

# Mineral Point HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dedicated to Preserving the Unique History of Mineral Point

## Top-Notch Lyceum Lineup for 2009

**T**he MPHS lyceum series this winter looks at three disparate subjects: Nick Engelbert's art, digitally transformed images from old Mineral Point slides, and a panel discussion about women and the farming life.

The January program (see story on page 5) combined with our Annual Meeting. President Jim Stroschein reviewed the society's 2008 activities, and called attention to a handout that listed the society's impressive educational programming and community outreach over the years. Lucille May and Matt Ostergrant were re-elected to new, successive terms on the board of directors.

Our February 15 program will be a intriguing look into our local past. "Zooming into Old Mineral Point Photos," will be presented on a large screen at the Opera House at 1 p.m. (note change of usual time and venue). Nancy Pfothenauer, who has spent many hours sorting and archiving the Society's photo and glass plate negative collections, will show a selection of those images, which now exist as high-resolution scans. When combined with a digital projector, the results are truly amazing, for it is now possible to zoom

in to chosen parts of the images—thus revealing details, for example, in store windows, on street signs, in the fashions of the day—previously denied to the eye. As Nancy says, it's the next best thing to a "wayback machine." Even if you have spent time with the old photos in the past, the images that you can now see, thanks to state-of-the-art technologies, are truly very different views.

On March 15, our lyceum will return to the Alliant Energy facility, 490 Shake Rag Street, at 2 p.m. "Our Lives on the Farm," a program about area farming and women, continues the popular "Mineral Pointers Remember" series. Featured panelists will be Joyce Buckingham, Mary Jean James, and Mary Jane Rideout. A spirited question-and-answer session is expected to follow the presentation. This lyceum is inspired by the great interest generated in the role of women in Wisconsin agriculture, a focus of our recent Farm Life exhibition.

*Below: Members and friends of MPHS enjoyed conversation and tasty refreshments following the January 25 lyceum and Annual Meeting. Approximately 80 people turned out for the event.*



Photo credit: Frank Beaman

# Badgers to the Gold Rush

By Katie Willmarth Green

Recently my hometown newspaper in northern California, *The Mountain Messenger*, carried obits of two Wisconsin-born residents in its “100 Years Ago” column—for one Barney Gilligan (hometown unknown) and the other for Mrs. Milwaukee Harriet [Smith] Hockelberg, said to have been the first white child born in Milwaukee, on October 11, 1835. These two may well have been part of the great rush to California gold.

It will not surprise anyone who is familiar with the history of Iowa County to hear that beginning in 1849, hundreds of otherwise sane citizens abandoned businesses, farms, and badger holes here to gallop off out yonder, pinning their hopes for wealth on gold prospecting.

When gold was discovered in California, a ripple effect was felt around the world. Westward expansion was nothing new. The need for new land to till and for empty space for the next generation of people, for places in which unpopular religious and political ideas could exist unmolested, the desire to escape wars and economic depressions—ideas and pressures such as these have kept humans on the move since the dawn of the ages. In recent centuries, the seekers frequently headed west.

However, the pace of movement and change caused by “The Excitement” of 1848 was radically different. The pattern of slow, incremental filling in of unpopulated territory just next to what had been previously settled was scuttled in favor of a pell-mell dash as far west as one could go without falling into the Pacific Ocean. The immigrants to the Gold Rush leapfrogged over vast areas of unoccupied land, leaving only their dead and the litter of abandoned possessions between St. Joseph, Missouri, and the Sierra Nevada. And the gold-seekers didn’t just come from the next county, or state, or a few leagues away. As the saying was, the world rushed in. From China, Chile, and Peru, continental Europe, the British Isles they came, mostly men and mostly young.



## My Own Story

The Gold Rush intrigues me because I grew up on a California mining claim in the heart of what was called the Northern Mines—that area drained by rivers north of San Francisco Bay. Wisconsin history interests me because I am now a resident of the driftless region, which contributed many experienced miners and mining techniques, from the very beginning of the Rush. Even before moving back to the state in 2005, I was aware of the ties between the mining communities of the Middle West (notably the Iron Range of Michigan and the lead mining districts of Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin) and Sierra County, California, my childhood stomping grounds. The map within spitting distance of my home was dotted with place-names such as Iowa Hill, Illinoistown, Wisconsin Flat, Minnesota, Michigan Flat, and Missouri Bar. Nearly all of these settlements are only a faint memory these days, ghostly ruins of once-roaring camps, now left to the chipmunks, rattlesnakes, and rustling pines. When the boom went bust, ‘most everybody who was able-bodied returned home.

