# Spirit Historical Society Newsletter

April 2022 Vol. 4 No. 1 Previously Liberty School News



Spirit Historical Society Newsletter is published by Spirit Historical Society, Inc. the successor of German Settlement History, Inc.

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By Luann Lind

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We have always relied on you - our dedicated readers and devoted donors - to keep us alive and growing while we help to preserve the history of the Spirit area. Your donations are used to publish and send this newsletter as well as maintaining Our Yesterday House and the artifacts inside. Please consider becoming an annual member of SHSI. We need your support. Thank you to these folks who are current members of our organization.

Below is a form you can copy and print for your membership application.

Membership
Application
You are invited to
become a member of
S.H.S.I.

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Email Address			
Phone			
Amount	Membership Year		

Categories: Please check one
Swamper (Non Member) - \$1.00 to \$24.00 per year
The following categories qualify you as a Member:
Sawyer - \$25.00 to \$49.00 per year
Teamster - \$50.00 to \$99.00 per year
Woods Boss - \$100.00 to \$499.00 per year
Homesteader - \$500.00 to \$999.00 per year
Settlement Builder - \$1000.00 or more per year

Please make checks payable to SHSI and mail to:
Spirit Historical Society, Inc.
P.O.Box 621
Ogema, WI 54459
Thank you for your generous gift!

# **Community Events**

Our next **SHSI meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. We will meet at the Spirit Town Hall for those who are able to attend. Others will be joining us by Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join us or contact us with your input on issues.



# SHSI Memorial Day Weekend Barn Dance

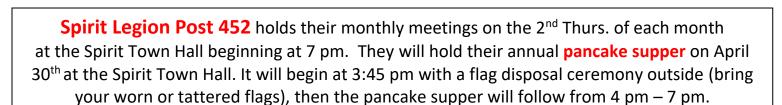
Spirit Historical Society will once again be hosting a barn dance, Sunday evening May 29<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 pm, ending at midnight.

Location: N1169 German Settlement Rd. in Spirit at the Darrel & Luann Lind farm

Gary Edinger will teach square dancing to everyone Karl Lind will be our DJ for music

silent auction this year.

Refreshments will be served immediately after the flag raising at 8 pm.



## **Memorial Day Cemetery Services Monday May 30th:**

Spirit Legion Post 452 will be rendering honors at the following cemeteries:

Finlander – 8:00 am Garden of Memories – 10:00 am

Clifford – 8:20 am Levitt Creek – 10:30 am St. Mary's – 8:45 am Ogema Hillside – 11:00 am

Knox – 9:15 am

There will NOT be a

Spirit Auxiliary will be serving lunch at the Spirit Town Hall from 11:30 – 12:45.

A program will follow in the upstairs of the Town Hall at 1:00 pm.

Following the program will be a march to Hillcrest Cemetery for the honors there.

The 80<sup>th</sup> annual **Spirit-Hill-Ogema 4-H Fair** is scheduled to be held Fri., Aug. 12. and Sat., Aug. 13 at the Spirit Town Hall. Details to follow in our summer newsletter.





Tours of Our Yesterday House will be given from 9 am – 3 pm on the day of Spirit-Hill-Ogema Fair Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>.

To schedule a tour on any other day, contact LaVonne Meier @ 715-564-2570 or Dawn Meier @715-564-3104

**Spirit Town Board** meetings are held in the Spirit Town Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues. of each month, starting at 6:00 pm. Town board members are: Darrel Lind, Bill Evans and Gary Siebert.

Clerk – JaNelle Nelson Treas. – Myrna Holmquist

## **Obituaries**



Larry H. Hass, 76, of Ogema, passed away on Friday, October 22, 2021 at the Marshfield Medical Center. Larry was born on November 19, 1944 to Henry and Alice (Routheau) Hass in Tomahawk. He was a graduate of Prentice High School. He was an avid outdoorsman. He worked as a logger, grew Christmas trees since 1986, and collected maple syrup. He was a self-taught, accomplished guitar player and music was his life. He enjoyed horseback riding, trout fishing, hunting, and was a history buff. Larry is survived by his wife, Pam; daughter, Lisa Lynn McNeal; stepdaughter, Jacquelyn Marie Chance; 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren; sister, Bonnie (Bruce) Mueller. Larry is further survived by 1 niece, 3 nephews, and other family and friends. Larry is preceded in death by his parents.



