



McFarland Historical Society

5814 MAIN STREET, MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN 53558

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2015 Annual Meeting of the McFarland Historical Society March 1 at 1 PM at the E.D.Locke Library

Annual Meeting Features WWI Author

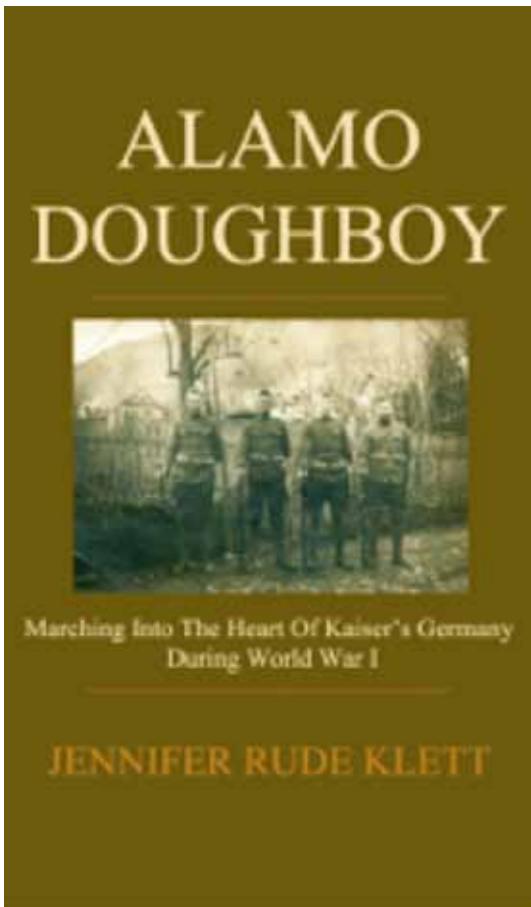
Remember the “war to end all wars?” Our ancestors who fought in WWI are all gone but not forgotten. Even Downton Abby featured scenes from that terrible time in history and it will be the focus of the annual meeting of the McFarland Historical Society on Sunday, March 1st.

Wisconsin author Jennifer Rude Klett will talk about her book, Alamo Doughboy, a true story about a private (Jennifer’s grandfather) who served with the 90th “Alamo” Division in the First World War. His two brothers and two cousins, who all grew up in the same Midwestern town also went off to war. Told from the perspective of an infantry soldier, this account details life in the trenches to life back on the home front. While the book is a solid military history, it’s also about a boy and his dog, faith, love, courage and duty. Jennifer encourages members of the audience to ask questions and to honor family members by sharing their own WWI stories, pictures and memorabilia.



Jennifer Rude Klett

Check out more interesting details about Alamo Doughboy and Jennifer Rude Klett on her website at www.jrudeklett.com and on Facebook.



All area residents are invited to attend the Society’s annual meeting at the E.D. Locke Library Community Room, beginning at 1 PM to hear the presentation. Beverages and other treats will be served. Board members will also give updates on the various society projects including the historic Larson House. Awards will be presented to certain volunteers for their contributions to the Society and to local history. For more information, visit the society’s website: <http://www.mcfarlandhistorical.org>

Volunteer of the Year

The recipient of our first Volunteer of the Year Award is Meg Nielsen, for her work in founding and leading the Chocolate Fest fundraiser since 2010. Meg has been awarded a Life Membership in the McFarland Historical Society. Congratulations Meg, and thank you so much for this huge contribution!



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the many responsibilities at the museum and the Larson House and board members are needed to keep organizational business running smoothly. Contact Dale Marsden at 838-3992 or marsdenhoney@yahoo.com for more information. For those wishing to help out at the Larson House contact Jane Licht at 838-8178 or licht.jane@gmail.com.

Larson House Museum Opens

By Meg Nielsen

Over 100 people gathered for the official Grand Opening of the Larson House Museum on Saturday, May 24. Larson House Planning Committee chair Jane Licht emceed the ceremony from the front steps of the century-old Queen Anne's style home purchased in 2012 by the McFarland Historical Society. Those gathered heard remarks from Rick Bernstein of the Wisconsin State Historical Society, who expressed thanks to the people of McFarland for their efforts toward the preservation of local history. Village President Brad Czebotar also addressed the crowd, praising all who took part in the restoration. Czebotar said the Larson House is proof of what a community can accomplish when everyone works together.

