

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

## Old bottle found at Ripon Boys & Girls Club site

The Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area is building a new facility at the corners of East Blossom and Blackburn streets in Ripon.

Recently, the construction company, CD Smith, found a small, intact bottle on the property. The 4-inch-long by 1 1/2-half inch-wide bottle reads: "Wright & Brayton Druggist & Stationers, Ripon, Wisconsin."

The *Ripon Free Press* featured advertisements from Wright & Brayton from December of 1891 until 1898, so the company was only in business approximately seven years. The owners were John Wright (1868-1937) and James Brayton (1863-1941). Besides selling drugs and stationery, the company also sold sporting goods.

Brayton started in the pharmacy business with James M. Defrees (1807-1883). Defrees was in the pharmacy business for more than 20 years in Ripon and had various partners. Brayton eventually took over his business.

Ripon historian Sam Pedrick (1868-1963) wrote about Brayton, stating that "He eventually failed in business and left Ripon for the west." He is



**THIS SMALL, 4-INCH-long** bottle was recently found at the site of the new Boys & Girls Club in Ripon. Wright & Brayton Druggist & Stationers was only in business from 1891 until 1898. A house once located on the land was occupied at that time by Charles P. Haseltine and Ella Gooding Haseltine along with some of their children.

*submitted photo*

buried in Washington.

Wright attended Ripon College and Oberlin College.

According to Pedrick, Wright "Engaged in the drug business till 1895, when he became an officer of the Ripon Knitting Works." Wright also became a director at Ripon's 1st National Bank and a trustee of Ripon College.

The location of the new Boys & Girls Club was once owned by the Wisconsin Phalanx, whose members came to the area in 1844 and founded the community of Ceresco. This eventually became a part of Ripon.

In the 1850s, the lot encompassed the block boarded by East Blossom Street on

the north, Houston Street on the east, Seward Street on the south and Blackburn Street on the west. It was sold twice in 1850 and then again in 1857 to George N. Lyman (1817-1898), who built a brick Italianate house on the northern half of the block.

When Lyman left Ripon in 1872, the house changed hands several times. It then was sold to Helen L. Lightburn (unknown-1917).

The 1874 Fond du Lac County Atlas features a sketch of the home, stating it was the residence of C.L. Lightburn Helen's husband, Calvin Luther Lightburn (1842-1920). The Lymans only occupied the house for about two years.

After this time, the house stood empty and once again changed hands many times.

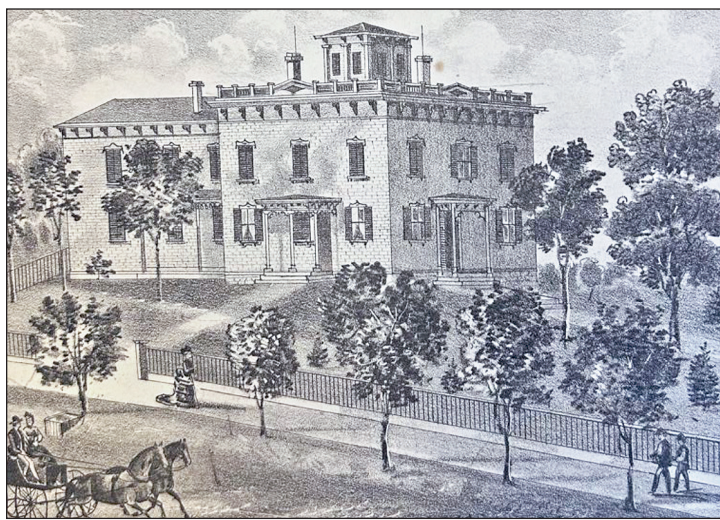
In 1890, Charles P. Haseltine (1836-1921) and Ella Gooding Haseltine (1847-1935) purchased the house. The Ripon Historical Society conjectures that the bottle was used by someone within the Haseltine household.

The Haseltines married in 1871. Their children included Anne Haseltine Wright (1872-1951), William (1874-1963), Emma Haseltine Vincent (1879-1972), Adelaide Haseltine Carter (1881-1914) and Mabel Haseltine Vincent (1885-1967). The 1905 census shows four of the Haseltine children still living in the



**RIPON HISTORICAL SOCIETY** volunteer Pat Grahn, left, accepts the donation of a bottle from Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area Director of Development Ashley Bartol. The bottle, which dates from between 1891 and 1898, was found on site of the new Ripon Boys & Girls Club.

*submitted photo*



**THIS IS A** sketch of the house that was occupied by the Charles P. Haseltine and Ella Gooding Haseltine family from 1890-1935. The sketch is found in the 1874 Fond du Lac County Atlas.

*submitted photo*



**Charles P. Haseltine**



**Ella Gooding Haseltine**

family home even though they were adults at that time.

Charles Haseltine was a civil engineer and assisted in the construction of the Illinois-Michigan Canal. He served in the Civil War and was in the lumber industry in both Illinois and Wisconsin. Charles Haseltine came to Ripon in 1890 and owned the Oakwood Hotel in Green Lake. He sold the hotel in 1904 and retired at age 68.

The Ripon Historical Society noted that it is amazing that a bottle from a store only in

business for such a short time survived for more than 140 years in the dirt around an old home site. The bottle has been donated by the Boys & Girls Club of the Tri-County Area to the Ripon Historical Society.

*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.*

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