

OOSTBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Shown here is one of the first known postcards of Oostburg. It shows the hotel (Oostburg House). The right side, next to the photo contained a white space where a message could be written. The original postcard was postmarked, 100 years ago, on July 7, 1907.

2007 HERITAGE HOUSE DISPLAY

Farms in the Oostburg area will be the subject of this year's display at Heritage House. Heritage House will be open this summer on Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 8:00 and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00. If you would like to be a Heritage House sitter on any of these nights, please contact June VerVelde at 564-2911.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2007 annual meeting for the Oostburg Historical Society featured a presentation by John Textor, author of the book, Phoenix – the Fateful Journey, published in 2006.

OOSTBURG HISTORY BOOK

The Oostburg Historical Society still has copies of the book, OOSTBURG, WISCONSIN, HAVEN OF HOPE IN A NEW LAND for sale. These books are \$19.95 each, and are available when Heritage House is open and at many Oostburg businesses. An index has also been done for the book. These indexes are only available at Heritage House.

Also, for sale, are Oostburg Historical Society caps at \$5.00 each. These caps are red with white printing.

2007 OOSTBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS

The following people are the officers for the 2007 year, Dale Roerdink, president; Mary Lou DuMez, vice president; Peter Daane, treasurer; and June VerVelde, secretary. Other board members include Mary Roerdink, Rich Lemkuil, and Scott Lewandoske.

DONATIONS TO HERITAGE HOUSE IN 2006

Many great additions were added to Heritage House in the past year. But, there were too many to list here. Stop in and see what we have.

INTERESTING NEWS FROM OOSTBURG 100 YEARS AGO IN 1907

(Note: In the news items that follow, names are spelled as they appeared in the newspapers.)

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, JANUARY 2, 1907

The congregation of the Ref. church surprised their pastor Rev. Rosendal last Friday and presented him with a handsome gold watch.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, JANUARY 12, 1907

Miss Gerty Brethouwer of East Oostburg received the beautiful silver tea set that was given away at Wm. TeRonde's Jewelry store. Mr. TeRonde gave a ticket with each purchase of one dollar and the set was given to the person holding the correct number.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, January 19, 1907

The Oostburg Canning Co., have moved one of their warehouses away from the factory and converted it into an ice house. The company will use the ice to cool the water tanks when the canning season is on. The firm contemplates building a new warehouse 48x60 feet.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JANUARY 19, 1907

The grim messenger of death brought gloom to the happy home of Mr. and Mrs. John TeWinkle on Tuesday morning at about 7 o'clock, at which time their daughter Annie, aged fourteen years and seven months passed to the Great Beyond, after an illness of intestinal abscesses. She was a bright young lady and the loss is an acute one for the family and the deepest sympathy of all is extended to them. The funeral was held yesterday (Friday) from the house at 11 o'clock and at the East Oostburg Reformed church at 1 o'clock, Rev. Rozendal conducting the service. The pall bearers were Harry Dirkse, Willie and Herbert Grotenhuis, Johnnie Ver Straate, Harry Lemkuil and Edgar Hartman. Interment was in the Union cemetery. Besides the parents, one brother and two sisters survive.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, JANUARY 19, 1907

Geo. Braun had several men hauling ice from the Gibbsville Mill Pond Saturday to fill his ice house.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, JANUARY 23, 1907

The Oostburg Steel Foundry has filed articles of incorporation with the Secretary of state. The capital stock is \$25,000 and the incorporators are Peter Daane, Jacob Fuhremann and Walter H. Spranger.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JANUARY 26, 1907

Many were surprised to hear that that Ethel C. Knight, former principal of the village school, was married on Dec. 31 to a Mr. Williamson of Oklahoma. Mrs. Williamson is engaged in teaching school in Oklahoma and will continue until her term as expired, after which they will keep house in the same place. Her friends extend their congratulations and heartiest wishes to the young couple.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, JANUARY 30, 1907

R. Irvine resumed his duties as night operator at the depot here after spending a few weeks as day operator in Belgium.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, FEBRUARY 2, 1907

Our postmaster and merchant, John Theune was confined to his home this week with an attack of the grip. His heretofore regular attendance to his duties, makes his absence very noticeable and all hope to see him shake off the fetters of the grip and back to his post as an early date. (Grip is what we today call the flu.)