Before cutting the ribbon, McFarland Historical Society President Dale Marsden presented Licht with a plaque thanking her for her hard work and dedication in the exceptional organization and timely completion of the renovation project. In her remarks, Licht introduced and recognized business owners who had worked on the restoration, indicating that all had given donations of time, materials or both. At the end of the ceremony everyone gathered for a group photo on and around the front porch.

Many of those who came for the ribbon cutting stayed to tour the house. Visitors walked through the rooms at leisure, taking time to read plaques recognizing donors and learning about McFarland's history from donor family members and docents who were stationed throughout. An equal number of people toured the house on Sunday afternoon.



Memorial Day Parade walkers were from the left, Anne Lokken, Ginny Dodson, Carol Naze, Carol Torgeson, Dale Marsden, Mary Lokken, Paula Niedenthal, Barbara Voelker, and Jane Licht.

Thanks to pianists Deanne Larson, Pr. Terry Peterson, Jo Thomley and John Wendling, guests could enjoy music from the 1920s, the era depicted throughout the house, played on the baby grand piano in the front parlor.

Many who walked through the house complimented docents and Larson House Committee members on the beauty and detail of the rooms. Others noted how much the restoration has improved McFarland's old downtown. "Everyone who drove past this property for the last 20 years probably wanted to buy this house and fix it up – or bulldoze it," one visitor said. "But now it's a focal point of the community and something everyone in town can be proud of."



New Museum Displays

by Corrine Niedenthal

Board members Wes Licht and Corrine Niedenthal were busy designing and setting up displays in the McFarland Historical Society's museum this past year.

Fifty Years of Changes, 1964-2014

The lobby display celebrates the 50th anniversary of the founding of the McFarland Historical Society in 1964. It highlights the organizational efforts and accomplishments of its members and leaders through the last half-century and honors all the past presidents beginning with William Hockstad.

The exhibit also recognizes other significant events that took place in McFarland, the U.S. and the world in 1964. The display features important news headlines, events and historic firsts and is centered around the office cubicle, one of the unique things which came into being that year. See beginning of "Third Grade Visitors" story for more details.

Many thanks to those who contributed to this display: Dick Kohl, Wes Licht, Penny Manning, Dale Marsden, Corrine Niedenthal, Paula Niedenthal, Sharon Payne and Jackie Utter.

If you wish to bring family or friends to view this display before it is moved to make room for a new exhibit, or see the log cabin, early farm exhibit and other museum displays, please call Wes Licht at 838-8178 for an appointment.



Rock a Bye Baby

This season's window display highlights five popular pieces of baby furniture, four cradles and a perambulator (baby carriage) all from the society's collection. The display is called "Rock a Bye Baby," after a favorite lullaby and nursery rhyme. The design of each of the cradles is different depending on when it was made and who made it. Vintage dolls and toys, an embroidered Alphabet hanging and a lighted Christmas tree for the

season completed the display. After Christmas the tree was put away and now a mother sits and rocks a cradle.

The Gold Star Mothers Pilgrimage

A new permanent exhibit in the museum tells the story of the U.S. government-sponsored 1930 pilgrimage to France made by Mary Nelson (Mrs. Ole Nelson) to visit the grave of her son, Helmer, who was killed in France three days before the Armistice on November 11, 1918. Mary Edwards (Mrs. Theodore Edwards), also a McFarland Gold Star Mother, traveled with Mrs. Nelson to France to visit the grave of her son, Alvin, who died on October 16, 1917. Many items carefully saved by Mary Nelson and passed on to her daughter, Dorothy Nelson Helmke and afterward to Dorothy's daughters: Delores Fisher, Crystal Lokken, Corrine Niedenthal and Audrey Endres and their children were donated to the museum in 2014.



These include cherished mementos, photographs, her trip diary, family gifts purchased in Paris and an American flag – a gift from the City of New York. A beautiful lighted display case purchased with a donation by Roald Lokken, son of Mary's granddaughter Crystal, houses these special artifacts which relate a unique local story about WWI. We give thanks to all the members of the family for this special contribution honoring the memory of our Gold Star Mothers.