If the naive emigrants had really grasped what suffering and privation awaited them in travelling across two mountain ranges and a desert to reach California, as the eminent historian George R. Stewart commented, the frontier might still be stalled at the Appalachians. Boosters — mountainmen guides like Caleb Greenwood and Solomon and “Rocky Mountain Bill” Sublette, as well as land speculators, and unscrupulous businessmen — told outright lies or sly half-truths in luring unprepared settlers to the West, even before the events of 1848 speeded up the process. The distinction between travel before and after the Gold Rush is that before 1848 most of the settlers (in family parties) headed for Oregon.

## Family Connections

I haven’t enough fingers and toes to list everyone I’ve met whose ancestry includes a person who went to the California goldfields from Iowa County. Lone Rock resident John McKenna’s great-great uncle, John Falls O’Neil, was remarkable by any standard. Coming from the Irish landed gentry, he reputedly built the first frame and stone store on Commerce Street in Mineral Point—the “Old Stand” — and designed the Helena shot tower at Spring Green, before going to California via the Isthmus of Panama in 1850 with his eldest son. After two years digging in the mines, O’Neil returned home overland to fetch his family. In the spring of 1852 he set out with the rest of his clan, including his mother, who had come

*continued on page 4...*

# Why Mineral Point Didn't Dry Up and Blow Away in 1849-52

By Loren Farrey

I had always been under the impression that, with a great proportion of the miners of the Upper Mississippi Valley Lead Region leaving for California in the 1849-1852 time period, the commerce and business activity of the region was seriously hampered. The *1881 History of Iowa County*, seems to support that notion (pp.676-679):

*"The army of enterprising native American prospectors whose shrewdness and energy founded the cities of Mineral Point and Dodgeville abandoned their remunerative claims. Animated by that restless spirit of adventure that first drew them to the Mississippi lead field fields, they, with little reluctance, 'pulled stakes,' and shifted the scene of their operations from Wisconsin to California.*

*"A hegira of unparalleled proportions set in, and all business was paralyzed. Every branch of trade was prostrated, and the mechanic and merchant, the miner and smelter, suffered alike the general ruin. Merchants, upon awakening from the hallucination, found themselves surrounded by heavy stocks of merchandise, with vacant stores filled with the stillness of the grave.*

*"To avert financial disaster and total ruin, stocks were literally thrown on the market and sacrificed for they would bring in ready cash. In this dilemma, stores were closed, and the capitalists joined the eager throng pressing on toward the Pacific coast."*

Thus, it appeared that all commerce in Mineral Point and Dodgeville was at an end to which it would never recover.

The *1881 History* continues its story of the miners' migration:

*"In 1850, the exodus evinced no signs of abatement, as, in point of fact, more emigrants took their departure this year than in the preceding season of 1849. In the height of the ebb, sixty teams and two hundred persons left Mineral Point in one day. When it is considered that each person or head of family took with him sums of money ranging from \$200 to \$500, an idea may be gained of the impoverished condition of a territory deprived of two thousand lusty laborers and a proportionate amount of wealth."*

A listing of some of the miners and their families who left for California from Mineral Point and Dodgeville ends with the notation: "Up to 1852, 700 had left." This represented a significant percentage of the population; the 1850 census of Iowa County recorded 9,552 persons.

## Ah, But Wait...

As bleak an outlook as that would seem, the same authority (p. 683) notes: "A canvas of business interests of Mineral Point, made in May, 1851, revealed... business activity had not been greatly retarded by the California fever, but very little building was going on. This was probably, partially, because those miners who had left families here were already sending back large sums of money for their support, which, as a matter of course, was spent at the counters of the merchants.

*"There were then ten dry goods stores, selling, on an average, \$13,000 [\$317,000 in today's money] worth of merchandise each month; four groceries, disposing of \$3,500 [\$8,500] per month of common edibles, and two drug stores that were selling about \$800 [\$19,000] worth of materials. The postage on letters received per quarter amounted to \$481.81 [\$11,700]; the postage on outgoing letters, during the same time, was \$454.81 [\$11,000]."*

continued on page 4...