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, FEBRUARY 9, 1907

The mercantile firm of Ver Straate & Hesselink has been dissolved by mutual consent, Mr. Ver Straate having purchased the one-half interest of his partner. Mr. Hesselink will retire from the firm as soon as the inventory of stock can be completed which will probably be next week.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, FEBRUARY 9, 1907

Last Saturday, the final step to perfecting the organization of the Oostburg Steel Foundry, was completed. A meeting of stockholders, about seventy in number was held at Tellier's Hall and was enthusiastic and harmonious in every respect. It was called to order at 10 o'clock by temporary president Hon. P. Daane and the first business called was the introduction of a motion to pay the amount of reserve stock by April 1st. The motion was carried. The company is incorporated under the state laws of Wisconsin with a capital stock of \$25,000. Of this amount, \$15,000 has been subscribed to allow the balance to remain as reserves tock unpaid for a time, but a through discussion of the plans of the company made it evident that it would be better policy to turn the full amount of stock into cash before April 1st and \$7,000 of the \$10,000 reserve stock has already been subscribed for.

The following officers were then elected:

President-Walter H. Sprangers

Vice President-P. Daane

Secretary-John W. Hesselink

Treasurer-Henry Sieblink

Manager-Harry Geerling of Milwaukee

Board of Directors-W.H. Sprangers, P. Daane, John W. Hesselink, H. Sieblink, J.H. Nyenhuis and Jacob P. Daane.

Building Committee-P. Daane, H. Geerlings and W.H. Sprangers.

John Theune was chosen treasurer, but on account of being engaged in the mercantile business, which requires his whole time, he declined with thanks, when the name of Mr. Sieblink was voted for the place and he was elected.

The salary for president for the first year was fixed at \$75.00 per month and that of the secretary at \$50.00 per month. A site of two acres has already been purchased of P. Dirkse, for which \$600.00 was paid. The C. & N.W. Ry. Will be asked to construct a spur track to the plant, while a petition has been presented to the town board for the opening of a public highway to the same.

The main building will be of brick or concrete and about 60x100 with additional engine room and office building according to the best judgment of the building committee. The work of construction will begin as soon as the weather permits.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, FEBRUARY 9, 1907

A fine new line of souvenir postals are displayed at the store of Henry Siebelink. Call and see the assortment.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, FEBRUARY 9, 1907

Our photographer, Mr. Von Wald has gone into partnership with Alb. Kuether and bought the Kreuter studio which is the most up to date studio in Sheboygan, and all their work will be first class and all work guaranteed. This will give people who are wanting to have pictures made a better choice in the line of photos and cards. Mr. Von Wald will be at the Oostburg gallery every Friday, and those people wanting to have their pictures taken on any other day may call on them.

Kreuter & Von Wald or formerly Kreuter Studio, 1214 N. 8th St., Sheboygan, Wis.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, FEBRUARY 19, 1907

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. B.B. Kleinhesslink on Saturday, Feb. 2, a daughter.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, FEBRUARY 16, 1907

Jacob Brassler of Gibbsville fell from a hay loft last week Thursday while throwing down feed for his cattle. As a result he was unconscious for nearly two hours and fractured one of his shoulders.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, MARCH 9, 1907

Old resident passed away.

Mrs. Susanna DeLyser an old and well known resident of the town of Holland, died at the home of A.P. Brill, west of the village on Feb. 27th, 1907 at the age of 82 years. Mrs. DeLyser, nee Susanna Bauret, was born January 14, 1825 in Province, Zeeland. Netherland. On April 3rd 1845 she became the wife of John DeLyser, shortly after their marriage they came to America, remaining for a short time at Poutneyville, N.Y., after which they came directly to the Town of Holland, Sheboygan Co., and settled on the farm now owned by Patrick Murphy, where they resided until the death of Mr. DeLyser, which occurred on March 11, 1883.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. DeLyser moved to the village of Oostburg where she resided until Nov. 8th 1906 when she was taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Brill of West Oostburg, as it was not thought advisable to leave her alone in her village home. While at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brill, Mrs. DeLyser became ill with influenza which together with bronchitis and her enfeebled condition resulting from old age was the cause of her death.

