sometime during the present century, and notwithstanding the immense pressure in the money market- to say nothing of the bread market-its friends now have the satisfaction of recording a complete triumph over all difficulties, and we trust that for all time to come the good people of Bremer and other counties northwest will have direct communication with Independence, *via* Littleton. In addition to this, Madame Rumor is just now busy circulating a report that the excellent water-power here is soon to be put under proper improvement. Whether or not the old lady is correct, or is only indulging the well-known propensity of her sex to say things, remains to be seen : but we are quite sure so good a chance for investment will not long be suffered to remain unimproved. Political topics are freely discussed on almost every occasion by both the male and female portion of our community. This is as it should be, for where great moral questions are involved, as at the present, the ladies are almost certain to be right. This being the case, gentlemen cannot long remain wrong, and although we are not a special advocate of Women's Rights, yet have long since conceded her right to know something and talk about it.

LITTLETONITE.

Littleton, March 20, 1860.

Buchanan County Guardian March 28, 1860

"Be the change you wish to see in the world." ~Gandhi

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dearest elegant-
ellen foland.....
1928-2010

December 24,
2010 a dear friend
was lost, Ellen V.
(Smith) Foland.
Ellen has been
very instrumental
to the preserva-
tion of Littleton
and Chatham
history. May she
share in the
hereafter with all
those who have
gone before,
those that she
ardently worked
as an advocate
for.

Thank you to
Michael Andorf
for sharing this
poetic eulogy.

i bestow a blown-kiss and a heart-felt tear
for the passin' of a fabulous friend
.....for over the last quarter of a century
who loved books & byrds & nature & cemeteries
& people who were a little crazy & flamboyant & eccentric

((as john stuart milles once quipped
"you judge the genius of a country by how many eccentrics it has"))
.....thus ellen hung out with a lot of (us) eccentrics.....

now she joins the spirit world
with all her dearly departed loved ones & ancestors
that she told so many zenzational-stories about.....

like..... allof the prairie & forest & river bank byrds ...
.....she was pure of heart

her laugher and joy & enthusiasm will live long in my heart & mind & soul

she touched more people then we will ever know....

as an avid nearly-hysterikal historian
as a krafty-quilter (who kept everyone in stitches..... pun intended)
as a biblical theologian (who once said "nobody comes between me & my god)
as a weaver --whose nimble fingers wove "god's eye" into each of her deer horn baskets
as an "unwhisperin'" vocal librarian
as a genuine-gregarious-genealogist
as a spyin' byrd watcher (from eagles to chickadees)
as a heart-to-heart humanitarian
as a friendly-feisty-feminist
.....besides being a mother & wife & grandmother

she carried much sadness & sorrow but she never let it dampin- her lively spirit.....
always radiant & energeic
always setting a daily example of living life to the fullest

her one-of-a-kind personality & charm will never be replaced
like the ole african zayin'.....when an elder dies a library burns down

faretheewell ellen.....

love loves to love love (james joyce).....my luv
--michaelandorf

posthumously quote.....

a footnote e(ii)e should have mentioned
since we weren't in a church
"an ounce of mother is worth a pound of clergy"
& she was livin' proof of this quote...

the following poem was one of ellen's favorite poems...komposed by me
she once had it hangin' next to her front door for everyone to read

and i'm going to cry

I point my finger
where the buffalo
used to stampede
their dust blotting out the noonday sun

I clench my fist
at the farmers
plowing up the grassy prairie
until every acre is scoured black

i turn my mind
towards the pale sky
and scream my pain
what have they done to the sacred land

how long
before we destroy ourselves
with good intentions to protect our world
from within our air-conditioned rooms
and over-heated palaces
our immaculate and nature-free asylums

our environment
is being devastated
for a pile of paper gold
unknown to the sun
meaningless to the wind
that cannot buy the rain
or feed the dead

i feel like the mississippi
and i'm going to cry

-michaelandorf



Ellen V. Foland Oct. 30, 2010. Tony Bengston photo.

Littleton and Chatham Historical Society

1006 150th St.

Fairbank, IA 50629

100 YEARS AGO

LITTLETON. Population 100. On the Wapsipinicon river in Perry township, Buchanan county, 10 miles n. w. of Independence, the judicial seat, and 6 from Jesup, both of which places afford banking and shipping facilities.

Arnold E E, genl store.

Kingsbury E J, feed mill.

Luthmers A J, genl store.

1912-1913 Iowa State Gazetteer

To Hold Picnic.

The K. of P's. and Pythian Sisters have arranged to hold a joint picnic on the Little Wapsie, north of Littleton on Friday, July 21. At their meeting Tuesday evening the K. of P's. named the following committees to arrange for the pleasures of the day:

Sports Committee-Searles, Walker, Spike, Bordner and J. Haskins.

Refreshments Committee-A. B. Laird, Dr. Shimer, and F. S. Stoddard.

Jesup Citizen Herald July 13, 1911