WWI and WWII

In order to make room for the Gold Star Mothers display case, the WWI and WWII exhibits needed rearranging. Items were removed from the wooden table which held them. The table was taken out and a glass-shelved table, which matched the one for the Civil War display, was put in place. Items for WWI and WWII were then arranged on the new display table and hung on the wall. When all was done Wes Licht exclaimed, "Wow! We got everything back in place! We didn't need to put a single thing into storage! I didn't think we would be able to do it!"

Ladies Afternoon Tea a Huge Success

by Kathy Krusiec

Imagine an elegant event held on the lawn of the Larson House Museum with the flower gardens in full bloom, the sun shining and you sitting comfortably in the shade under tented tables. You are wearing a nice summer dress with pearls, a fancy straw hat and white gloves, while sipping tea and tasting delicate desserts and savory treats. Other women are also enjoying this “me” time as they converse with each other and learn about the history and etiquette of the traditional British afternoon tea party. You learn for example, that “high tea” and “low tea” refers to the height of the tables being used. And that a garden party afternoon tea was one of the few social events that a Victorian lady could attend without a male escort or a corset!

Kathy Krusiec chaired this delightful Larson House Museum fundraiser. Kathy, her committee members and other volunteers served up an extraordinary experience. Mostly McFarland women purchased all of the sixty-six tickets available and were very glad they did.

A chilled beverage table was set up under the pergola. Long tables were covered and skirted with white linens and adorned with a live floral arrangement. The menu consisted of three types of scones and wonderful fruit and butter spreads. Also served was a summer fruit salad with a delicate poppy seed dressing, three hand-crafted finger sandwiches, three delicate desserts such as lemon tartlets and a Raspberry Chocolate tart. A traditional English trifle was the star of the afternoon.

The leisurely afternoon was capped off with a tour of the Larson House Museum, and piano music by John Wendling. Another Ladies Afternoon Tea is planned for this July, 2015. Thereafter, the event may be held every other year, alternating with the Chocolate Fest. For more information or to volunteer, contact Kathy Krusiec at 250-0472.

Here are a few of the ladies who enjoyed the Ladies Afternoon Tea. Standing, left to right are Barb Obst and Pam Gerstl. Seated are Jane Schraufnagel, Kathleen Correl, and we are unable to identify the last person.



McFarland Historical Society Member is Citizen of the Year

Jane Licht was selected as the 2014 McFarland Citizen of the Year, mainly for heading the effort to restore the Larson House Museum. Jane also co-authored “City of the Second Lake, A History of McFarland, Wisconsin,” served as county supervisor representing McFarland and the Town of Dunn, and was the Dane County Register of Deeds for 18 years. Jane served on the McFarland Historical Society Board of Directors in the late 1970’s and is currently serving. She is active in the McFarland Lutheran Church. Jane and husband Wes have promoted environmental preservation and education for many decades. They live in the McFarland School District in Town of Dunn just east of the Village. Other society members have been selected as Citizen of the Year, including Lloyd Schneider, Don Barnes, Larry Chatman, Dick Southern, Ann Stajich, Harold Muenkle, Lorraine Harried, Jim Hartman, Meg Nielsen, Ed Kramper, Ron Larson, Ken Brost, Fern Allen, E. David Locke, and Tom Mooney.



Board Members News

The McFarland Historical Society has benefitted greatly from the wise planning, creativity and various talents of its industrious board of directors. We all wish to thank Brenda Zier and Randy Olson for their service on the board and to the community. Brenda formerly served as secretary and Randy helped with various projects, including researching insurance options for the society. They will be leaving the board of directors and we wish them well in their future activities.

We are happy to announce that Bob and Annette Kolek and Don Peterson will be joining the board of directors. Other board members who are also up for election at the annual meeting on March 1st are: Dale Marsden, Gini Nichols, Ginny Dodson, Corrine Niedenthal, Jackie Utter, Richard Kohl, and Wes and Jane Licht. There are still a few vacancies since the bylaws allow up to 15 board members.