The funeral was held Saturday from the home of Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Brill. The Rev. Van Griethuisen of East Oostburg officiating. The remains were laid to rest in the Hingham Cemetery beside those of her late husband.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, MARCH 13, 1907

Jennie Faas and Gerret Rauwerdink and Susie Faas and Ben Tenpas were united in marriage at the home of the brides' parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. Faas, residing a little northwest from the village on Wednesday, Mch. 6. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Duiker of Gibbsville. The brides are twins and were handsomely gowned in light blue silk, trimmed with white. Mr. and Mrs. Tenpas will make their home on the former Wieskamp farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Rauwerdink will live near Five Corners on the Kennedy farm. The well wishes of a host of friends go with them all.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, MARCH 16, 1907

Harry, the seventeen year old son of Mrs. Mary Vanderloo, who was working on the farm of Geo. Van Treeck caught his right arm in a feed cutter last Friday making it necessary to amputate it just below the elbow.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, MARCH 30, 1907

The officers of the Oostburg Steel Foundry held a business meeting last Saturday at Joe Telliers hall. At this meeting it was decided that concrete blocks be used for the building of their plant.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, APRIL 13, 2007

The attendance at the village school has somewhat increased. The enrollment at the present time is 43 in the upper department and 50 in the primary room, making a total of 93 pupils.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, APRIL 20, 1907

Peter Weiler has donated to the village of Oostburg a large street lamp which he stationed in front of his building and we all desire to extend him our thanks as it is a great improvement toward the illumination of the city.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, APRIL 24, 1907

B.H. Obrink, a veteran of the Civil War answered the last roll call last Friday afternoon when the Silent Reaper called him to the Great Beyond. He had been ailing for some time but his condition was not considered serious. On Friday afternoon he was reading his paper when almost without warning he passed away. Mrs. Obrink was alone with him at the time. The funeral was held on Monday afternoon from the East Oostburg Ref. Church, Rev. Rosendal officiating. The deceased is survived by his wife, two sons, William of Oostburg, Herman of Milwaukee and six daughters, Mrs. Lizzie Lizzie Walvoord, Mrs. G. Huibregtse, Mrs. J. Dirkse, Mrs. Johnson, all of this place, Mrs. C. Weeks of Sheboygan and Mrs. Brummels of Shawano.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, MAY 4, 1907

The Oostburg Telephone Co. is greatly extending the telephone line. They are stretching wires due west from town and connects with the Cedar Grove system and they are also building a line east that comes in connection with the Wisconsin Co.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, MAY 4, 1907

The Cedar Grove and Oostburg Telephone Co's have entered into an agreement whereby a subscriber of either company can send messages on the opposite line for the trifling cost of 5 cents for time limited conversations. Under the new compact, the subscribers will find that their phones are of considerable more importance than heretofore and the change will undoubtedly create a much larger demand for phones on the company lines.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, MAY 11, 1907

Bart VerStraate and John TeRonde of Sheboygan have gone into partnership and will run the store formerly owned by VerStraate & Hesselink, under the name of VerStraate & TeRonde. Mr. TeRonde has been in business of various kinds for the last three years, and also clerked in the general store of Joe Fuhreman here. He is absolutely capable of doing his part of the business, and as Bart VerStraate is so well known to us, we believe the uniting of the two will be a success and a benefit to the community. The firm has a new line of spring goods on hand and are ready to meet the demands of the public, and they also desire to thank the public in advance for their patronage.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, MAY 15, 1907

Masons are busy at work on the foundry and the work is progressing as rapidly as possible.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, MAY 15, 1907

Miss Meengs of Cedar Grove conducted diploma examinations at the school house here last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for the eighth grade pupils from the different schools in the vicinity.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 1, 1907

The office of the Oostburg Steel foundry is nearly completed and the officials expect soon to move to the new quarters.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 1, 1907

J. Lemkuil is building a splendid new out-of-door ice cream parlor and is equipping the same with electric lights. He will have ice cream for sale as soon as the weather is favorable.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 8, 1907

The basketball game last Thursday resulted in a defeat for the visiting team, the score being 41 to 6. The game was very one-sided and uninteresting as the Falls boys were out-classed in size. The audience lost interest in the game after five minutes of time had expired. The dance which followed was very well attended and enjoyed by all.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 8, 1907

Oostburg will soon present a splendid appearance as several carloads of crushed stone were received here this week for the improvement of the roads, and stone sidewalks will be laid in the near future, while grading and other work is being done daily.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 8, 1907

Mr. Dingman of Plymouth was in town Saturday with his auto, taking views of the village which he will send to our dealers.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 15, 1907

M. Daane has a new line of lawn mowers, wash machines, buggies and sporting goods. Call on him and you will find bargains.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 15, 1907

Oostburg has at last succeeded in the organization of a base ball team and have started practice. They will play their first game on July 3rd with the Cedar Grove team on the latter's grounds.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 15, 1907

The village school will close the term by a picnic to be held on the shore of lake Michigan, on June 20th.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 22, 1907

