

Now & Then in Ripon ... Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society

Celebrating women who have contributed to Ripon


In 1987, a Women's History Project requested the entire month of March be declared "Women's History Month" and since 1995 U.S. Presidents have issued proclamations designating this as the month to celebrate the contributions that women have made, and to recognize their achievements over the course of past and current American history, in a variety of fields.

The Ripon Public Library is hosting an event in March called "100 Extraordinary Women of Ripon" to help raise funds for the library's expansion and renovations.

In honor of this event, the Ripon Historical Society looks back a few of the important women who have contributed to the history of Ripon.

This will be the first of three articles this month dedicated to Women's History Month.

Elda Emma Anderson



Elda Emma Anderson

Elda Emma Anderson (1899-1961) was born in Green Lake and earned her bachelor of arts degree in physics and mathematics from Ripon College in 1922. She then obtained a master's degree in physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1924.

Anderson became an American physicist and health researcher. During World War II, Anderson worked on the Manhattan Project at Princeton University and the Los Alamos National Laboratory. She was the first person to create a pure sample of Uranium-235. Without it, the atomic bomb would not have been created.

After returning from the Man-

hattan Project, Anderson spoke out about the dangers of nuclear arms and educated people about the devastating effect of radiation on human health.

Phoebe Bloom Buchholz

Phoebe Bloom Buchholz (1873-1969) learned how to operate a telegraph machine when she worked summers at Oakwood, a popular resort on Green Lake. After her husband died in 1910, she had to support herself and her three children.

When Western Union came to Ripon, she became a telegraph operator six days a week in addition to being on-call Sundays. Buchholz held this position until 1945, handling most of the telegraphs that came to Ripon and worked through two world wars.

Buchholz always personally delivered death notices. If only one person was at home when a death notice was delivered, she stayed until someone else came.

Her highest pay was \$92 a month (about \$1,441 today) and to supplement her income she accepted orders for angel food cakes, which she baked on Sundays.

Eunice Snyder Lockwood Davidson



Eunice Snyder Lockwood Davidson

Eunice Snyder Lockwood Davidson (1840-1905) moved to Ripon in 1858 with her husband, William. As a married couple, they ran Lockwood's Temple of Photography Art located on the second floor at 123 Watson St.

She divorced Lockwood in January of 1883 after 26 years of marriage. After their divorce,

Davidson opened a rival photography studio just one block away.

As a single woman, she then adopted two local children.

She later married Joseph Davison in 1889, but still kept her photography studio in Ripon and ran another in Milwaukee.

She is buried in Pickett under her maiden name Eunice Narcena Snyder.

Eve Chapman Faustman



Eve Chapman Faustman

Eve Chapman Faustman (1893-1970) was one of the most prominent artists of Ripon during the middle of the 20th century.

She graduated from Ripon High School and Ripon College and then attended the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee.

She is known for her watercolor paintings of Ripon's churches, buildings and landmarks. Perhaps her best known and remembered art work is the 11 Heritage Prints produced by the Ripon Community Art Center produced between 1956 and 1966.

Grace Cate Foat



Grace Cate Foat

Grace Cate Foat (1872-1968) was the first woman in Ripon to drive a car. In 1922, she also was the first women to run for Ripon City Council. Foat's daughter noted that her mother stood only 4 feet, 11 inches, but was tall to those who knew her.

Audrey Reichert Lyke



Audrey Reichert Lyke

Audrey Reichert Lyke (1930-2017) came to Ripon in 1962 with her husband, Doug, and family to own and operate the Ripon Commonwealth Press.

They also founded Ripon Printers. This company grew from a workforce of 12 and \$250,000 in sales to more than 300 employees and \$40 million in sales.

Lyke was a founding member of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation. In 1975, Lyke served as the first female director of a Ripon bank and continued in this capacity with various banks until 2007.

Lyke served on the Ripon College board of trustees. She founded Ripon's Dickens of a Christmas celebration in 1992.

In 1995, she co-chaired the successful Ripon Medical Center (RMC) expansion and served on the RMC board. She was well known in the community for her philanthropy.

Elizabeth Barlow Murray

Elizabeth Barlow Murray (1882-1964) was the daughter of Joseph B. Barlow Jr., who was the founder of the current day Alliance Laundry Systems.

She grew up in Ripon and graduated from Ripon College in 1908. In 1962, Murray donated 40 acres of land to the city for use as a park and the current day Murray Park is named after her.

She established the Elizabeth Murray Foundation and was known for her generosity to the community of Ripon.

Harriet Love Watson Horner

Ripon's Watson Street was named after Harriet Love Watson Horner (1805-1883), whose maiden name was Watson.

Horner was the wife of John Scott Horner (1802-1883), who from 1835-1836 was the secretary and acting governor of the Michigan Territory of which Wisconsin was part of.

He also was secretary of Wisconsin Territory from 1836-1837 and then was Register of the Green Bay Land Office.

Horner's obituary reads: "Mrs. Horner came to Wisconsin before the Indians went out, and wrote and recorded the first territorial enactment, at Belmont, in 1835. Verily, she has seen 'the mountain fall into the sea' and 'the desert blossom as the rose.'"

Mildred Martha Leech Watson

Mildred Martha Leech Watson (1895-1974) came to Ripon in 1938. In 1945, Watson established "The March of the Madonna's" — a local Christmas program that was featured in a four-page spread in the December 1953 *Family Circle* magazine.

She spearheaded the 1954 Heritage Days in Ripon and from that founded the Ripon Community Art Center.

Watson was instrumental in persuading George Miller, a Ripon College history professor, to edit for publication Sam Pedrick's historical newspaper articles and memories into a book titled, "A History of Ripon, Wisconsin," which was published in 1964.

Watson was community oriented and as a dedicated and organized person did much for the city of Ripon.

The Ripon Historical Society is the oldest continually operating historical society in Wisconsin. It is open Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information follow us at Facebook/riponhistory or www.riponhistory.org

Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from the March 1st issue of The Commonwealth Express

PEALS	SKI	HAT	MEAL	TON
SARAH	PISANO	ANTELOPE		
IRINAROD	NINA	ICEMAKER		
KWAN	TRUTV	AAMILNE		
CATALYST	MUHAMMADALI			
ORO	OOOLA	RSVP	SYD	
CATHY	FREEMAN	AESOP		
ATSEA	NSEC	MIDORI	ITO	
COSTAS	ARAL	JIGGER		
BLAH	TRI	APER	FOE	ONO
LITTHE	OLYMPIC	CAULDRON		
IMO	OFT	EYED	ORR	ASNO
PINATA	BALL	STONER		
STEVEN	NASH	LATE	TIARA	
ALIBI	RAFER	JOHNSON		
ICI	EDDA	TRIOS	TIN	
NANCY	GREENE	ESCAROLE		
SUCCEED	CARLO	HALE		
ISOLATED	WAYNE	GRETZKY		
DEMISTER	ASIANA	CREAM		
ESE	TONY	YENNED	SONIA	

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