Third Grade Visitors

by Wes Licht

Third graders were everywhere in the old downtown of McFarland during the 2nd and 3rd week of October, including the McFarland Historical Museum. Their tour began with a brief introduction in the museum lobby with the display celebrating the founding of the McFarland Historical Society and many other important happenings of 1964. While none of the students and only a few of the teachers and chaperones were around at that time, it was fun for them to learn about this “ancient” history. Headlines in the newspapers fifty years ago highlighted President Johnson signing the Civil Rights Act, dealing with the War in Vietnam and winning reelection in November over Barry Goldwater. The first Mustang car was introduced along with toy Tonka trucks and a plastic Mr. Potato Head. Fashion and entertainment brought out the mini-skirt, “Hello Dolly,” “Mary Poppins” and the Beatles. Locally, our new McFarland High School had all kinds of firsts – a senior class, band uniforms, choir robes, the school newspaper, the Olympian, Junior Prom and its first football championship under new stadium lights. For the historical society, William Hockstad was elected as the first president.

Gini Nichols, below, taking questions from her third graders. Wes Licht, at right, shows his group of students into the log cabin.



In the new farm display in the museum annex, Dale Marsden shows third graders the different types of horseshoes used on the farm.



After the lobby introduction, all classes were divided into three separate groups, each revolving for short tours through the regular museum displays, the log cabin and early farming exhibit in the annex. The third graders showed high interest with good listening skills and lots of curiosity.

Thanks to all the students, their teachers Mrs. Dahl, Mrs. Hisgen, Mr. Scharf, Miss Case, Mrs. Beam, Mrs. Eckel, Mrs. Kramper, Miss Lieberthal and their assistants for visiting us. Museum tour guides were Ginny Dodson, Jane Licht, Wes Licht, Dale Marsden, Meg Nielson and Gini Nichols.

2014 Chocolate Lovers Make Event A Success

We've proven it time and time again: There are plenty of people in McFarland who LOVE chocolate! And more than 200 of them showed up at the McFarland Historical Society's Fifth Annual Chocolate Fest on Saturday, November 8, 2014.

By the time the doors opened, the community room at the Madison Curling Club had been artfully transformed by members of the Chocolate Fest Planning Committee (and their supportive husbands) into an elegant setting complete with tasteful decorations, twinkly lights, white cloth table coverings and softly glowing candles.

Throughout the day, one baker after another had come by to leave an offering of her best chocolate dessert. The mouth-watering aroma of chocolate, light and dark, bitter and sweet, began to fill the air.

An army of 12 McFarland High School Ambassador Club members, all neatly dressed in black slacks and white shirts, all ready to work and giddy with the sight and smell of all that gorgeous chocolate, arrived around 5:30 p.m. to help plate desserts and receive instructions. Featured baker

The main table of chocolate goodies.



Chris Olson set up her rows of chocolate cake pops infused with other exotic flavors, and then she turned to cutting the cakes that made her famous among brides and their mothers.

The first guests began arriving well before 7 p.m., and before vocalist Donna Van Bogaert had begun to croon her first notes, the stampede for truffles and cheesecakes, rum balls and fudge was under way. The guests soon noticed a new addition to the fest – a table offering complimentary cheese, crackers and fruit that could provide a welcome interlude from consuming chocolate, and allow one to consume even more of the dreamy dark sweet stuff.

Gradually the room began to fill. The noise level rose as guests turned in their tickets and collected their complimentary glass of champagne. An air of congeniality permeated the atmosphere.

Guests thronged around the silent auction tables, placing bids on everything from a week-long stay at a condominium in Breckenridge, CO, to baskets of dried herbs from the Larson House gardens. The tables fairly groaned under the weight of baskets filled with every imaginable gift possibility including Sherry Blanchar's famous McFarland truffles – many of them named for well-known village locations.

Wes Licht and Christine Norsetter collect their purchases at the silent auction table.



Chocolate Fest Planning Committee

Back row: Meg Nielsen, Vickie Holton, Ginny Dodson, Chris Olson, Kathy Krusiec, and Linda Hanson.
Front Row: Sherry Blanchar, Jane Licht, and Jackie Utter.