John Lemkuil has opened his ice cream parlor and will have refreshments of all kinds for sale every Wednesday and Saturday night.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 29, 1907

Fourth of July celebration. Mr. Wm. Schaunen, district attorney of Ozaukee Co., will address the public at 3 o'clock P.M. on "The issues of the Day." Concert at Geo. Braun's by the Sheboygan Standard Quartette. Concert opens at 9 A.M. Refreshment of all kinds will be served. Games and races in the afternoon. Horse races, pig chases, bag races, climbing greased pole, tug-of-war, and etc. Try your luck, you may win a handsome prize. Grand display of fireworks and balloon ascensions in the evening. All are cordially invited to attend and help us celebrate.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JUNE 29, 1907

Dirk De Blaey and one of his sons were struck by lightning last week while working in the barn during a thunderstorm. Both were rendered unconscious and in a critical condition for some time, but are recovering now.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JULY 13, 1907

John Roerdink's horse ran away last Monday and he was in search of same for the past two days but is unable to find a clue as to its whereabouts.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JULY 13, 1907

The mason work at the foundry is completed and Smith & Co. of Sheboygan will start the carpenter work this week.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, JULY 20, 1907

Miss Marion Wordes has accepted the position of bookkeeper in the Canning factory for the season and in September she will begin her first term as teacher in the Palmer district.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, AUGUST 3, 1907

Miss Letta Pierce of Sheboygan has been engaged to teach the primary department of our graded school for the coming season.

SHEBOYGAN HERLAD, AUGUST 17, 1907

Strike at Oostburg Canning Co.

Considerable disturbance was caused at Oostburg Canning Co's., plant at Oostburg Tuesday afternoon when about twenty of the young ladies employed at the picking table struck for higher wages. The young ladies had asked for chairs instead of empty boxes to sit on while working and were refused as the company did not like to go to the expense of buying perhaps a few dozen chairs.

Not satisfied with the proceedings the girls went out on a strike for higher pay. The girls were getting eight cents an hour and struck for a two cent raise or ten cents an hour. The girls appointed a committee of three to wait on management of the company to present their demands. After having given the girls a hearing, they together with those who appointed the committee were discharged from employment of the company without any further argument. Many of the villagers agreed with the girls and say they were underpaid for their work and should have gone on a strike early in the season as the work of canning peas is now almost completed. There will be but a few weeks more work and the old ladies of the village are now drafted into service at the canning factory to take the place of the strikers; and to be sure that they are an active company of women.

Most every neighboring town has had a strike this year but none has been settled as quickly as the one here Tuesday as it is not often seen that the stockholders' wives take the place of the strikers.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, AUGUST 24, 1907

Rev. Tunk the new pastor of the Christian Reformed Church arrived here last Thursday from Muskegon, Mich. A large number of the congregation, were at the depot to meet and the remainder were at the house waiting with dinner in which all the members participated. He was installed last Sunday by Rev. Weiland of Sheboygan, in the assemblage of a large number of members and preached his first sermon in the afternoon, which was highly enjoyed by all.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, AUGUST 24, 1907

Billard and Pool Room

Peter Weiler has repaired his billard and pool tables and announced that he wants at once 500 men to play these games. The tables are in top order and may be inspected by anyone who knows how to play says Mr. Weiler.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, SEPTEMBER 7, 1907

B.B. Hesselink has been re-engaged as principal of our village school for the coming year and Miss Eletta M. Pierce will be primary teacher. School opens Monday, September 16.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, SEPTEMBER 14, 1907

A meeting was held last Monday evening at Weiler's hall to determine whether or not we are to have a State Bank in our village and the result was 23 in favor and 3 in opposition. Further business will be held at the hall on Monday evening, September 23rd.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, SEPTEMBER 21, 1907

The Milwaukee Northern Railway are trying to purchase the right of way through Mr. Wigger's celery patch.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, SEPTEMBER 28, 1907

Purchased an automobile

Ben. Kleinhesselink and Will TeRonde spent Saturday at Port Washington, where the former purchased an Olds automobile from the Gilson Mfg. Co. This is the first of its kind in this village.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, OCTOBER 5, 1907

The Milwaukee Northern Ry. is in need of teams and men to do the grading on the line which is now being built through our village and adjoining territory. They are paying 40 cents per hour for teamsters and also pay exceedingly high wages for men doing general work. Hand in your applications at once.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, OCTOBER 16, 1907