Edwin Roger Blomberg of Ogema, Wisconsin was surrounded by his loving family at the home of son Victor Blomberg of Lampasas, Texas as he was welcomed into heaven on February 6, 2022. Edwin "Ed" was born to the late George and Lillian Blomberg on December 22, 1920, in Ogema, Wisconsin and was the third oldest of 14 children. Ed completed his high school education at Rib Lake High School in 1939. Ed enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1942 and was handpicked to join the Fourth Raider Battalion, initially commanded by the late Brigadier General James Roosevelt. He served until 1945 and received the purple heart for wounds received during combat in the Pacific Theater. Ed became a ranger at Yosemite

Park in 1947. In 1952, Ed married Jewell Hunt, originally from Calumet, OK. Ed and Jewell became missionaries. From 1952 to 1957, he and Jewell served in Nebraska before departing to Belize in 1957 with the Gospel Missionary Union where they would serve for 24 years. He was also blessed with fatherhood in 1960, and again in 1970, when he and Jewell adopted daughter Le Ann and son Victor in Belize, respectively.

Upon retiring from missionary service in Belize, Ed along with his wife and son, settled down in their home in Wisconsin. However, his calling led to him to lead short mission trips to Guatemala, Peru, Columbia, Haiti and occasionally, back to Belize. In retirement, he enjoyed logging in the woods with his Belgian draft horses, hunting, gardening, establishing a small apple orchard, and making maple syrup each spring. Ed was proud of his heritage and was able the repurchase, along with two brothers, the farm his grandparents bought when they immigrated to the U.S. from Sweden – a.k.a. the Blomberg Homestead. Ed and his wife also became very involved in Hope Hospice where he served as Chaplin for 12 years.

In the early 2000s, Jewell wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Ed lovingly and faithfully cared for her for over 13 years until she went home to be with her Lord and Savior after 63 years of marriage.

In later years, Ed had the privilege to participate in an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. (2016), be the keynote speaker at the 50th anniversary of King's College in Belize (2017) and be inducted into the Rib Lake High School Hall of Fame (2020). In 2021, a book on the Raider Battalions was released and he had the honor of being the only living raider of the four featured to attend the promotional event at the Marine Raider base at Camp LeJeune, NC (2021). Many in the Ogema and Spirit communities may remember him as the WWII veteran who recited the Gettysburg Address by memory for Memorial Day services at the Garden of Memory or Spirit Town Hall. In addition to his parents, Ed was preceded in death by eight brothers; Alan, Wilbert, Ivar, John, Roy, Palmer, Lawrence, and infant Palmer; and two sisters Grace Rhody and Betty Nelson. His memory continues to live in the hearts of his daughter Dr. Le Ann (Clarence Tease) Blomberg of Gaithersburg, MD and son S/Sgt. Victor (Julieann) Blomberg of Lampasas, TX; five grandchildren (Ashley Tease, Lisa, Brandon, Brian and John Blomberg); three greatgrandchildren (Valerie and Owen Blomberg and Brooklyn Mass) and many other people who he mentored in their journey of faith.

# Spirit Store Remembered

Article published in The Bee March 28, 1996

Author – Edie Erickson Extra photos added from SHSI collection

The last of the William Bradley Farmer Trading Company Stores was demolished in the fall of 1993. The store stood as a landmark at the intersection of Highways 102 and 86 in the Town of Spirit. Highway improvements on 86 required the building to be torn down. The large wooden structure was built around 1900 as one of the six branch stores of the large department store built by Bradley. An identical building was constructed a few miles to the north, at Knox Mills. A branch was also built at Spirit Falls but burned in 1903. Bradley is known as the founder of Tomahawk and Spirit Falls. Soon after they were built, Bradley had telephone lines brought in from Tomahawk to connect the Spirit Falls and Spirit Stores. In 1912-1913 most of the area homes and businesses had their own phones when the Ogema Telephone Company put in lines. Harold Arneson was the first manager of the store. He was transferred from the Spirit Falls location. His daughter, Florence Arneson Thompson was born in the upstairs apartment in 1901. William Bradley, after whom the Bradley Bank in Tomahawk is named, died in 1902. A nephew, Robert Tweedy, was then president of the Bradley Company.