The first hour passed, and people continued to queue up outside the door. Chocolate disappeared at an amazing rate. Ambassadors hustled and bustled. Servers plated chocolate in the kitchen with speed and dexterity. Champagne flowed and wine vanished. The planning committee began nervously counting the remaining bottles of champagne and checking the supplies of chocolate waiting in the fridge.

Still more people flooded through the doors, but supplies held against the onslaught of chocolate-craving guests and plates of “take-out” chocolate remained for purchase at the end of the night. But, the champagne and the wine were gone. The Door Creek apple cider had disappeared and coffee from the McFarland House Café was nearly gone. And, gradually folks collected their silent auction winnings and flowed back out into the cold November darkness with smiles on their faces and chocolate in their tummies.

And why shouldn't they smile? Research shows that cocoa solids are one of the richest sources of flavone antioxidants. They also contain healthy doses of alkaloids, such as theobromine, phenethylamine and caffeine, all of which serve to raise serotonin levels in the brain, contributing to feelings of well-being and happiness.

While giving people a good time, the Chocolate Fest provides an opportunity for people to share what they have. And, sharing can make people feel even more euphoric than flavonoids or serotonin.

Because of the generosity of the bakers and the silent auction donors, the servers and the planners, the beverage donors, the High School Ambassadors and the guests, the doors will stay open and the lights will continue glowing at the Larson House Museum for years to come. History will be preserved for future generations, school children will learn what life was like before cell phones and iPods. Families who left their names on McFarland street signs and village parks will be remembered. All because a community cared enough to transform a dilapidated old house into a beautiful reminder of the way life once was in the Village of McFarland.

And eating chocolate helped them do it.

Board member Corrine Niedenthal, right, and her guests appeared to be having a great time at The Chocolate Fest.



Larson House Museum News – Winter

By Jane Licht

Over 300 people visited the Larson House Museum in December. This house museum was open as part of Christmas in the Village on December 6th plus every Sunday afternoon in December. Not only was local history the draw, but also the “Victorian” style Christmas decorations on display throughout the house. Society member Kathy Krusiec planned and organized the decorating. Actually, for months prior to decorating the house, Kathy and others scoured thrift shops and received donations. A group of volunteers met on the last weekend in November and enjoyed creating beauty in every room, including themed Christmas trees. The Larson Room (living room) had a lovely live fir tree donated by Darcy and Pat Kelly and was decorated with antique, handmade and replica ornaments. The theme for the Harried Room (parlor) was music as musical instrument ornaments and bows decorated the tree. In the Olson room (master bedroom), colors from the lovely curtains donated by Barbara Sperle was the inspiration for that tree that sported blue and silver ornaments and peacock feathers. The Nelson-Helmke-Lokken room held the “Norwegian” tree with lots of ornaments shaped as fruits. The Nelson Children’s Room



Nate Hyland played the piano for the open house on December 28, 2014.

had a small tree where the ornaments were small children’s toys, and a train and train track circled the center of the room. This was also the tree that contained the famous pickle ornament. According to German tradition, the child that finds the pickle gets an extra present. In John Larson’s Office, aka the McFarland Schools and Archie Buckmiller Room, a more “masculine” tree was decorated with strings of artificial chestnuts and cranberries, real grapevines, red dogwood and pinecones, a bird’s nest and light brown ribbon.

Music filled the house during these open house events, thanks to many local pianists. Peter Johnson, Jo Thomley, Terry Peterson, John Wendling, Hannah Wendorf, DeAnn Larson, and Nate and Ally Hyland all shared their talents by playing Christmas songs on the baby grand piano in the living room.



Terry Peterson was one of many pianists who provided Christmas music on the piano at the Larson House Museum.

On December 13, Ron and Robin Brown were married in the Larson House. Both had worked on the house as Ron is in construction and Robin assisted with some outdoor projects. A group of friends and family attended the wedding, and after the ceremony and cake cutting, they enjoyed touring the house.

Another group of volunteers recently took down all the decorations and carefully packed them up for next year. Other members who are docents gave private tours to out-of-town friends and family visiting during the holidays. To schedule a Larson House Museum tour, contact Jane Licht at licht.jane@gmail.com or 838-8178. Jane or one of the other docents will be your tour guide.