The Oostburg bank will be erected at the corner of Mill and Main streets opposite Theune & Wykhuis' store.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, OCTOBER 19, 1907

John Lemkuil met with an accident this week, which nearly resulted in the burning of his building and severe injuries to his arms and face. He was heating a kettle of tar on an oil stove when the kettle became too hot and caused its contents to ignite and boil over on the floor. This immediately started fire in the building and it was due to John's presence of mind and the presence of a fire extinguisher that saved the building and contents and even though he burnt his face and hands quite badly, John considers himself fortunate.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, OCTOBER 19, 1907

New State Bank for Oostburg

The necessary papers were drawn Wednesday, providing for the incorporation of the Oostburg State Bank of Oostburg, Wis. The new incorporation will have a capital stock of \$25,000, which amount has been subscribed. The incorporators are Peter Daane, John Theune, and W.H. Sprangers.

The building for the monied institution will be 26x40 feet and two stories in height. It will be constructed of concrete blocks and occupy one of the most prominent sites in the village.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, OCTOBER 26, 1907

The foundation for our new bank building is already under construction.

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY NEWS, NOVEMBER 6, 1907

Work on the new bank has begun in earnest, a large crew of men being at work.

SHEBOYGAN HERALD, NOVEMBER 9, 1907

Work Hustled Along

Jake Fuhreman Jr., who has the contract for building the foundation wall for the Oostburg State Bank, has a crew of twelve men at work making cement blocks and building material for the wall which they expect to have completed this week.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, DECEMBER 7, 1907

G.J. Huibregtse sold a Victor burglar proof safe to the Oostburg State Bank this week.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, DECEMBER 21, 1907

The tent of Mr. B. Kleinhesselink was nearly destroyed by fire Sunday evening when the lamp was upset and the oil catching fire. The flames spread rapidly. They succeeded in carrying out Mrs. Kleinhesselink, who is seriously ill and extinguished the fire.

PLYMOUTH REPORTER, DECEMBER 28, 1907

While Christmas day brought countless joys to innumerable homes, it also marked the advent of a deep regret to the home of Ben Kleinhesselink, south of the village, when about 10 o'clock in the morning, the angel of death pressed the final summons upon his wife.

Deceased was born in this village but moved to Minnesota about nineteen years ago with her parents. She was wedded there and about two years ago returned here in ill health. She was operated upon for appendicitis some time ago and apparently gained for a time. For the last few months, she lived in a tent out of doors, but in spite of medical aid and the best of care, she finally became a victim of tuberculosis of the bowels and responded to the summons of death, which also relieved her suffering. She was well liked by her many friends for her loving disposition and amiability, which she retained to the end. The sympathy of the entire community is extended to the bereaved family.

The funeral was held Saturday forenoon, Rev. VanGriethuisen performing the ceremony. The remains were interred in the East Oostburg Cemetery. The husband and a little daughter survive.

OOSTBURG POSTCARDS FROM 1907

On June 8, 1907, the Plymouth Reporter newspaper in their Oostburg column reported, "Mr. Dingman of Plymouth was in town Saturday with his auto, taking views of the village, which he will send to our dealers." The following pages feature a few postcards from Oostburg. The original postcards were all postmarked 1907.



Oostburg, Wis.,
 April 1, 1907
 Dear friend,
 Just received your postal and
 thank you very much. This postal means
 another in return ("C").

This postcard shows Center Avenue west from about 11th Street. The message on the left reads, Oostburg, Wis., April 1, 1907. Dear friend, Just received your postal and thank you very much. This postal means another in return ("C"). Dance here Apr. 5. F.J.W. (Who F.J. W. was is unknown. The postcard was mailed to Miss Lelah Brooke, Hingham, Wis. And was postmarked April 1, 1907



Shown here is a postcard showing the Oostburg Steel Foundry, which was built in 1907. The original postcard was postmarked, September 17, 1907



This postcard is looking east on Center Avenue from 10th Street. The house on the right side is where the Oostburg State Bank was built, later in the year. The postcard is postmarked September 6, 1907 and the back is stamped, "B.H. Dingman, Pub. Plymouth, Wis." The side of the card also has an interesting message, which reads, "That is Bev, Ella, and baby Vern sitting in that rig in the middle of the street with the gray horse attached to it."



This post card is looking north on 10th Street from Center Avenue. The building on the right, stood where the Oostburg Historical Society's Heritage House now stands. The person who wrote the message on the card added, "On the way to the canning factory." This postcard was postmarked, October 16, 1907.