So the question arises, "Why didn't the California Gold Rush do more economic damage to the lead region? In addition to the previously mentioned flow of gains eastward from the California gold miners to their families back here, I can think of several conditions that were present to help the local economy.

First, our region had a dual economy; mining was the chief money producer, but there was an ever-increasing agricultural basis, which probably offered a sustaining influence. Many of the miners were farmers and conversely, many of the farmers were part-time miners. To own one's own land, even if it were just a half-acre patch, was the goal of most English, Irish, and German settlers of that period.

By 1848, many miners had families and homes in the area and friends and relatives nearby. Thus, a number of miners left for the Gold Fields with the idea of returning when they had "struck it rich." And, a number did return—some with gold, some without. Therefore, the movement was a fairly short-lived phenomenon.

Next, lead deposits were still rather easily found here, even though the peak of lead production was in 1845. Mining continued; ore prices were good and the market, plentiful. During this time period, many folks wrote to relatives and friends back in Europe about the opportunities here in both the mines and on the farms, and encouraged them to emigrate. The period from roughly 1850 to 1854 was one of great immigration from the lead and coal mining areas of northern England, namely Yorkshire, Durham, and Westmoreland, to this lead region—particularly Lafayette County.

Lastly, the area had not been hindered by scandals involving paper money, as the lead region backed the strong "Jackson Hard Money Philosophy." Most business was done with specie (hard money) rather than "shinplasters." Thus, the economy here was based on a rather solid monetary foundation.

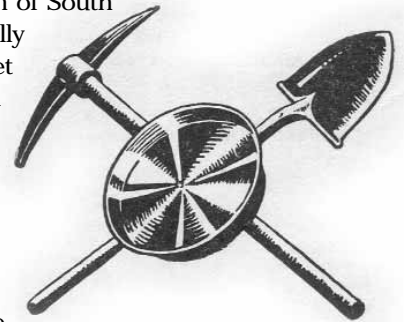
The rush to California gold did cause a marked economic downturn in the Mineral Point area, but the area pulled out and built up.

(Mineral Pointer Loren Farrey is the author of *A Tour Guide to the Mines of Lafayette County, Wisconsin: A Driving Tour of the Old Lead and Zinc Mining Sites in the Benton, New Diggings, Leadmine, and Shullsburg Area*. Park Printing, 2001, 60 pages, \$16.95.) ●

from Ireland to reside with him. She died almost immediately and received a mournful burial along the trail. O'Neil's intrepid wife, Mary Ann Sublette, who was only 15 when they married, was a cousin of the famous fur trapper/mountainmen Sublettes. They gave her a pony to ride across the plains to her new home in a green mountain valley in Plumas County. John and Mary Ann O'Neil were somewhat unusual in that they lived out their lives in the Golden State.

Cornish miners, directly from Cornwall or by way of American stopovers like our driftless zone, brought innovative technology (primarily stampmills), handsome stone masonry, and pasties to California. There are Cornish festivals even today in the old mining districts and evidence such as Euren Road to mark their presence.

Among the many local Cornish who went off to the goldfields were ancestors of several Dodgeville friends. Ralph and Sally Martin each have kinfolk who hurried west. Ralph's great-grandfather, Philip, went twice. The first time he braved sailing around the Horn of South America and mined in California successfully enough to bring home a large gold nugget and a paisley shawl as souvenirs. With high hopes he went back a second time, this time overland, but returned broke. That was the more usual outcome. According to family lore, Sally Martin's great-grandfather left his pregnant wife on a farm in Lower Wyoming Valley with a passel of small children and essentially no money. When he dragged his heels about returning home, she drowned herself in a pond in a fit of despair. Abandoned wives and families were a sad but familiar theme during the Rush.



Dodgeville neighbor Jayne Evans Harrison's late husband, Donald, lost his paternal great-grandfather to the dangerous overland trail. He was part of a group that left Mineral Point for the Rush and was never heard from again. The family assumed that they were wiped out by Indians. Disease could have been the culprit, however. Cholera and typhoid from polluted water and food sickened and killed many who travelled the Emigrant Trail. Sometimes whole families succumbed and wagon trains were decimated.

Occasionally, Wisconsinites returned from the West with a pot of gold to grubstake their ambitions. Lucius Fairchild (later Governor) was such a one. His success only encouraged others to undertake the risky adventure—which for most was a bust, but an unforgettable, exotic experience, nonetheless.