This crew carefully put away all the Christmas decorations at the Larson House Museum. Front row left to right: Carol Torgeson, Annette Kolek, Linda Hanson, Judy St. Clair. Standing: Dale Marsden, Jane Licht, Barb Doran, Kathy Krusiec and Dawn Bolstad.

Amendments to Bylaws

The Board of Directors reviewed and voted to recommend a number of changes to the Society's bylaws. The members are to receive written notification and then may vote on the bylaw amendments at the annual meeting on March 1, 2015. The following proposed changes are in bold and explanations are in italics.

ARTICLE I, Membership, Section 2. Classification

- The yearly dues shall be **\$15 for individuals, \$25 for family**, \$150 for individual/family life, \$250 for business and professional. *[Remove "sustaining" category as it has not been used]*

ARTICLE II, Board of Directors, Section 1. **Number of Board Members** *[for clarification]*

The Board shall be **up to 15 and no less than 8** in number..

Section 2. Powers of the Board

- The Board shall have power to create such permanent and special committees as are deemed necessary. Members and chairs [in place of chairmen] of the committees shall be appointed by the president.

ARTICLE IV, Committees, Section 1. Permanent Committees

- The Board **may** appoint Membership, Program, Publicity, Museum, Library and Facilities Committees as permanent committees, and any other permanent committee as shall be required to aid in the administration of a perpetual activity of the Society.

ARTICLE VI, Meetings, Section 1. Membership Meetings

- The annual meeting shall be held in February **or March**.

Section 2. Board Meetings

- B. A **majority** of the members of the Board of Directors present and eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE VII, Meetings, Section 1. Affiliation

- As an affiliate of the State Historical Society, this corporation shall receive the benefits to which it is entitled and shall submit to the State Society an annual report of its activities as required by s. 44.03 of the Wisconsin Statutes. It shall keep the State Society informed as to the results of its annual elections and as to the various projects and programs **that** it undertakes. *[Replace "which"]*

ARTICLE IX

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at any regular meeting, provided the amendment is submitted in writing to the membership prior to the meeting. *[Remove "by mail."]*



These are McFarland Historical Society parade walkers from the Family Festival Parade.

Dale Marsden, Al Schneider, Carol Pingel, Katie Gletty-Syoers, Laurie Boehlke, Carol Naze, Judy St. Clair, Barb Voelker, Ginny Dodson, and Nick Linden. If you are able, plan to walk with them this year as it's lots of fun! Contact Jane Licht at 838-8178 for more information.

Larson House Museum Awards

Jane Licht

The McFarland Historical Society's Larson House Museum won two significant awards in 2014. The Madison Trust for Historic Preservation presented an "Historic Preservation Award" in May in recognition of the restoration project that took only 2 and ½ years, involved over 100 volunteers and many local contractors, and was carefully furnished to represent the home as it may have looked in the 1920's. Society president Dale Marsden and Larson House Planning Committee Chair Jane Licht attended the annual event and received the award. The executive director of the Trust had noticed the project on our website and presented it to his board of directors for approval. Unlike the other projects that were much more expensive, no highly paid general contractor came forward to collect the award for the Larson House – only Dale and Jane who were themselves unpaid volunteers.

Later in the year, the Larson House Museum received the McFarland Thistle's Readers' Choice Award for "Most Attractive Building." Dale Marsden, Ginny Dodson and Thelma Allen attended the Readers' Choice event held at the Maple Tree in McFarland. Both Ginny and Thelma serve on the Garden and Landscape Committee for the Larson House and it was assumed that the lovely gardens blooming in the spring, summer and fall contributed to this award. Thistle readers had also voted for the Larson House Museum as "Most Improved Building in 2013."

Tour Guide Training

Would you like to give historical tours to families and school groups? Tour Guide training will be offered this spring to Society members who are interested in volunteering for this worthy and enjoyable endeavor. Jane Licht has scheduled training sessions for new tour guides and those who have been giving tours at the Larson House Museum but would like to brush up on their presentations. The training sessions for the Larson House Museum will be held February 27 and 28 (Friday and Saturday) from 10 to 11:30 AM. Come early at 9:30 AM for coffee, tea and coffee cake if you wish. If there is interest, more sessions will be offered March 6th and 7th. Please contact Jane at 838-8178 or licht.jane@gmail.com.