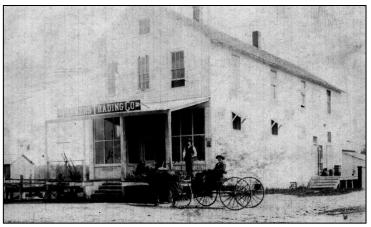
The Spirit Store June 10, 1914

In 1903 a small feed store was built across the street from the store. Carl P. Hanson owned the feed store and soon operated the large Wm. Bradley Farmer Trading Co. Store. Henry Rhody hauled the supplies from the railroad at Spirit Falls to the Spirit Store. Said Spirit resident Harold Rhody, "My Dad worked for the Bradley Company as a young man. He hauled supplies to the stores with horse and wagon. He also worked as a butcher at the Spirit Falls store for a short time."

Fred E. Koch bought the store about 1908, after the Bradley Company began to scale back their operations. He built a hall directly east of the store. Dances and gatherings were held in the large building, known as the Koch's Dance Hall. In the mid 1920's Fred and George Ziegler opened a small store in the former feed building, across the street. George operated a chiropractic office upstairs. The Zieglers took over the large general store in 1927.







Nels P. Michelson, from Irma, bought the store several years later. A feed room was added along the east side of the store. A tin sub floor kept the mice and rats out of the feed. Roy Meier, former dairy farmer and local historian said, "They sold just about everything at the store. It was a real general store. I would bring my eggs to the store to sell. This helped in hard times. I was nicknamed 'Eggie'."

A Delco Power Plant was installed in the mid 30's. Harold Rhody explained, "The Delco Power Plant was a gas generator that charged a big wet cell battery. The batteries were too big to take anywhere to be charged. Just a few people in the area had these to light their homes. I remember that the Meier homestead had one. Some folks had gas lights, though." Price Electric Cooperative brought electricity to the area in 1942.

Don Pierson was born and raised just one-eighth mile from the store. He retired back to the family farmstead in 1992 with his wife Lorraine. Said Pierson, "Lyle Koch was my age and my mother and his mother were good friends, so I spent a lot of time at the store. Everybody liked to congregate on the porch and visit. I remember the chocolate covered lollipops that Ziegler had in the store. I would go to the store with my dad. He had a grocery list from my mother. We went to the store because we needed to pick up the feed. We would run the bill up for about 30 days then my dad and I would pay it off. Ziegler would always give me a lollipop then."

Trucks eventually replaced the horse and wagon for the delivery of supplies. Michelson could order a 2 ½ gallon tub of Gustafson Ice Cream and then deliver it to church picnics and other events with his Ford V8 Panel truck. Grace (Blomberg) Rhody recalled, "When my Pa worked with timber, he boarded in a home during the week. He would pass the store on the way home on Saturday. He would stop and pick up the grocery order my mother



Roy Nelson working for his brother Clarence in the 1940's

called in. He always bought Cracker Jacks for us kids. We lived far from the store, on Hultman Lake. Pa brought home the groceries so Ma wouldn't have to go to the store." When the Blombergs did go into town they would gather on the store's porch. "We weren't busy picking up the groceries, we gave them our order and they gathered the stuff up. It was a place of communication. People could find out what was going on with their neighbors." Said Grace.

The Michelson's daughter, Geraldine, who grew up in the store, and her husband Clarence Nelson, took over operation of the store in 1945. Clarence had returned from the Marines. They owned the store until 1952. At this time Gordon Donaldson and Fred Strombom Sr. and Fred Jr. purchased the building. The three owned a store in Ogema also and the Fergeson Implement business in Ogema. During the 50's and 60's Clarence Nyberg and Marie Lindwall worked for Strombom in the Spirit Store. Donaldson operated the Ogema store. Fred Jr. took ownership of the implement business. "My dad ran the store like it always had been run. I do remember when he added the frozen foods, that was new to the store." Said Fred Jr.

5

Marie remembers, "Fred came in the morning and then worked until noon. I came in at noon and worked until 6 pm. I worked alone. A few times I would be afraid when strangers would come in the store, but not too often. I had to pump the gas for customers, too. We sold almost everything at the store, it was really a general store. By this time most of the customers were helping themselves. Some would order over the phone. Then I would get their groceries ready. Farmers would bring in eggs that we would buy. The milk was delivered. Our milk man was Norman Gunderman from Ogema."



