

# CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## Winter 2018



Please pray for John Larson. Our dear friend and President of the CVHS is extremely ill. His devotion to Cherry Valley, CV Historical Society and the Beckman Mill restoration is an inspiration to us all.



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Wesley Hyland	79	Nov. 2016
Benita L. Yunek (Banks)	83	Nov. 2017
Kevin Byrne	66,	June 2017



While the majority of you know the names and faces of the current board who have diligently sought to acquire items, logged, cataloged, and maintained the museum, there are a few that may not...especially our newer members. John Larson serves as the President and Erma Horn is our secretary. Beverly Scholz is the treasurer, and for 14 years wrote the newsletter. Patty Campbell, Sandy Baxter, and Frank Horn are indispensable. They have given countless hours ensuring the museum continues, and the stories are preserved. Perhaps you'll learn something new about Beverly, as she shares a bit from her memoirs.

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### Beverly Mae Oberg's Childhood Days

Upon discharge from the Army in 1919, my father William Clarence Oberg, opened a confectionery business in Cherry Valley. In the 1920 my mother, Kathryn Ann (Chesak), went to work for him, and in 1926 they married. I was born September 15, 1930, and baptized at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Cherry Valley. I always wanted a sibling, but Mama and Daddy never had anymore children. I was very much loved, and felt secure growing up during the Great Depression.

When I was three, my folks went to the Chicago World's Fair (Century of Progress) in 1933. They rarely went anywhere, and almost never closed the store. This time they left me with Mae and Will Brown, who lived next door on the corner of State and Van Buren Sts. They were wonderful people, and like an aunt and uncle to me. Bessie was their only child. I spent a lot of time visiting Mae and "Wool" as I called him. They had a fuzzy branched tree with fern like leaves that I enjoyed climbing. They call the tree the "monkey tree", and me the "monkey".

When I was old enough to tag along, mother went back to work at the store. I never felt neglected as we three were mostly together until I was old enough to go to school. My first and second grade teacher was Miss Schamberger (age 19). There were two grades to a room. Her annual salary in 1936-37 was \$995.00. The principal at that time was Sinnett Elliott.

One of our favorite things to do at recess was to play on the very large iron swing, built for probably fifteen kids at once. The boys would get it going in circles and hop on. Many times they would push it towards the center pole to create a loud clang, and we would all scream. Recess was always over too soon!

I was very fortunate to have many playmates on our Van Buren Street. That helped me not to be so lonely as an only child. I could only play on our street, unless I had an invitation to go play with Betty (Bennett) Wilt, who lived on Lawrence Street. As Lodena (Holt) Wilt reminded me in recent years, we had to take a note from our mothers if we wanted to spend any length of time at each other's homes. Some other kids I played with were Delores Knighton, Johnny Larson, the Baxters: Shirley, Eva, Donny, and Charlene. Also Nancy Garrett, Haroldine Sorenson, and Bobby Peterson were dear playmates.

When I was big enough for a tricycle, mama said no, as I might get out in the street. So I had to be content with my scooter and little orange wooden wagon. Daddy made a wooden sandbox and attached it to the garage. It was much fun to play in the sand and in a round galvanized wash tub for a pool. Remember plastic wasn't invented yet in the 1930's. I remember going barefoot all summer... such a free feeling! I loved when it quit raining, and we could go outside to splash in the puddles and feel the mud ooze between our toes. Simple times, simple joys!

My pastimes as a child were playing with paper dolls, drawing, coloring, and playing house or school with my dolls. I loved to roller skate up one sidewalk and down the other on our street. I had clamp on skates that tightened with a key. Some of my favorite games to play with friends were 'Mother, May I', 'Red Rover', 'Red Light, Green Light', 'London Bridge', 'Hide and Seek'. 'Tag', 'Kick the Can', 'Drop the Handkerchief', 'Keep Away', 'Hopscotch', and 'Jacks' which was played with a little red ball. We would play until our mother's called us from the fading light. Nancy Garrett and I used to collect grasshoppers in a jar while wandering through her folk's garden. Then we'd watch and laugh as they spit "tobacco juice". At the age of nine, my parents bought me my first accordion. When I was eleven I graduated to a larger one (base of 111 and Wurlitzer). I took lessons until I was fifteen. Sheet music was \$.25 back then.

I only had mumps and whooping cough when I was small. For a cold, mama would rub Vicks Vapo-Rub on my chest and cover it with a washcloth under my pajamas. A jar or it cost about \$.35 in the 1930's. I had my tonsils removed at St. Anthony Hosp in Rockford when I was nine years old. I believe it was a week's hospital stay back then! While recuperating at home, mama slipped and fell on a rug while bringing me a meal. I jumped out of bed and started hemorrhaging. I had to go back into the hospital. This was all very scary.

My maternal grandparents were Martin and Anna Maria (Schmidt) Chesak. They lived on Genoa St. I was only five when grandma died. Grandpa lived until I was eleven. He called me Dolly. (He also called his horse Dolly!) He taught me how to tie my shoes, gave me rides on Dolly, and was just a dear old fellow. My paternal grandparents were Herman Christopher and Fredericka Julia (Haas) Oberg, they lived in Wisconsin. Daddy was one of thirteen children.