Tour Guide training will also be given for tours at the Main Street Museum, the Log Cabin and the Farm Display. Please contact Dale Marsden at 838-3992 or marsdenhoney@yahoo.com if you are interested.



Obituaries (cont. from pg. 7)

Delyla J. Smith (Rice), age 89

Delyla J. (Rice) Smith died on Wednesday June 11, 2014 at Skaalen Nursing and Rehab Center. Delyla was born on Jan. 24, 1925 in Sioux Falls, S. Dakota, to Herman Jay and Lela Rogge Rice. She graduated from South Beloit High School in 1942. She was married to Ervin D. Smith on Sept 25, 1943. In 1967, they moved to the McFarland area. Wherever they lived, she was always active in her church. She is survived by her daughter, Eileen (Kenneth) Brost of McFarland; her son, Dane (Ellen) Smith of West Des Moines, Iowa; four grandchildren, Amy (Harvey) Wang, Rachael (Matthew) Powell, Kriston Smith, and Megan Smith; a brother, Dennis Rice of Virginia Beach, Virginia; and four great grandchildren, Lela, Sam, Leo and Harper. She was preceded in death by her husband in 2003.

Donald Arthur Schutt Sr., age 86

Donald Arthur Schutt Sr. of McFarland, passed away on Friday, Nov 14, 2014 at Agrace Hospice Care in Fitchburg. Don was born in Janesville on Aug, 16, 1928; he was the son of Arthur and Elsie Schutt. Don graduated from Janesville High School in 1946. Don earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1950. Don met and married his wife of 52 years, Carol Ann (Tygum) Schutt while attending UW-Madison. They were married on June 22, 1957, in Madison. Don worked as a high school social studies teacher and coach in Racine. Don was an active member of the McFarland Lutheran Church. Don is survived by his three children, Donald Jr. (Sarah) Schutt of the Town of Pleasant Springs, William (Maria) Schutt of Coronado, California, and Eric (Jody) Schutt of the Town of Dunn; seven grandchildren, Sam, Ben, Chloe, Lydia, Troy, Matthew and Maggie. His wife, Carol; his parents; and his grandson, Daniel Arthur Schutt, preceded Don in death.

Obituaries

Russell Alsmo, age 92

Russell Andrew Alsmo passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2014 at the Skaalen Nursing Home in Stoughton, where he had resided for the past ten years. Born to John Raymond and Martha (Ronnie) Alsmo, Russell farmed most of his life but in later years, was employed by Ken's Automotive in McFarland. Russell was a very strong and active member of the McFarland Historical Society, served on its board, and was honored with a lifetime membership in recognition of his commitment and service to the organization. Russell is survived by his sisters, Margaret Ellestad Stolen of Madison and Ruth Raedel of Wisconsin Dells; brothers, Kenneth (Marlene) of Windsor and James (Dorothy) of Madison.

Mary Louise (Reid) (Richardson) Dahlstrom, age 74

Mary Louise (Reid) (Richardson) Dahlstrom of McFarland passed away on Monday, Dec. 1, 2014. She was born on October 26, 1940 in Denver, Colorado. She was the daughter of Dan S. and Lois Lenita (Daken) Reid. Three sons were born to her marriage to Rodney R. Richardson. She later married Howard Dahlstrom. Mary was active in many Cub Scout activities when her boys were young. Mary served several years as the secretary for the McFarland Historical Society. At the age of six, one granddaughter described her as "fun, happy, sewing, gardening, smiling, she plays with me. Grandma." She is survived by her two sons, Troy (Lovena) Richardson of Canon City, Colorado, and Travis (Mary) Richardson of McFarland; daughter-in-law Andrea Richardson of Colfax, Wisconsin; and five grandchildren, Tyler Richardson and Tara Hanson-Smith of Canon City, Colorado, Raina Richardson of McFarland and Cody and Carly Richardson of Colfax. She is also survived by five great-grandchildren. Mary was preceded in death by her middle son, Todd Gill Richardson; her first husband, Rod Richardson; and her parents and grandparents.