As the returnees liked to boast, "At least we saw the elephant!" ●



Carl Loeffler/Buttes Saddle Mine Crew, Leslie D. Morrison Coll.



## Gas Station Glory

**J**im Draeger (left) and Mark Speltz (right) enjoyed a lecture and book-signing event for their new publication, *Fill'er Up: The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations*, at Pendarvis on October 12. The book visits sixty gas stations that are still standing and chronicles the history of these humble yet ubiquitous buildings. *Fill'er Up* provides a glimpse into the glory days of gas stations, when full service and free oil changes were the rule and the local station was a gathering place for neighbors. It tells the larger story of the gas station's place in automobile culture and its evolution in tandem with American history, as well as the stories of individuals influenced by the gas stations in their lives.

More importantly, the book links the past and the present, showing why gas stations should be preserved and envisioning what place these historic structures can have in the twenty-first century and beyond.

(The Wisconsin Historical Society Press, hardcover, 220 pages, \$29.95.) ●

# New Book about a Plucky Gold Rush Girl

The following review is by Anne D. Bachner, retired middle and high school English teacher, and author of *Prairie Legacy*, *The Thomas Family*, *Their Farm and Stone Barn*.

**I**t's a clever writer today who can engage both preteen and adult readers. Katie Green spent her childhood in Sierra County. She effectively wove the story of Deborah Whitney's ongoing adventures with an aggravating schoolmate named Selena Kelly into the rough and tumble background of early California mining communities.

Prejudice and violence involving Chinese, Negroes, Mexicans, Italians, and virtually anyone who didn't fit into the rough-and-ready citizenry and who wasn't strong enough to defend him- or herself were rampant in this time of few women (as a civilizing force) and laid-back laws and legal system. Debbie Whitney, who is fleshed out as a delightful tomboy by the author, enjoys the full attention of her parents.

Debbie is drawn naturally to her adventurous father who, though settled down in the lumber business, still enjoys gold mining and a drink or two with his friends at the local tavern. His stories about the early days of the Gold Rush provide a historical backdrop for Debbie's life. However, it is Debbie's frail but determined mother who effects a change in the family's life that opens the girl's eyes to the truth about people prejudice. It's a book for the whole family to enjoy.

(Deborah Whitney of Shady Flat, *A Dauntless Girl of the Golden West*, Pineneedle Press, 2008, 244 pages, \$20. Available at Foundry Books and other fine booksellers.) ●

Above: Katie with her new book and furry companion, Margay



## Engelbert Program Opens Season

**"T**he Art of Nick Engelbert," an informative and beautiful slide presentation about the life and work of the dairy farmer/self-taught artist who created Grandview in rural Hollandale, opened our 2009 lyceum series on January 25. Alex Marr and Lisa Stone, each an expert in aspects of Engelbert's art, presented a compelling program and led an enjoyable discussion.

During the 1930s and 1940s, Grandview took shape as Engelbert filled the yard at his farm with a complex, imaginative collection of his own sculptures made of concrete imbedded with china, glass, shells, and other bits. Lisa Stone served as curator of interpretation at the restoration of Grandview, which was completed in 1997. Stone discussed Grandview's relationship to the Midwest devotional grotto tradition and the artist's "keen sensibility for time and place, within the context of his home."

Alex Marr says that Engelbert's landscape paintings are equally significant. When the aging artist was no longer able to create sculptures, he turned to painting and produced at least 74 oils. According to Marr, "Engelbert's paintings resonate with their historical visual culture. His reputation as a Wisconsin original has been firmly established."

Lisa Stone is curator of the Roger Brown Study Collection of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and co-author (with Jim Zanzi) of *Sacred Spaces and Other Places, A Guide to the Grottos and Sculptural Environments of the Upper Midwest* (SAIC Press, 1993). Marr's honors thesis, *Picturing Americanness, A View of Nick Engelbert's Hollandale Landscapes*, was written for Beloit College in 2008. Marr served two internships with Stone's office and is now with the curatorial department at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. ●

Photo at right: "The Family Tree" at Grandview.



# Continuing Our Farm Life Focus

By Mark Speltz

When you add the attendance figures (about 750) to the number of folks who were involved in the creation, underwriting, or staffing of the MPHS Farm Life exhibit, you find that altogether, nearly a thousand people combined to make the initiative a success. Considering our population numbers, you realize the significance of this event in the life of our community—and recognize that our attention to farms and farm families deserves continuing attention.