Aunt Mamie played a large role in my life. She was Mamie Wilhelmina (Chesak) Johnson. Her husband was Len Johnson. She was widowed at a young age, with six children still at home. She raised them in Cherry Valley. She was mother's sister, and a dear aunt to me. Catherine (Katie) (Schmidt) Burke and Harry Burke ran the dry goods store across from my folk's confectionery in the early 1900's. She was my grandmother's sister, a great cook and baker, and a dear lady.

There is so much more to tell than these few pages. I'm working on writing my auto-biography. I'm just so thankful that I was raised in our village of Cherry Valley. The population was six hundred in the 1930's.





Excerpts from My School Days Autographs owned by Miss Ariel W. Cramer

Dear Daughter, remember that a good name is rather to be chosen, than great riches.  
Lovingly, Mother

Dearest Ariel, may your life be like arithmetic: Happiness added, love multiplied, and sorrow subtracted.  
Lovingly, Lily

Tell your Mother to hold her tongue. She went with fellows when she was young!  
Frances Larson

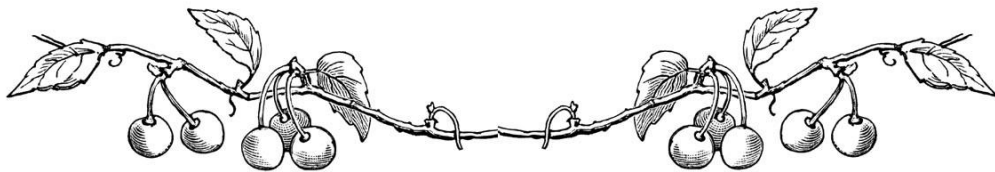
Dear Ariel, If wisdoms may you wisely seek, five things observe with care  
Of who you speak,  
To whom you speak,  
And how and when and where.  
Success to you ever, Miss Patterson



We have a beautiful new sign in front of the Historical Society. The old one was wood, and deteriorating badly. Our new one looks much the same, but is made from aluminum, and hopefully will last stand proudly there for many years to come. It was donated by Ed Clifford, and May Keenan. We are grateful!

Did you know the Historical Society has a selection of books written by home town folks? There are fifteen in all, with eight written by Sam Knighton.

Cherry Valley Grade School is planning on having an open house in the spring. This is its last year in existence, and they want to offer people a chance to walk the halls one last time before it is torn down. I don't know if the date is firmly set yet, but I think it will coincide with the spring program put on by the students. I wanted to mention it, in case our members and alumni would like to look into visiting the school one last time. It will be in the later part of May. I wouldn't miss it! After the property is cleared, a new needed well house (water pumping station) will be built on the front part of the property. A new playground will be added in back, in the area where the current playgrounds are.




Editor.... Pam Jeske ([golfnsew@aol.com](mailto:golfnsew@aol.com))

Please feel free to drop a line, add some content, share some stories either to my e-mail,  
the Historical Society's e-mail ([cv.historical86@frontier.com](mailto:cv.historical86@frontier.com))

Or stop by, leave a note ...have a chat with a member!

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Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their wonderful support and assistance.  
Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement in the newsletter, we appreciate them!

# Cherry Valley Area Men's Club

Lifelong Cherry Valley resident Terry Murphy had always wanted to form a men's club in Cherry Valley with the purpose of helping Cherry Valley area kids and the community in general. In 2011 he put his ideas into action and the Cherry Valley Area Men's Club was established. We are a small non for profit organization that raises money through various events, company sponsors and membership dues. The club donates to various community needs and offers five \$500 scholarships per year towards continuing education. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Monday of every month. Check us out on Facebook "Cherry Valley Men's Association" for meeting locations.

What the Cherry Valley Area Men's club has done:

1. Petitioned and got the speed limit reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph on Harrison (Bypass 20) and Mill Road.
2. Established an educational scholarship program
3. Donated uniforms and equipment for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls basketball teams at Cherry Valley School
4. Donated Cheerleading uniforms for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Cherry School Spirit squad.
5. CVAMA members assist with the yearly food and paper shredding drive at Village Hall.
6. Raised funds for uniforms for the Goldie B. Floberg special athletes.
7. CVAMA worked with the Winnebago County Forest Preserve to design, produce and install rules of the river signs at six county forest preserves.
8. Donated to the 2011 and 2012 downtown Cherry Valley Christmas lights
9. Donated over 3300 Frisbees for the Cherry Valley 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade 2012 thru 2017.
10. Sponsored the Oscar Meyer Weiner Mobile at the 2012 4th of July parade.
11. CVAMA annually sponsors the Cherry Valley Family Night Ice skating at Carlson Ice Arena.
12. Sponsored Cherry Valley 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade basketball players to youth basketball clinics.
13. Mini Golf and silent auction sponsor 2017, 2018 Cherry Valley Public Library fundraiser.
14. Sponsoring Wild Time Animal Education Show Cherry Valley Public Library 2017
15. Donated a defibrillator to the Cherry Valley Police department.
16. Sponsored the Cherry Valley Bounce Night at the Gymnastics Academy South for 2017 and 2018.