Now & Then in Ripon ...

Looking back with the Ripon Historical Society

Gravestone proves you never know what might be donated

This past October, the Ripon Historical Society received a gravestone found in the garage of a house in Ripon.

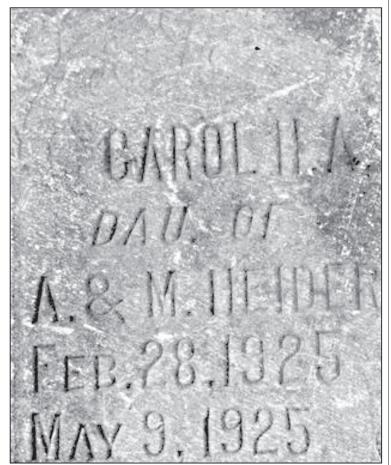
The stone was laying face down and appeared to be a garden stepping stone of flagstone, but when turned over it had the name of a child who passed away and was only 2 months old.

Members of the Ripon Historical Society immediately started searching the Pedrick Genealogy Notebooks that list everyone in Ripon from the 1800s to mid-1960s and found no details of the child or her family. Also, no clues of family members who may have resided in our community were found.

Typically, genealogy data exceptions could exist if families or individuals were boarders, renters or perhaps lived somewhere between the years that Federal Census information would have been recorded.

Searching within Ancestry. com, we discovered the parents of the deceased child in question and their other children lived in Dane County around Janesville. As the search continued, additional online databases unveiled the parents and the deceased child are interred in a plot at Union Cemetery in West Bend, Wis., and all have

The Ripon Historical Society was advised that according to Wisconsin protocols for lost, broken or recovered



THE MYSTERY OF a child's gravestone that was donated to the Ripon Historical Society last October was solved. submitted photo

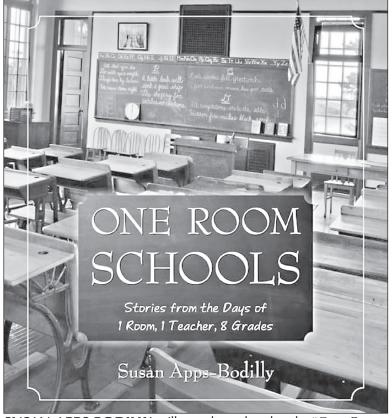
gravestones that the one we were researching was officially being recalled. The gravestone in question should have been broken to become recycled raw materials and never used for any other purpose.

How the gravestone in question arrived in Ripon is no one's fault or issue. Everyone is baffled how the gravestone was

brought from West Bend to Ripon and why it was left behind.

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



SUSAN APPS-BODILLY will speak on her book, "One Room Schools: Stories from the Days of 1 Room, 1 Teacher, 8 Grades" Tuesday, April 18 at the Ripon Historical Society. submitted photo

One-room schools is topic of historical society program

Author Susan Apps-Bodilly and the Ripon Historical Society offer a free public program on one-room schools Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m. at the society's 508 Watson St. headquarters.

Apps-Bodilly is the author of "One Room Schools: Stories from the Days of 1 Room, 1 Teach, 8 Grades." She will share how she researched her book, which was published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press in 2015 and was a finalist for the Midwest Independent Publishers Association's Children's Non-Fiction category.

The books celebrates the days when brothers and sisters, cousins and best friends all went to school and spent days together learning. Memories include schools heated by wood-burning stoves, heating lunch in a canning jar or a pot, playing games during outdoor recess, reading and presenting



Susan Apps-Bodilly

aloud to others,

Apps-Bodilly, and her father, Jerry Apps, are noted authors who also co-wrote "Old Farm Country Cookbook, Recipes, Menus and Memories," which became the topic of the PBS Show "Jerry Apps, Food & Memories.'

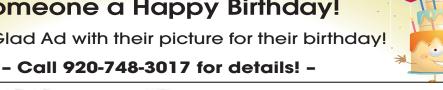
Following her program at the historical society, Apps-Bodilly will have books for sale and will offer to sign them.

For more information see www.facebook.com/riponhistory, call 920-748-5354, or email riponhistsoc@gmail.com

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