A recent front page article in the *Wisconsin State Journal* reinforced the importance of our focus on area agriculture last summer. It announced that a conservation easement was signed between the Mississippi Valley Conservancy and Ben Logan to protect his childhood farm. The southwest Wisconsin farm, known as Seldom Seen Farm, was the setting of Logan's memorable book, *The Land Remembers*.

One of the book's central themes, the closeness of people to the land, is well understood by many area families with longstanding ties to the land. In fact, several of the poignant stories included in the Farm Life exhibit suggested meaningful attachments not unlike Logan's. We learned this past summer that local families, and visitors alike, are interested in Mineral Point's agricultural heritage. Thankfully, all of the stories included in the exhibit have been recorded as part of our local history.

The Historical Society is determined to build upon the exhibit and continue to research, record, and promote this facet of our history. We cannot do it alone, however. We invite your help. In 2009 we hope to continue collecting stories and histories, recording oral histories, encouraging individual writing projects, and hosting speaking engagements.

We hope you will contact Lucille May or myself for support as you begin to document your family's farm history. We know that your family, and future generations, will be grateful you chose to share your stories and history. ●

# Gundry House Graffiti

Until recently, only a handful of Mineral Pointers knew that the artist who decorated the original Gundry house parlor walls left his name on his work. Jim Stroschein used to hold a stepladder so that visiting students could climb up and look at the hidden signature over the parlor door. "They all thought it was 'cool!'" he says with a chuckle. Now, the signature is easy to see from the floor below because Jim installed a double-mirror arrangement at the top of the door. "It took a lot of experimentation to get the angle of the mirrors just right," he said. "I had them custom-cut to size. They are mounted to allow easy removal, in case someone wants to take a photo of that corner of the room without the mirrors."

According to Stroschein, William J. Richards did a lot of decorative painting for the Gundrys. In graffiti on the library wall, he is listed as having painted "birds-eye maple" graining on the walls of the library in 1869. Unfortunately, no trace of that graining survives. The artist's invoices to the Gundrys are in the Mineral Point Room. An invoice for his work on the parlor is dated May 1869 and totals \$56.95. It seems that he either billed ahead for his work or came back to sign it a year later.

"His painting is important surviving artwork from Mineral Point's post-Civil War period and stands in contrast to the plain plaster walls of the miners' cottages along Shake Rag," Jim remarked. Little more is known about William J. Richards beyond his artistic contribution to the Gundry home. It does not appear that he worked in other Mineral Point homes; it does seem that Joseph Gundry must have brought him here from Cornwall to do the work at Orchard Lawn, and that he probably then returned to England. MP Library Archivist Mary Alice Moore cannot find a local or area obituary record for William J. Richards in this period.

Richards' work was covered by wallpaper in the mid-1880s. In 1942, three years after the MPHS took ownership of the house, a Gundry descendant visited and said that she remembered the painted treatment. An investigation followed. *The Democrat Tribune* reported, "A rare piece of workmanship has been uncovered on the walls of the front parlor. In fear and trembling the workers removed the heavy English-made paper which covered the walls and there in all its beauty on the smooth surface of the plaster were found the frescoes [sic] of green and gold paneling placed there by a Cornish artist..."

In the early 1970s, Mineral Point artist Ted Landon returned the parlor walls to their original elegance. After updating and repairing the wall surfaces, he says, he used about 20 paint colors (Sherwin-Williams latex!) to restore the egg-and-dart motif that extends around the room near the ceiling moldings, and the graceful panel treatment on the walls. Edward Bartz assisted Ted and it took them a couple of weeks to complete the job. Landon said that there is decorative painting under the wallpaper in the entrance hall and up the stairwell, too, but it is not as elegant as the work in the parlor. Ted says it "was a special guy who did the painting," and that he probably worked alone. He finds it interesting that Richards used the same tintings that are used to prepare today's paints: i.e., chrome oxide green, ultramarine blue, some rust colors. ●



Landon added his own signature, Bartz's name, and the date to Richards' message; however, he did his signing in reverse. According to Landon, there's another signature on that woodwork: that of Elizabeth Laverty, affixed in about 1923, after she had cleaned and washed the walls and woodwork of the room. Laverty was in service to the Gundry family for many years. (The writer has been unable to discern her signature.)