Alton and Elsie Johnson owned the business for a few years, selling in 1973. They sold the store to Forest and Dorothy Hargraves. The Hargraves had moved to Spirit from Rockford, Illinois. For a short time the store was known as The Spirit Trading Post. Forest had health problems and the Hargraves moved back to Rockford. They only owned the store for a year and a half.

Two years after Forest's passing,
Dorothy moved back to the
Spirit area. "The people were so
good to us when we had the
store, such good people here. I
love the area." Related Dorothy.

East side of the Spirit Store after the gas pumps and entry were moved there.

Dick and Linda Zielke bought the Spirit Store in 1974. They were the last family to sell general merchandise and groceries in Spirit. Said Linda, "We sold canned goods, fresh produce and meats and hardware. We had an assortment of boots, veterinary supplies and ammunition also. We still carried dairy feed. We bought boughs from people. We took off the porch and front steps in 1975.

They were too close to Highway 86. We moved the entrance and the gas pumps to the east side of the building." Linda says,

They were too close to Highway 86. We moved the entrance and the gas pumps to the east side of the building." Linda says, "Of course a lot of people were disappointed when the store closed. It was the only one in Spirit then. There used to be three stores in Spirit. Big businesses pushed a lot of little businesses out. It was hard, raising a family and keeping the store opened seven days a week."

The Zielkes sold the store in 1978 to Robert Listle. He remodeled the building into a residential dwelling. Listle lived there until selling the structure to the Department of Transportation. Linda & Dick Zielke Spirit Store owners



THE SPIRIT STORE LIVES ON as it has for the past 80 some years in the Spirit-Brantwood area. New owners and operators of the store are Linda and Dick Zielke shown above at the counter. Dick wasn't sure just how long the store has been there but knew 'it was here when Dad was a Kid.'' He lived and grew up just three-quarters of a mile from the store. He and his wife, Linda, plan to continue the traditional service to the area and to incorporate a more extensive hardware line. Also being planned is putting fresh meats back into the store. Present hours will be: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sunday; 9:00 a.m. Bee Photo

Commented Dorothy, "It was sad when the store was torn down. The store was one of the old places. We would kind of like to keep these around as long as possible. They remind us of how things were in the past. That is progress, I guess. When the store closed, I still wanted to run to the store for a loaf of bread or something, but it wasn't there anymore. It is a shame, that was part of an era that is lost. There are fewer and fewer little country stores around. But it is hard to run a little store when you don't buy in volume. Living in the country with things so spread out you need a country store."

The Spirit Store, although not standing, still stands in the memories of the local people. Whether it was the candy, the new doll or jackknife that came from the store or just the groceries for the week, the memories of the general store and all that went along with it will be slow to fade.









Items from our artifacts of Spirit
Store donated by Dick & Linda Zielke.
Marking Stamps when prices were
marked by hand with stampers and
ink. Big spool of string used to wrap
around box flaps to keep your
groceries from falling out.



# THE SPIRIT TRADING POST GENERAL MERCHANDISE Phone 564-2621 R1, Ogema, Wisconsin 54459 DATE ACCOUNT EORWARDED 1 Product Pro

From Luann (Hoffmann) Lind

These are receipts for our wedding reception at the Spirit Town Hall in 1971. We served punch, 3 kinds of sandwiches and ice cream to 100 guests....for a grand total of \$37.21!

THE SPIRIT TRADING POST
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Phone 564-2621  A Digema, Wisconsin 54459
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2 8 White Pleasing 248
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1 36 plins 4 limb 318
8 ment prised
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11 / 10 1
12
13 6% INTERIST CHARGES AFTER 30 DAYS
YOUR ACCOUNT STATED TO DATE. IF IN ERROR, RETURN AT ONCE.

In August just a short month after we got married, the neighbors gave us a memorable chivaree. As they entered our mobile home, they handed us cookies and ice cream that had been <u>CHARGED TO US</u> at the Spirit Store. We graciously served these goodies to each and every one of them! Great memories of how a local store loved and trusted the people and worked to foster a good neighborhood.



## **Shooting Marbles in Spring**

Written by Luann Lind

Memories from the little country one room school where I attended grade school, namely Liberty School in Spirit.