Keith R. Krisher, age 71

Keith R. Krisher of McFarland, passed away at home, surrounded by his family, on Thursday, June 26, 2014. He was born on Oct. 14, 1942 in Pioneer, Ohio, the son of Clark E. and Pauline (Fenicle) Krisher. Keith was a self-employed auto mechanic who had passion for his job, which spanned 56 years in McFarland. Keith moved to McFarland in 1957 and began working with his dad at Slim's Farm Service. He graduated from Monona Grove High School in 1961. Every summer for over 40 years, you could find Keith at Hope Rod & Gun Club enjoying Thursday night trap sheeting with friends. When Keith wasn't working, he was spending time with family, fishing, and traveling the world. Keith is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Betty; his son, Richard (Gail); and his daughter Robin; and his brother Ted.

Pauline B. Larson, age 89

Pauline B. Larson of McFarland passed away on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 at Agrace Hospice Care. She was born on March 8, 1925, in Breckenridge, Minnesota, the daughter of Iver M. Kalness and Anna (nee Wangsnes) Kalnes. Together with her family, Pauline settled in McFarland in 1934, a community she called home for 80 years. Pauline graduated from Madison East High School in the spring of 1942. She met her future husband, Curt Larson at Luther College. Pauline and Curt were married on Feb. 18, 1945 at McFarland Lutheran Church. They returned to Luther College and in 1947 became the first married couple at Luther College to graduate together. Besides the church, Pauline served her beloved community of McFarland in additional ways. She was a charter member of the McFarland Historical Society, was an officer of the local PTA and for six years served on the McFarland School Board, the first woman in McFarland to do so. Pauline is survived by her children, Kurt Larson (Diane) of Kenosha, Maryanne Larson Sprading (David) of Pacific Grove, California, and Ron Larson (DeAnn) of McFarland; six grandchildren, Heather Larson of McFarland, Sonja Larson-Bartee of Foster City, California, Christopher Spradling of Healdsburg, California, Kari Larson of Brooklyn, New York, Lars-Erik Larson of St. Paul, Minnesota, and Leif Larson, a student at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa; and a great-grandson, Iver Bartee of Foster City, California.

Larry M. Nygaard

Surrounded by family and friends, and held in God's love, Larry passed into heaven on Monday, Aug. 4, 2014 at Agrace Hospice Care in Fitchburg. Larry was loved well by his wife of 44 years, Deborah (Rust) Nygaard; daughters, Laura Jean Nygaard (close friend, Scott) and Tracy (Nygaard) Bracey; his son-in-law, Bo; and his precious grand tot, Olivia Pearl Bracey. He is further survived by siblings, Gary (Joanie) Nygaard, Jo Jean (Pat) Mosely, and Jeff (Linda) Nygaard. Larry was happy to call McFarland his home and was proud to retire from the McFarland School District. Before and during retirement, he loved to repair and fix all things broken.

Dorothy E. Schiefelbein (Thessin), age 90

Dorothy E. Schiefelbein passed from this world on March 18, 2014. Dorothy was born in Milwaukee to Clarence and Irene Thessin, in 1923. She moved to Madison with her family and graduated from Madison West high School in 1941. Dorothy married William Junior Schiefelbein on Sept. 15, 1951. Together they had two children, Linda of Madison, and David (Margit) of McFarland. She also has three grandchildren, Hans (Katie) of McFarland, Tim (Amy) of Madison, and Megan (Jeff) Soceka of Madison; and six great-grandchildren, Sorin, Norah, Max, Charlie, Christian, and Emily. Dorothy served as a Girl Scout leader. She was a member of McFarland Lutheran Church since 1953. She also served on the McFarland School Board.

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Your donation helps to support the McFarland Historical Society and keeps the museum operating. If you would like to volunteer, let us know. We also have board positions open if you are interested in becoming more active in the Society. We are all volunteering our time and energy to make this a successful organization.

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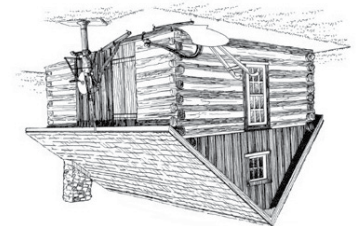
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Go to www.mcfarlandhistorical.org for more information and color photos on all McFarland Historical Society activities.

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.



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