# Notes from the President

By Jim Stroschein, President, Mineral Point Historical Society

## Lincoln, Stories, and the Job of the Mineral Point Historical Society

Buried in snow, in a tiny country churchyard south of Mineral Point, is a tangible reminder of the sixteenth president's greatest accomplishment. James D. Williams' tombstone reads, "Born A slave in Virginia. made free by President Lincoln's Proclamation."

With only eleven words, Mr. Williams tells a story that reaches out and takes our breath away.

Last year in Washington, D.C., Lincoln's Cottage, a retreat for the Lincolns during their White House years, was opened as a National Trust for Historic Preservation site. The interpretation of the building was enriched by the recent discovery of a cache of 150 personal letters written by Willard Cutter, one of the guards assigned to protect the president while he was on-site. The Cutter family kept these letters in a box that was passed down from one generation to the next. Eventually the letters were donated to a small local college. There have been more than 16,000 books written about Lincoln, but, until recently, these letters went unnoticed by all of those Lincoln researchers. Mr. Cutter's letters contain personal accounts of the president's time at the cottage as well as at the White House. Now the walls of those buildings come alive to visitors in part because the Cutter family shared their stories.

At our February lyceum at the Opera House, we will be hosting a community slide show, featuring dozens of Mineral Point photographs from our nineteenth century glass plate negative collection that have been scanned and digitized. Each image will be projected onto a large screen and Nancy Pfothenauer will lead the discussion as the projector zooms in on individual details of the photos. I've seen this presentation. As each new image hits the screen, the audience has an immediate reaction to, for example, the storefront building or the people in the picture. Then we zoom in to the store window that, a moment ago, was nothing more than a dark rectangle and suddenly you can see the price of oysters that day, a poster for a circus that's coming to town, and a little girl in the corner holding her puppy. A picture is worth a thousand words but a picture that you can enlarge and zoom in on is worth more. While our program includes no photos of Lincoln, and the people in the photos can't speak, their stories are there for us if we take the time to look for them.

Without stories, Mineral Point's famous architecture is little more than a collection of old buildings. Our job as a historical society is to collect and tell the stories of this city, its farms, and its people. If you know the stories, you can walk down High Street and gaze up at the room where Ulysses S. Grant stayed, or point to the store that was hastily shuttered in 1849 because the owner sold everything and headed west for California Gold, or admire the house and barn where Alfalfa Graber grew up to revolutionize the livestock industry.

**We can't do our job without you. As a volunteer organization that is entirely dependent upon the generosity of our members and supporters, we are facing the most challenging fiscal year in this organization's recent past. If you believe that Mineral Point's stories are worth hanging on to, please consider using the adjacent membership form to make a financial gift to the organization. I promise we'll put it to good use. ●**

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NEWSLETTER DESIGN: *Kristin Mitchell Design*

Design and printing of the MPHS newsletter is funded in part by a grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation.  
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## Mineral Point Historical Society Membership Form

January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009

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

### Please check one:

- Individual (\$15.00)
- Family (\$25.00)
- Business (\$50.00)

Additional Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



Thank you again for your support!

**Please remember to mail your membership dues.**



*He must have been proud of his work. And justifiably so, for the Cornish artist William J. Richards had just completed a lovely trompe l'oeil treatment, in greens and grays and golds, on the walls of the parlor of Joseph Gundry's brand-new mansion. So, the artist signed his name on the woodwork, facing up, over the room's entrance to the front hall. He probably never thought it would be noticed.*

*Mineral Point*  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Dedicated to Preserving the Unique History of Mineral Point

P.O. Box 188 • 234 Madison Street  
Mineral Point, WI 53565  
**608.987.2884**

**The 2008 MPHS Lyceum  
Season continues:**

**Sunday, February 15**

1 p.m. (note time change)

"Zooming into Old  
Mineral Point Photos"

MP Opera House, High Street

*Look closely at surprise details in antique  
photos through the miraculous lens of  
modern digital technology!*

**Sunday, March 15**

2 p.m. • "Our Lives on the Farm"  
Alliant Energy Conference Room  
490 Shake Rag Street

*Joyce Buckingham, Mary Jean James, and  
Mary Jane Rideout talk about Wisconsin  
farming life from the woman's perspective.*

**[www.mineralpointhistory.org](http://www.mineralpointhistory.org)**

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