It was a warm spring day when our senses were heightened by the warm sunshine and the smell of melting snow. Patches of brown earth were starting to show amongst the crystallized snow banks that remained. There was one spot that we gravitated to. That was around the corner from the front entry way, around to the south side of the school building. Here the walls made a jog that offered the perfect corner for the suns rays to beat down and melt the snow sooner than any other area of the playground. There weren't any snowbanks in this area, which also made it easier for the sun to reach down past the white layers to start warming up the brown earth below. Here is where we would congregate, mostly boys. I was there also, probably one of two girls that preferred playing with the boys rather than jumping rope on the blacktop area in front of the school.

At times I had joined the girls at the game of jump rope because I was somewhat athletic and it offered a chance to show off my superior skills to the other girls. But for the most part, I found myself spending recess with the boys. Their idea of fun was much more appealing to me, the 'tomboy'. I don't know where that title came from. To me it was just more fun playing ball in spring, or making snow forts and having snowball fights in the winter, rather than what I observed the girls doing.

I'm not even sure what the girls did for the most part. I only know it seemed boring to me. That was one of the best parts of going to a country one room school. You could be who you wanted without being labeled or scorned. You were allowed to just play. Kids played together  $1^{st} - 6^{th}$  graders. You were like a big family. It was this aspect of acceptance that got me into what I call a bad situation one day.

The snow had melted away in that back corner of the school lot. The ground was thawed out and had dried so it was past the mud stage. The day finally came when the ground was just perfect and we all brought our marbles to school for that interesting skill game of shooting marbles into a pot dug in the dirt. One student, usually one of the bigger boys would choose the perfect spot, then put one foot out in front of the other so that his heel would stick in the ground. Then by pushing his foot down as he went around in circles, it would make the perfect 'marble pot'. The dirt that erupted from the hole would be smoothed out and patted down flat so it wouldn't interfere with the rolling of the marbles.

With the pot ready, everyone would stand back behind an imaginary line a few feet away to start the game. Rules were established before the game started. Some games were just for fun and you got to keep all of your own marbles at the end of the game. Other times it was established that it would be "for keeps." This was a much more serious game because at the end of the game, all the marbles would go to the winner. You were careful when playing "for keeps." You generally played only with those kids that you figured you could beat. And you never chose your favorite marbles just in case your judgement was wrong. Instead, you chose the marbles that were your least favorite colors or one that might have a small chip or defect. Winning a game of "for keeps" didn't usually yield pretty marbles, but if you were the winner it did add to your bragging rights of having more marbles than someone else.

Some of the kids that we considered to be 'rich' had a real marble bag in which to store their marbles. If it was a leather pouch with a drawstring, that person was the envy of the rest of us. Most of us just kept our marbles in our pants pockets however, and dreamed of a day when we'd have a real marble pouch.

### Marbles Continued

On occasion we would get together with another kid and 'trade' marbles. This would involve putting all your marbles out in plain sight and bargaining with the other person for the ones that caught your eye. Sometimes it would be an even swap, one for one. These were generally the common ones traded because you preferred a different color than the one you possessed. If you spotted one that was unique in color, that really grabbed at your heart of possession, you might have to trade 3 or 4 ordinary ones, or maybe even be convinced to give up one of your prettier favorite ones. There was a limit in everyone's collection, however. There were always one or two that were untradable, the ones you never really used but kept in your pocket just to show off or admire by yourself.

So, on any given warm sunny day, you would find several of us gathered around the corner of that school house with the rules intact, ready for the game to begin. One by one we tossed a marble towards the pot hoping to get it really close or even better to roll in on that first throw. One after another we would toss our marbles until the agreed upon amount was out there surrounding the pot awaiting the next step. Then we took turns kneeling down on that fresh dirt with our index finger on our thumb, ready to 'snip' the marble forward, with our chin almost on the ground as we sighted in our shot.

I wish I could remember all the details of the game, but after so many years have gone by, those things seem to disappear from the mind. Eventually all the marbles would end up in the pot. Then if it was "for keeps", the winner would gather up his winnings and add them to his collection. If it was just a game for fun, we would each collect our own marbles. You always knew exactly which ones were yours!

It was just one of these glorious childhood days when I got myself into a heap of trouble. I was in only the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at the time. I had been practicing my shooting skills and had a small collection of marbles to my name. I hadn't played many games of "for keeps" yet. But that day the big kids were playing and I was invited in. How great it felt to be included in a big kid's game. Part of my decision to join in, was made because of what I considered at the time a 'really cute boy' that was 4 years older than I was also playing. He was one of the big kids, and I would do anything just to be included. At that age, a little girl crush will go a long way to get attention from a boy!

So, we played and I lost some marbles. We played again and I lost some more. The thought never crossed my mind to quit. No one wants to be a quitter! So, I carried on until I had lost almost all my marbles. Recess ended with the ringing of the bell and we all went back inside. I, of course, was crying because I had lost almost all of my precious marbles. It was a great loss! My mind spiraled into thinking "I will never have any marbles again for the rest of my life!" It was tragic!

The teacher at the time was a young lady who had a great heart and love for children. She came to my rescue that day. I don't remember how she went about it, but she found out why I was crying and what had happened out around the corner of the building. Somehow in a quiet understanding way, she talked to the big boys and they gave back all of my marbles and I was advised to not play "for keeps" with the big kids any more. I don't know what she said to the boys, but they never made fun of me because of it. There was no name calling or discrimination after that. Things went back to a normal day and I had learned an important lesson in life. I never will forget that teacher for helping a foolish little girl get through a tough situation.

If you can remember the ru

If you can remember the rules for playing marbles, let me know! If you have memories of games you played in the grade school you attended, please pass them on to us for another newsletter.

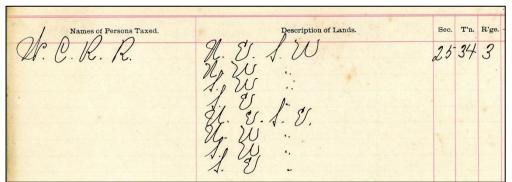
Send them to: spirithistoricalsociety@gmail.com



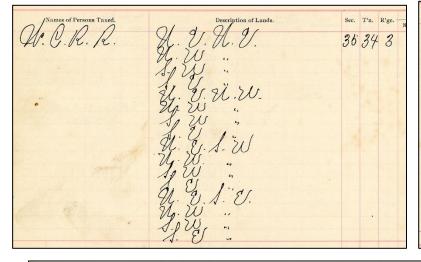
# Interesting Tax Information from 1892 in Brannan

|--|

## Taxes owed by the railroad company listed per 40 acres.



Valuation of Real Property.	Valuation fo Per. Property,	Total Valuation.	Tax on Real and Per. Prop.	Poll Tax.	Total Tax.
7500					5/3
75-					73
45-					75
75					75
75			4.		75
-					



	Valuation of Real Property.	Valuation fo Per. Property,	Total Valuation.	Tax on Real and Per. Prop.	Poll Tax.	Tot
	6000				60	10
	60				60	
	60				60	
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K	60				60	
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Names of Persons Taxed.	Description of Lands.	Sec.	T'n.	R'ge
D.C. K. K.	M. V. S. W.	27	34	3
	J. J. W.			
	Th. V. S. V.			
	Ji W.			

Valuation of Real Property.	Valuation fo Per. Property,	Total Valuation.	Tax on Real and Per, Prop.	Poll Tax.	Total Tax.
of Real Property.					60
60					60
40					40
4,0					40
90					6/1
66					60
2/11					40
10					
			1-14		
			1		
					420

# Books we have for sale written by local authors

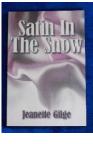
All Things Heal in Time \$5.00 Best of Intentions \$5.00	  		Books by Carl "Saga of Spirit Va The Saga of Spirit V Set of 5 Saga book	alley Series" /alley \$7.50 /alley II \$7.50 /alley III \$7.50 /alley IV \$7.50 /alley V \$7.50	)	
City-Kid Farmer \$5.00			German Settleme Written by	•	mphlet \$2.00	0
Books by James Rhody Brant's Bear \$10.00 The Pleasure of the Sorrow \$5.0	00		_ _			
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Please make checks payable to SH	HSI and mail	to:	Spirit Historical Soci P.O. Box 621 Ogema, WI 54459	iety, Inc.		





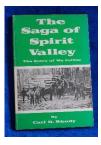
























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Ogema, WI 54459
ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TOMAHAWK WI
PERMIT NO. 3